

### The red poison pen strikes

Somewhere in Pacifica an anonymous person cringes. Someone, he shudders to think, *might learn* who he is and how he thinks. He writes, but lacks the guts to sign his name, let alone address or phone number.

"Dear Mr. Hunter" he addresses the Tribune publisher in red ink, a neat, readable script a graphologist or psychologist might enjoy studying, "Times are changing, we don't need people like Paul Azevedo, the Marxist, left winger --."

That's his entire message, attached to a copy of my column..

He (a woman would not think like that) was inspired to take pen in hand because I wrote a column praising Franklin Roosevelt, the president who probably did more to save our capitalistic, democratic way of life than any other single person the last 100 years. The anonymous writer, (I think I'll call him Mr. A) doesn't have a clue what a Marxist or a left winger really is. If he did, he'd know I don't qualify. If I was a Marxist I'd be honored to be called one. Mr. A intended to insult me. He succeeded. I am insulted. But I'll survive.

Mr. A doesn't know me. He may know I'm a Democrat. He knows I admire Roosevelt. If that is enough to pigeonhole me as a Marxist and/or a left winger in his eyes, I feel sorry for him. His ignorance is showing.

If he had signed his little diatribe, I could invite him for coffee. We could discuss his concept of a Marxist. Is a Marxist a person like Stalin or Lenin, willing to kill millions to promote his definition of an ideal society? That lets me out. I much prefer an imperfect society, one that lets even someone like Mr. A freely pursue his dreams and goals, even make his mistakes.

Though Mr. A fears to defend his ideas in public, though chances are most of his ideas are half-baked, even he may have a few good ideas. I wish he would share them, argue them, defend them, give the rest of us the benefit of his accumulated wisdom, such as it is.

Mr. A could learn from the Vallemar Conservators. I criticized their attempted interference with the removal of eucalyptus from Pillar of Fire property. They were willing to discuss, to argue, to defend. I was invited to their meeting on Feb. 20. I enjoyed it. They dialogue with those who disagree with them. That's democracy.

There is no political group active in Pacifica with whom I disagree 100 percent. Likewise there's no political group anywhere with which I agree 100 percent. That's because I am a "left-winger", on some issues. I'm a "right-winger", on other issues. I'm rabidly for the first amendment, that charter of a free press and freedom of religion.

Mr. A. You're right! Times *are* changing. Whether in the election of 1996, or perhaps not till 1998 or even 2000, the pendulum will swing back to a refreshed, strengthened and improved Democratic majority. Chastened by recent reverses, invigorated by new blood and new ideas, Democrats will greet the new millennium.

Mr. A is welcome to come along, if he so chooses. I'll be happy to re-register him as a Democrat. The change will do him good.

Dear Mr. Hunter

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need people like Paul Azevedo, the  
Marxist, left winger --