

Political Penguin

By Duane Plank

Week three of the *Penguin*, and thanks to the outpouring of reader support regarding the political opines of Plank. Someone asked how was the name of the column selected? One of the fine folks at the *Herald* came up with the column heading, which kinda works because it leans toward the political side, and one of my nicknames back in the day was Penguin.

Had nothing to do with politics, nor the Burgess Meredith character in the old *Batman* TV show. Nope, I was nicknamed the Penguin because I played third base on the Mira Costa High School baseball team, and apparently waddled like a Penguin when I sprinted down the line to first. Just like Dodger third-sacker Ron Cey. So now you know.

Where to start, where to start? How bout with Miss California Carrie Prejean, who may be stripped of her oh-so-important title by the stuffed shirts who are upset that very revealing photos of Ms. Prejean have surfaced on the Internet? Holy Batman!

The column is not supposed to tilt toward pop culture or celebrity garbage, but Ms. Prejean was referenced in column numero uno because she had the stones to honestly answer a question lobbed at her regarding gay marriage. So a little follow-up is due.

Course it now appears that she may not have been so forthright when she was denying that revealing photos of her were out there in the world of cyberspace.

Another bubble burst! What next? Will we find out that "The Most Interesting Man in the World" is really just a boring, old geezer who favors Grecian formula?

Anyway, this column's interest in Prejean, above board, of course, was that her honest answer while competing for the silly crown of Miss U.S.A. was made into a political football by the PC crowd. Not the folks that

own a type of computer, SW, the politically correct police.

Looks like the gay marriage question won't go away, no matter how many times voters and taxpayers in the Great Bankrupt State vote "no." Didn't we just pass Prop. 8 last year, the proposition that put into effect that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in California?" Or did we defeat Prop 8? I confuse easily, folks, and the shrewd politicians who manage campaigns and devise media ads count on dimwits like myself to get easily bamboozled and manipulated.

The campaign for Prop. 8 cost more than 80 million bucks last year, and was the "highest funded campaign on any state ballot that day, surpassing every campaign in the country in spending except the presidential contest." So said the fine folks at Wikipedia. Gospel to me.

The thought from this page isn't whether one supports or doesn't support gay marriage. It's that with a reported \$23 billion budget deficit looming after the probable defeat of most, if not all of Governor Arnold's tax increase proposals that are to be voted on Tuesday, do we really need to waste more moolah voting on the same-old, same-old?

So with the probable defeat of the tax increase measures on Tuesday, championed by a Governor who ran on a platform of less taxation, where does that leave us Cali residents? Living in a state of anarchy?

Governor Arnold and his administrators have floated plans to commute the sentences of nearly 40,000 prison inmates, including all illegal immigrants. Closing some prisons is also being considered. Firehouses will be closed. All police officers will be laid off.

Okay, just trying to see if you are paying attention. Chances are we will still have police protecting us from the bad guys and

Memory Lane



E.S. REC. PARK ATHLETICS: SUMMER 1963 TIME FOR BASKETBALL

Provided by Bruce Dobos. Dana Pagett Jr. High Basketball 1964 Boys were made up of the E.S. Junior High School led by summer counselors Alex Smith, Ron Wey, Tom Simonsen and Bob Hutton. Great learning experiences had by all. Back Row: Cory Lamar, Mike Cuzick, Cary Niblett, Bob Brett, Jim Hart, Mike Martin, David Jeffries, (future New York Met) Mike McCready, Jack Pancoast, Gary Petersdorf, John Webb, Tony Jeffries. Bottom Row: Future Virginia Squire Dana Pagett, Rickey Mullins, Skip Bernard, Eric Small, Larry Filson, Greg Butler, Craig Cousins.

firemen to put out infernos, no matter what happens on Tuesday.

Seems to me that anytime a politician devises a plan that includes confiscating more of our money, said politico will mention that if the tax hike, user's fee, or whatever term they conjure up this time around fails, we will have to cut out the cops on patrol and empty the prisons. Which would really create quite a problem, wouldn't it?

Have you heard the TV ads supporting Props 1A-1F? We are told that the props will help "hold the line on higher taxes." But those against say what will actually happen is that we will be hit with a 16 billion buck bump in money being confiscated from us by the administrative failures working in

Sacramento.

The proponents of the props claim there will be a spending cap in place if the props pass. So we will be saving our taxpayer nickels down the road. Nope, says the other side. The reforms will give us budget stability in Sac Town if passed, eliminating "boom or bust" cycles. Or so the proponents say in their ads. And if passed, the measures will "hold politicians accountable." Sure, and double-sure, the No on 1A-F folks retort.

What a mess. Seems to me that the folks running our fine state, who are part and parcel to creating and propagating this fine pickle that we are in, are doing nothing more than

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