

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

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Contra Costa Times April 20 Letters from our readers

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Contra Costa Times

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Confess sins

The tragedy of the matter titled "The Vatican scandal" is that the matter is being treated more as a public relations issue than a theological issue. It is more to do with damage control and protecting the image of the pope than protecting parishioners, (shepherds are to protect the sheep).

What seems totally lacking is public confession for a public wrong, as was expected and received from President Bill Clinton and Tiger Woods.

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves" (I John 2:8) wrote an apostle. The pope is not free from sin. Peter denied his Lord; the great King David confessed (Psalm 51). The entire Christian community, not just Roman Catholics, deserve no less!

The Rev. Paul Meyer

Walnut Creek

Frustration

I want a job with good pay, nice benefits, a big pension, no actual knowledge or work required, a job where I can be rude to people. Oh, of course, I'll

apply for a county, state or federal job.

Each time I contact a county, state or federal agency with a problem, I must wade through an automated menu only to be put on hold. The person who finally answers is poorly trained, does not know what form or program I am asking about and is often very rude.

In the end, it has always been the agency's error. I called the Social Security Administration recently and was referred to the Part D insurer who referred me to Medicare, who referred me back to SSA. Twenty or so phone calls literally went in a circle, each agency I contacted referring me to another.

Getting to the correct answer is a difficult and frustrating process when dealing with these bureaucracies. I can't help but wonder how these people remain employed and how many callers simply give up rather than endure the runaround and rudeness. I also wonder why tax dollars pay people who would be fired in the private sector.

Patricia Gomez

Livermore

Distorting truth

Having participated in demonstrations since 1980, I was stunned by the April 11 Times schedule for tea party events. What wouldn't I have given for a listing of progressive demonstrations in the local paper?

Columnist Jim Hightower says the tea party movement is sponsored by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch. Their father, Fred, helped found the John Birch Society. Charles founded the Cato Institute. David is on the board.

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Koch Industries, based in Wichita, Kan., manufactures asphalt, chemicals, plastics, fertilizers, cement, lumber products, furniture, paper products, Lycra, and Teflon. They own 4,000 miles of pipelines, and employ 70,000 people in 60 countries.

To promote their right-wing political beliefs, they fund their own think-tanks, university centers, lobbyists, and Americans for Prosperity. AFP is a front group for mass producing front groups — controlled by corporate money in Washington.

Between slanted studies, hate messages, alarmist talking points, and celebrity and religious endorsers, they distort truth and scare us. AFP manufactured, financed, organized, and orchestrated the "tea party rebellion." Would angry, frightened tea party rebels believe who sponsors them? The Kochs can afford to hide their tracks.

No wonder political discussion has deteriorated to shouting, name-calling, and distortions ala Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh.

Ria Tanz Kubota

El Sobrante

Tipping point

It takes many taxpayers to pay the salary of one government employee. Government people, whether they be local, state or federal, are paid out of our taxes. Salaries are considered overhead — the cost of production. But what do government employees produce? Mostly nothing, their jobs are usually "created" to give away taxpayer money to other people who didn't earn it. So it's a double whammy.

They give away our money and we pay them to do it.

Other government employees are paid to monitor things that the government tells us to do, like when we can burn wood, what light bulbs we can use, etc. So there are government people who go around to watch us and make sure we do those things, and, double whammy, we pay them to do it.

It is getting to the point where there are more government people than there are people who are actually producing things. The private-sector producers are being discouraged from producing, while the nonproducers are being rewarded for failure.

Jay Todesco

Concord

No tort reform

Every time our president warns us about rising health care costs, he fails to mention that he did absolutely nothing to fix one of the culprits. Doctors and hospitals are subject to frivolous lawsuits by lawyers like John (it's not my child) Edwards.

Why isn't there any tort reform in this new bill? Could it be because Washington is run by lawyers? I guess we know who the president's special interest group is.

Rick Treat

Pittsburg

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