

community for two women in our community who have serious medical problems. Thanks to the Men's Club and the Women's Guild at St. Peter's, who donated all of their profits and a great deal of their time, we will be able to continue helping these women. I also want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Bosco Maunas, who put in many tireless hours and made this benefit such a success.

To the many merchants who donated prizes for our raffle I also want to say "thank you."

The people and merchants in this community have once again come together and united to support a wonderful cause. It again shows why the people in Pacifica are so very special.

To everyone who worked and supported the St. Patrick's Day benefit, I want to say "thank you." Words cannot express the way I feel about all of you.

Deborah Grochol

Access to Guns: National Disgrace

Editor:

Cheers for Paul Azevedo! The accessibility of guns to one and all in the United States is a national disgrace. It is recognized as such by one of the most enlightened police chiefs in the country — Joseph McNamara, city of San Jose.

As Paul pointed out, the statistics tell the story. Each year, thousands of victims suffer permanent disability and death because of the lack of effective gun control in the U.S.

Thanks, Paul. You are right on the mark!

Marty Monahan
Way

To Bear Arms'

protect society, not necessarily the individual members of that society, thus leaving that responsibility to the individual, then I'd say Paul makes pretty good sense.

"Death is too high a price to pay to protect another man's hobby." Then tell me, Paul. Is it too high a price to pay to protect his wife, his family, his right to be secure in his home?

I respect your rights under the First Amendment. Please respect mine under the Second.

Denny Delk
Pedro Point

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The Reactor

Paul Azevedo



Pacifica is Not a Fossil

I've never met Dee Vann, but from her letters to various editors I know her to be intelligent, thoughtful and articulate. This does not prevent her from some odd conclusions.

Her recent letter to the San Francisco Chronicle lamented about "development, Caltrans and freeways." She complained about Pacifica's new hotels, because "you no longer can see the ocean."

She's been in Pacifica about three years. In that time, Pacifica has hardly changed. We have added a small number of residences, primarily to make room for grown-up children. We've added two hotels. Our population is static as it has been for 20 years.

I imagine some carpenters, 20 or 30 years ago, complained as they pounded their nails for Andy Oddstad. The Coastside was being overbuilt. As the workers installed curbs and gutters and graded the old artichoke fields, perhaps they said to each other, "there's no place to buy artichokes anymore in Pedro Valley."

Ms. Vann, by the mere act of moving into Pacifica, has changed it forever. The only way any of us can help bring back 1930, or 1940, or 1950, or 1960, or in Ms. Vann's case, 1984 or '85, is to leave. I, too, love Pacifica history. I love to think of the days of Henry Harrison McCloskey, and the days of hog ranches and a time when Pedro Valley was the world leader in artichokes. I would love to see this area revert to September 1769 so that I could meet the Ohlone Indians and watch them cope with grizzly bears and the problems of everyday life in their scattered tiny villages.

Perhaps we could do a bit of time-travel and tell Charles Gust in 1927, "Leave the coast alone. Don't build our restaurant in Rockaway." He did build it, though. It changed Rockaway forever. And that's the point, Ms. Vann. Fossils don't change. Living things do. Pacifica is a living community. Things will change. They should change. The Lighthouse Hotel you complain of is a fine addition to Pacifica. I'm sorry if you can't see the ocean from the highway. You can see and enjoy it while you dine at the Moonraker restaurant, and so can others from near and far. If you want to see the ocean, drive south a bit and observe San Pedro Bay from the roadway. Twenty years ago the view west of Crespi Drive was obscured by the Wander Inn and some beach shacks. Now the view is unobstructed. Some buildings, like the Taco Bell restaurant, have been added. Change is a fact of life.

If Ron Sette is able to get his Mori Point development over all the hurdles, it will be a wonderful asset to Pacifica. And not just because it will produce sales taxes, but because it will round out our community. To be a first-class city, we need more than just curbs, gutters and sidewalks. We need restaurants, hotels, recreation facilities, places like the RV park, stores, parking lots for commuters, roads and freeways. The Mori Point convention center will be terrific. If, like Dee Vann, too many people are afflicted with the lifeboat syndrome ("I'm on board, don't take any more people, shove off"), Pacifica will stop growing, changing, developing. Pacifica will fossilize. We have a choice. We can improve. Or we can die. Pacifica will not stay the same.

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