

Calls for Modification or Removal of Usher St. Median

Editor:

□ In response to the July 26 Page One article, "Lewelling Median Hurting Business," the statement that the county project is the result of what the public wanted is not 100 percent true.

□ The community wanted parallel parking along the street and six-foot wide sidewalks, instead of 10-foot wide. They were concerned with the loss of business and lack of parking.

□ The many medians resulted in another problem. Yes, they beautify the street, but limit the entrance to businesses. The closing of Usher Street for left turns puts more traffic on the residential streets and decreases the customers stopping at the businesses.

□ A median section was removed on East Lewelling Boulevard at Meekland Avenue due to community concern.

□ Modification or removal of the median should be made in the Usher Street area. It is affecting many businesses and residents. Alameda County staff's answer is to allow a U-turn at the busy intersection of Hesperian and Lewelling boulevards. This will not solve the current problems!

—**Doris Marciel**, *San Lorenzo*

Says No to School Parcel Tax Until Current Board is Gone

Editor:

□ The San Leandro School Board is trying to put yet another Parcel Tax on the November ballot so they can implement more programs like the LGBTQS curriculum to teach kids homosexuality and lesbianism.

□ To make it even more insulting, the person most responsible for the implementation of these policies, school board president Morgan Mack-Rose, is using her position as a springboard to continue to feed from the public trough.

□ Not one more penny for this School Board until all of its members are kicked out of there!

—**Leo T. West**, *San Leandro*

Choice of Information Sources Colors Our Opinions

Editor:

□ In his letter, “*Calls Traditional Marriage ‘A Societal Imperative,’*” (*The Times*, Aug. 2), Jeff Ryan makes the claim “scientific studies overwhelmingly confirm that traditional marriage is the optimum family unit with the greatest possibility of raising healthy children.”

□ I have found traditional / gay marriage studies to have mixed, and frequently biased, conclusions. One’s choice of news sources colors one’s opinions, and I believe that if Mr. Ryan truly believes this claim, then he is not choosing a broad spectrum of news sources.

□ This is a common problem today: because the Internet contains so much information, people tend to filter their news sources, and in doing so, they unintentionally magnify their own presuppositions by choosing news sources with which they already agree.

□ I apologize for beating a dead horse, but I could not let Mr. Ryan’s claim go unchallenged. I have found a broad range of studies which come to differing conclusions and find no such

claimed “overwhelming confirmation.”

—**Conrad Cady**, *Castro Valley*

The Clouston-Herndorn Debate Goes On

Editor:

□ My interpretation (“*Calls Divorce, Not Gay Families, Biggest Problem for Children,*” *Letters, July 26*) that Mr. Herndorn, in his letter, had singled out just gay parent families was incorrect.

□ His Aug. 2 letter meant to me that he actually doesn't like the mayor supporting any alternative families including gay, single, adoptive, foster, and straight parents who are divorced and remarried.

□ His response still doesn't explain the connection between the mayor, alternative families and dysfunctional schools. It also doesn't explain how or when or who called him a hater.

□ How has the mayor caused dysfunction in the schools or, as Mr. Herndomn now says, taken away from the "everyday working person in San Leandro" who by definition now includes single, gay, divorced and remarried parents and their children?

□ Mr. Herndomn's rant is so weak from lack of facts that nobody can see this 'forest' of his.

□ Jeff Ryan (*"Calls Traditional Marriage 'A Societal Imperative,'" Letters, Aug. 2*) says that scientific studies "overwhelming" confirm that traditional marriage is best. □

□ Dr. Mark Regnerus' paper just last month (Social Science Research Volume 41, Issue 4, July 2012, Pages 752–770) actually says that the evidence is not overwhelming at all in his introduction since most prior studies showed no statistical difference with regards to children's experiences.

□ His research found that adult children from intact mother/father/child families report a difference in their childhood experience and that the difference is often—but not always—better.

□ I won't spoil the surprise about what parent combination sometimes outperforms Mom and Dad. Most importantly, he notes that interpretation of his finding must allow for the current lack of wide-spread, societal and government support for alternative family structures.

□ Thus, Mr. Herndorn and Mr. Ryan, there is evidence that supporting all family types, not just your current, narrow definition of family, may actually help reduce dysfunction in schools (add in our city), not cause it, which is counter to both of your arguments.

—John Clouston

San Leandro

Latest Tragedies Need To Be Put Into Perspective

Editor:

□ Could the media please give us a break with endless grisly accounts of the Aurora killings?

□ I understand it was a tragedy, and our sympathies lie with the 70 innocent victims. But, we also

need to appreciate that 86 Americans are killed by firearms every day, and nearly 4,000 are killed prematurely by chronic diseases linked with consumption of animal products and lack of exercise (see www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60_04.pdf)

□ So, let's replace the vacuous hand-wringing over the Aurora tragedy with constructive personal steps to lessen the greater tragedies facing us every day.

—**Dennis Roth**

San Leandro