

Questions Why SL Taxpayers Pay Employee Share of Police and Fire Pensions

Editor:

□ Regarding the *“Rising Cost of Pensions”* (Page 1, *The Times*, Feb. 28) — why should San Leandro taxpayers be paying both the city share and the employee share for police and fire pensions?

□ Your reporter should be aggressive and ask our mayor, finance director and City Council members.

□ Teachers certainly pay their share into their pension systems and they earn less than police and firemen — and they cannot retire as early as police and firemen. We pay our cops and fire fighters a generous salary and they can certainly afford to be treated the same as teachers.

□ As an afterthought, anyone who thinks teachers don't work as hard as cops and firemen, try sitting in on a typical middle school class and see for yourself.

—Dale Dirlam

San Leandro

Says Times Should Have Reported All the Facts on City Employee Pensions

Editor:

□ I would like to clarify some facts regarding City employee pensions.

□ Yes, the City does pay the employee portion of their pension. However that is because in lieu of pay raises, the City offered that during past contract negotiations. Now that the deal the City offered it's employees is not working out as they planned, is it right to go back on that deal without negotiating something that benefits both sides?

□ In the future the San Leandro Times, elected officials and the people that represent them should state *all* the facts of an issue, not just what benefits their agendas.

—Patrick Grajeda

San Leandro

Pacific Sports Complex a Win-Win for San Leandro

Editor:

□ When the new Pacific Sports Complex opens this summer, the City of San Leandro will have a first class sports facility – one of the finest multi-use sports facilities in the East Bay.

□ This grand accomplishment is the result of the will and resolve of the community, the San Leandro School District, and the City of San Leandro.

□ Yet, by the end of this year, few will remember the events leading up to the rebuild of this iconic facility.

□ Pacific High was built in 1963. Thirty years ago, the School District sold the High School to developers, but retained 13 acres of sports fields (now know as Burrell Field and The Pacific Sports Complex). The sale of the school still evokes angry emotions from residences, and every attempt to sell the remaining sports fields was met with public protest.

□ Only two options remained. Fortunately, voters approved Measure M, a \$51-million school bond in 2010, to rebuild the aging sports fields into a safe, modern sports complex designed to serve the needs of The District and The City for generations to come.

□ The Community, the District and the City united to achieve this grand accomplishment. This unique collaboration between School District and City is a win-win for the Citizens of San Leandro, and sets a worthy example for all communities.

□ Congratulations San Leandro, you've shown that anything is possible with the spirit of cooperation.

—Martin Capron

San Leandro

Michelle Obama for President In 2016? He Hopes Not

Editor:

□ The only thing worse than Obama for four more years is Michelle Obama running for president in 2016.

□ Why not just elect President Obama president for life?

—Richard Phillips

San Leandro

Which Animals Do We Pet? Which Do We Eat?

Editor:

□ Last week, food safety officials in United Kingdom, France, and Sweden found traces of horse meat in ground beef sold across Europe.

□ Massive recalls and lawsuits are ensuing.

□ Can it happen here? Horse slaughter for human consumption was banned in the U.S. between 2007 and 2011. But now, a New Mexico slaughterhouse is getting approved by U.S. authorities to slaughter horses for human consumption, and a Philadelphia restaurant has already announced plans to serve horse meat.

□ I marvel at our hypocrisy of rejecting the notion of horse or dog meat on our dinner plates, while condemning cows, pigs, and chickens to the same fate.

□ Obviously, we have established special relationships with horses and dogs as our companions, protectors, and sports protagonists, rather than as food. But where is the ethical and logical distinction, given that all these animals are endowed by individuality, sentience, and

an ability to experience the same feelings of joy, affection, sadness, and fear that we do?

□ Fortunately, our health food industry has spared us from having to choose which animals to pet and which ones to eat. Their delicious soy and grain-based meat alternatives are available in every supermarket.

—**Dennis Roth**

San Leandro