The Community Can't Afford To Lose Heaven Sent Center

Editor:

 Heaven Sent Discovery Center at 301 Dowling Boulevard is closing November 9th.

 Heaven Sent is one of two daycare centers in San Leandro that provide care to children under the age of 2. This is a vitally important service in San Leandro that we'll be losing.

 Furthermore, Heaven Sent provides high-quality care. Their teacher to infant ratio is lower than the state requires allowing each infant to get more one-on-one time, which is important to children of that age.

 I've visited several other child care centers in the East Bay and they often feel institutional and impersonal, but at Heaven Sent the teachers and the director love and care for your children like they're their own children.

 They also are very welcoming of parents. I feel like they care about the whole family at Heaven Sent.

 There must be a way to save Heaven Sent Discovery Center. I don't think our community can afford to lose this service.

—**Victoria & Matthew Deitch**

San Leandro

Now it's Time for All Sides to Learn to Compromise

Editor:

 The contest of the eagles is over, and for the most part I am a happy camper.

 I am happy that I live a country where every citizen can still be involved in the right to choose the leader of his/her country.

 I am happy that 47% (or the 99%), which really turned out to be the 51%, prevailed.

 I am happy that Californians did the right thing on Proposition 30 which would have cut six billion dollars to an already pathetically funded education system; and even though times are tough, decided to reach into their own pockets a little bit for the good of the people.

 That is what great countries (states) do; look out for the good of the whole instead of only thinking about yourself.

 I am unhappy that Prop. 37 lost. “The right to know” proposition would have let us know if the food we were buying came from Genetically Modified Food (GMO). The manufactures of the these plant seeds, Monsanto and DuPont who contributed over $35 million dollars to defeat this prop, say that GMO have no effect on humans who consume these products.

 If that is true that why not label products to say that you are about to eat a FrankenFood? It is like labeling milk to let us know the cows that produced the milk were given hormones.

 The opponents of Prop. 37 won by scaring people into believing that it would cost them over $400 a year in food cost, but in reality the only cost would have been to create new labels for packaging, which companies generally do every two years or so anyway.

 But I will lick my wounds here and move on.

 I hope that all of Americans, both the winners and the losers, rich or poor, black or white, gay or straight will be a little more understanding of the other side and learn to compromise a little bit more.

 The election is over and we will see what the next four years will bring. Whatever happens it was the majority that ruled and we all must learn to make the best of it.

—**Harry Orner**

San Leandro

What We Choose to Eat Can Affect Climate Change

Editor:

 Frankenstorm Sandy is one more dramatic demonstration that climate change and its extreme weather patterns are now part of our future.

 Although we’re unlikely to reverse climate change, we can still mitigate its effects by reducing our driving, our energy use, and our meat consumption.

 Yes, meat consumption.

 A 2006 U.N. report estimated that meat consumption accounts for 18 percent of man-made greenhouse gases. A 2009 article in the respected World Watch magazine suggested that it may be closer to 50 percent.

 Carbon dioxide, the principal greenhouse gas, is emitted by burning forests to create animal pastures and by combustion of fossil fuels to confine, feed, transport, and slaughter animals and to refrigerate their carcasses.

 The much more damaging methane and nitrous oxide are discharged from digestive tracts of cattle and from animal waste cesspools, respectively.

 We have the power of reducing the devastating effects of climate change every time we eat. Our local supermarket offers a rich variety of soy-based lunch “meats,” hotdogs, veggie burgers, soy and nut-based dairy products (including cheese and ice cream), and an ample selection of traditional vegetables, fruits, grains, and nuts. Product lists, easy recipes, and transition tips are available at www.livevegan.org.

—**Dennis Roth**

San Leandro

Cruelty to Animals Must Be Treated Seriously

Editor:

 If convicted, the 12-year-old Salinas boy who allegedly hanged his dog to death needs intervention – including counseling and a ban on contact with animals (AP). Repeat offenses

are the rule, not the exception, among animal abusers.

 What's more, the bullies and cowards who abuse animals often take their issues out on members of their own species-a fact that has been well documented by psychiatrists, criminal profilers, and law enforcement officials.

 Every one of our nation's serial killers and school shooters has a history of cruelty to animals.

 Treating cruelty to animals with the seriousness it deserves protects everyone. If you know or suspect that someone is harming animals, please report it immediately. Visit www.PETA.org to learn more about the animal-human cruelty link.

—**Martin Mersereau**

People for the Ethical

Treatment of Animals (PETA)

Norfolk, Viginia