

FROM READERS

Questioning mayor's Wi-Fi deal

Mayor Gavin Newsom's Wi-Fi contract with Google and EarthLink shows all the signs of having been written on a cocktail napkin while the mayor was drunk on white wine and awed in the Google jet flying back from Switzerland.

San Francisco is availed of an embarrassment of riches as some of the most sophisticated technorati in the world live here. Why Newsom pushed a deal negotiated in secret for a technology that is destined to be the 8-track tape of wireless defies comprehension.

That Newsom now blames the Board of Supervisors for its prescience in not ratifying a contract with a firm that is clearly not ready for municipal wireless prime time proves that this deal was about image, not Internet.

The City needs an open process to leverage our comparative advantage of technogeeks to determine what technology is best suited for sustainably providing wireless broadband Internet over the long term.

Marc Salomon
THE CITY

Irresponsible pedestrians

Though I recently wrote a letter to The Examiner on how I felt increased traffic enforcement was a key to pedestrian safety, I totally agree with Hudson Bunce's Aug. 30 letter on how pedestrians do, in some cases, initiate dangerous driving by not obeying the walk/don't walk signs. When this happens in busy places such as downtown or North Beach, drivers might be forced to be more aggressive or they would never be able to make a turn. And while on the subject, why do people have to stand in the street while waiting to cross? Does it save that much time being a couple feet closer to your destination versus waiting on the curb where you are less likely to get hit?

Marc Schoenfeld
THE CITY

Keeping Niners in S.F.

Three cheers for Sen. Dianne Feinstein for chastising the 49ers ownership for its plans to move the team to a new stadium in the South Bay. Since the public always prefers substance over style, as her next step, I suggest that the senator get her billionaire husband and his affluent friends to buy out the Yorks, placing a valuation on the team based on the economics as if the team moved to the South Bay. As committed 49ers fans, I am sure they would be willing to absorb the negative economics of keeping the stadium in San Francisco that Sen. Feinstein wishes to impose on the Yorks.

Richard Beleson
THE CITY

Reasoning for museum

Ken Garcia's column (Aug. 30) claims that one of the reasons that Don Fisher's art collection will be in a private museum is that the Board of Supervisors "would never let another structure be built in Golden Gate Park."

I find this funny reasoning by the board as Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi wishes to build a cement monolith for skateboarding. To wit, a structure is structure whether enclosed or not, taking away more greenery and nature for all to enjoy.

Ed Florence
THE CITY

Impressed by Biden

I have heard and seen Sen. Joe

TO ADD YOUR VOICE

We give preference to letters containing fewer than 150 words. Please include name, phone number and city of residence.

By e-mail:
letters@examiner.com

By mail:
Editorial Page Editor
The Examiner, 450 Mission St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

By fax:
(415) 359-2766

Biden interviewed and am quite impressed by his experience, knowledge and convictions.

His scope, understanding and comprehension of politics and foreign policy, as well as the many needs and problems facing our country, give me a feeling of excitement that a man of his abilities is running for president.

I've read his book "Promises to Keep," and I want to offer my recommendation that it be read by everyone.

I'm 86 years old and have always lived with the idea that whoever is elected will do his or her best and grow into the office. I'm sure Sen. Hillary Clinton would; I'm just not sure she could be as strong as the problems facing a president today require. As for Sen. Barack Obama, he is a brave and admirable young man, but this is not the time for his inexperience. He leaves me feeling apprehensive. I would hope he would run again in the future.

