

Posted on Thu, Mar. 30, 2006

Livermore shouldn't take no for answer

Mayor Marshall Kamena came back from Washington, D.C., and has been quoted as saying that there is no money for BART to Livermore.

That is what Washington said to Dublin and Pleasanton elected officials in the late '80s when they asked for their BART station. They didn't take no for an answer, and the money for BART was found.

Washington cannot give us money for BART until the preliminary engineering and environmental work is done on the Livermore station.

We will be eligible for the federal New Starts program (where the big money comes from) when we have done our part.

The mayor wants to settle for a bus -- the people want BART. There is going to be an eastbound commuter lane, but not westbound lane. This means that the bus would be stuck in the I-580 morning traffic -- just like it is now.

Don't settle for a partial fix when you have been paying for BART for 43 years.

Let the elected officials know how you feel about BART to Livermore.

Linda Jeffery Sailors

Livermore

Answer questions

After three years, our president still is not telling the truth.

Too many lives are being lost and too little progress is being made because of this president's failures as costs continue to escalate and Iraq becomes the international training ground of choice for terrorists.

The president needs to answer the question that every American is struggling to answer: Why did we occupy Iraq and at what point can our troops begin to return home?

Rod Mahdavi

Pleasanton

High school reform

The way our high schools are being controlled is depressing. With all the latest controversies, freak dancing and cell phones, the schools of our day have shown that they are only here to provide education and not be a true learning ground for students.

Many schools across the state have chosen to ban freak dancing and cell phones altogether.

These objects are part of the culture that teenagers are growing up in today.

Instead of trying to control the problems that they create, schools are choosing to do away with them showing that they disregard the lifestyle of the very people they are there to serve.

Are the schools even able to serve the students anymore?

With so many high school seniors having not passed the exit exam, the importance of high school reform is becoming apparent.

High school should not only be a place for academic learning, but also maturity and growth.

It seems that the current school system is failing at both.

Andrew Slavec

Livermore

Clean Money

The message on the March 23 Times front page read: "Westly sets funding pace" is loud and clear. The only qualification for seeking high office in California is that a candidate be very wealthy and or have a lot of very wealthy friends.

This means that the very wealthy will decide our health care, environmental, labor, and all other policies, because they paid the

freight for our political leaders.

The voter gets to choose from a very short list of those who either owe their souls to big contributors or those who can flat out buy the election from their own huge bankrolls.

The way to fix this mess is with Clean Money, which is a voluntary system of full public financing.

Clean Money has been the way that other states and some cities have been able to pry their elections from the grasp of big money and put voters in control of government.

In Maine, 80 percent of the state legislature ran with public funding and are accountable to only the voters since they passed Clean Money.

In Arizona, that number is more than 50 percent, in addition to the governor and most other elected state officers.

Clean Money in those states has resulted in an expanded list of diverse candidates.

There is a Clean Money bill (AB583) in our state Senate right now. You can learn more about it and urge your state senator to pass AB583 at www.caclean.org.

Joe Ely
Pleasanton

Commendations

I'm writing this letter to commend Michael Arata for his letter appearing in the Reader's Forum on Jan. 20. I too had thought of addressing the subject of calling the movie in question (a classic love story) as in my opinion that description is an abomination and those so doing have confused love with lust.

I also commend Kathy Young for her letter addressing abortion appearing the same day. I believe she was right on target and am hopeful it might help someone who may struggle in this area to choose life.

Last, but certainly not least, I commend Thomas Sowell. As a columnist, he's as good as they get, and The Valley Times is fortunate to have him, as are the readers.

Richard Schulz
Livermore