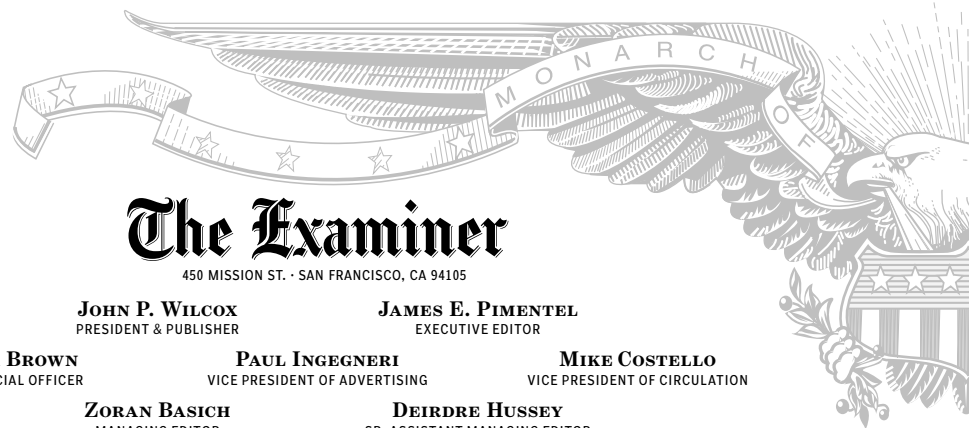
I feel strongly that Biden fills the bill at this precarious period in our history.

Dorothy Hill Burnaford
NAPA

Workings of justice system

The way the justice system is exacting its pound of flesh from ex-Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong, the man who bungled the Duke lacrosse team rape case, is interesting. What it shows is that if you go after rich white boys you'd better have all your ducks in a row. It is too bad that some of the prosecutors who had all those mostly black men on death row all over this country wrongfully seem to have been given a pass. How do we explain that?

Vernon S. Burton
SAN LEANDRO



EDITORIAL

When foreign labor is 'dumped'

One of the major labor issues facing the United States today is one nobody in Washington is willing to talk about. But unless they do, Johns Hopkins economist Steve Hanke said, they can't make intelligent decisions about immigration because they aren't dealing with a key source of the problem: labor dumping. Labor dumping is what centralized and socialist governments do to evade the consequences of not allowing their citizens to enjoy the opportunities and prosperity that come with a free-market economy. These governments send millions of unemployed citizens to countries with free markets. That's because nations with the lowest tax and regulatory burdens typically grow faster and create more jobs than countries with state-run economies.

Hanke points out that labor dumping is practiced by overregulated, overtaxed European countries such as Turkey and Poland, where unemployment remains high despite massive emigration. But Mexico is by far the worst of the lot: 30 percent of its 38 million-strong labor force is not only working in the

The industry wants higher tariffs to protect domestic producers. But nobody in Washington is even talking about what happens when cheap, below-market labor is illegally "dumped" here as well.

U.S. but also is sending back \$23 billion in remittances each year. That is more than Mexico receives from its tourism industry and does much to explain why the Mexican government is actively facilitating labor dumping as an official policy, Hanke said. It not only gets rid of Mexico's huge unemployment problem, it brings in so much foreign currency that the government has absolutely no incentive to make politically unpalatable changes to its inefficient economic system. Why bother, if you can just send the mess over the border and get billions of greenbacks in return?

American businesses know what happens when heavily subsidized foreign imports are "dumped" in U.S. markets. Steelmakers say Indiana, the largest steel-producing state, lost 17,108 union manufacturing jobs due to illegal dumping of hot-rolled steel from China and elsewhere. The indus-

try wants higher tariffs to protect domestic producers. But nobody in Washington is even talking about what happens when cheap, below-market labor is illegally "dumped" here as well. A 2005 Bear Stearns report estimates that Mexico's labor dumping has depressed American wages from 4 percent to 6 percent, putting the social costs of the "largest migration wave since the late 1800s" at \$30 billion per year. Since these costs are also borne by U.S. workers in the form of higher local, state and federal taxes, they can lose as much as 10 percent of their annual income — considerably more than the 3.1 percent average wage and benefit increases they got so far this year.

So what are President Bush and the Democratic majority in Congress going to do to protect the American worker from this unprecedented economic onslaught?

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Nate Beeler/The Washington Examiner

