

Teresa Rossi
Contra Costa County Resident
Richmond, CA
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March 21, 2017

To: Contra Costa County Supervisors, Board of Supervisors Meeting

Re: Contra Costa County Animal Services (CCAS) – Leadership Failure

What does FAILURE LOOK LIKE? 6-8 little dogs crammed in a kennel walking through each other’s excrement, they can’t help it, and soon it’s all over them. A huskie curled up as tight as can be on the concrete, no blanket, no bed, no daylight, and NO walks, giving up. A young friendly cattle dog sits and waits, no sun, no fresh air, **NO WALKS FOR WEEKS**, who now jumps and hits the kennel bars (some call it cage rage); begging for attention **“SEE ME, HELP ME.”**

These are merely a sampling representative of the countless number of animals that have languished (and are languishing) in our Animal Services **two locations**.

Leadership is defying Animal Services’ express commitments of:

- Providing humane care and treatment of all animals in accordance with the **Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines** and following the **Five Freedoms**. (Previously shared with you two weeks ago.) To be clear, these are long standing **basic** codes of conduct for shelters, not state of the art luxuries.
- Also, rather than **CREATING collaborative partnerships** (as specified), **FAILED** Leadership has caused lack of trust and accountability; thus destroying some valued **RESCUE** partnerships.

Two weeks ago several County citizens addressed this Board and they were well prepared and passionate as they spoke for those who cannot. I encourage you to **Hear them, trust them**, but also PLEASE go to the Pinole and Martinez shelters yourselves (*not to VIP shelter events*), observe, ask questions of Volunteers, walk through the kennel wards, see the animals, look at them, I challenge you to be able to honestly tell them we’re doing what we’ve committed to do and all we can do!

To honor the citizens of this County who have entrusted this Board and Animal Services, it is essential to **HOLD LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABLE**. Basic animal needs, which were assured, are disgracefully NOT being met. Hear your citizens, your volunteers, and your partners. **LEADERSHIP** is **FAILING** our animals, we are their voice and we demand better. Please **SEE THEM, HELP THEM**.

Thank you very much for your attention.

List of Documents

1. Notes and cards from staff and affirmative action officer:
 - Emma Kuevor
 - Pat Rosenberg
 - Avon Wilson
 - Sheila Arsedo
 - Janet Tulchinsky
2. Times article on Secret Settlements
3. Grand Jury Report/June 15, 1994 re settlements
4. Dan Borenstein: "Bishop Accuser Had Own Campaign Business"
5. 4 Anonymous faxes/letters "A Few Who Care"
6. Anonymous fax/letter from Frau Melda Hyde/re: Conversation with journalist from San Jose Mercury News dated June 17, 1996 "Smoking Gun"
7. Anonymous letter: It is working...SJM
8. Article on Yancey investigation/Tom Powers/disappearing files
9. Guest Editorial "The Media and Bishop's Defeat" by George Finlay
10. Letter from Chris Genoali, Bishop former chief of staff
11. Letters to the Editor:
 - Laurie Schuyler, chief of staff 3/96 to 12/96
 - N E Waggoner
 - Kelly Guncheon
12. Letters to the Editor:
 - Sue Wilson
 - David Kearns
13. Letter from Annemarie Mulligan Goldstein date 2/1995 Former member of Grand Jury
14. Letters to Editor: former Supervisor Nancy Fahden, Karen Richardson, James Wickerham
15. Letters to Editor: Joe Hogan, former Planning Commissioner Ed Pancoast
16. Letters to Editor: Neil Gilbert, Ruth Feldman,
17. Letters to Editor: Mark & Laura Gallegos, Jane Fraim, Bill Sullivan
18. Letter to the Editor: Denny Larson
19. Letter from Ellen and Preston Taylor
20. handwritten letter from Thurman Gupton, Community Involvement, Black Families
21. Letter from Vicki Carlson
22. Letter from Janine and Alan Platt
23. Letter from Roseanne Lazion, RN dated 7/13/94
24. Note from Elise, my CCD student in 2001

FIRST ALERT

The first alert to administrators that something was amiss came last December, when county Affirmative Action Officer Emma Kuevor was called by a woman who declined to give her name and said, "If, um, my supervisor is forcing me to do work on county time that is of a political nature, that is, supporting campaigns, is that appropriate?"

When told it was inappropriate, the caller wondered what might happen if she refused to do the work, but then hung up. The next call did not come until February 14.

Kuevor asked how things were in that office and the anonymous caller said, "It's about 10 times as bad as it was when we talked to you earlier." Then the caller, after consulting with others who were apparently near her telephone, identified herself as Patricia Rosenberg, Bishop's chief of staff.

The next morning, Kuevor met Rosenberg and three other employees in a restaurant in Walnut Creek. The workers told of giving Bishop a letter saying they felt it was wrong to be doing her campaign work on county time and said that Bishop then met with her staff and "really kind of berated them and made them feel as if they had done something wrong," Kuevor told the grand jury.

SAFETY FEARS

The four staff members -- Rosenberg, Wilson, Yaney and Janet Brown -- said they feared for their "personal safety" when they were around Bishop.

The grand jurors pressed for details, but the staff members said they could not put a finger on the problem. Instead, Kuevor told the grand jury, "it was more the fact that they had seen her lose control, become very angry . . . in situations."

Dear Gayle, 3/17/94
You may not realize it but there are many women who view you as their role model. It has made them think about a political career or has given them the strength to challenge their supervisor or apply for an ex officio.
Remember, you always have our support and will assist you whenever possible.
Continue to be our role model.
Emma Kuevor

Note from Emma Kuevor, affirmative action office to whom the women were directed to take their complaint. This note was written the year before:

You may not realize it but there are many women who view you as their role model. It has made them think about a political career or has given them the strength to challenge their supervisor or apply for an examination.

Remember, you always have our support and we'll assist you whenever possible. Continue to be our role model.

Emma Kuevor

Dear George,

3/17/94

You may not realize it but there are many women who view you as their role model. It has made them think about a political career or has given them the strength to challenge their supervisor or apply for an examination.

Remember, you always have our support and will assist you whenever possible.

Continue to be our role model.

Dear Stephanie -

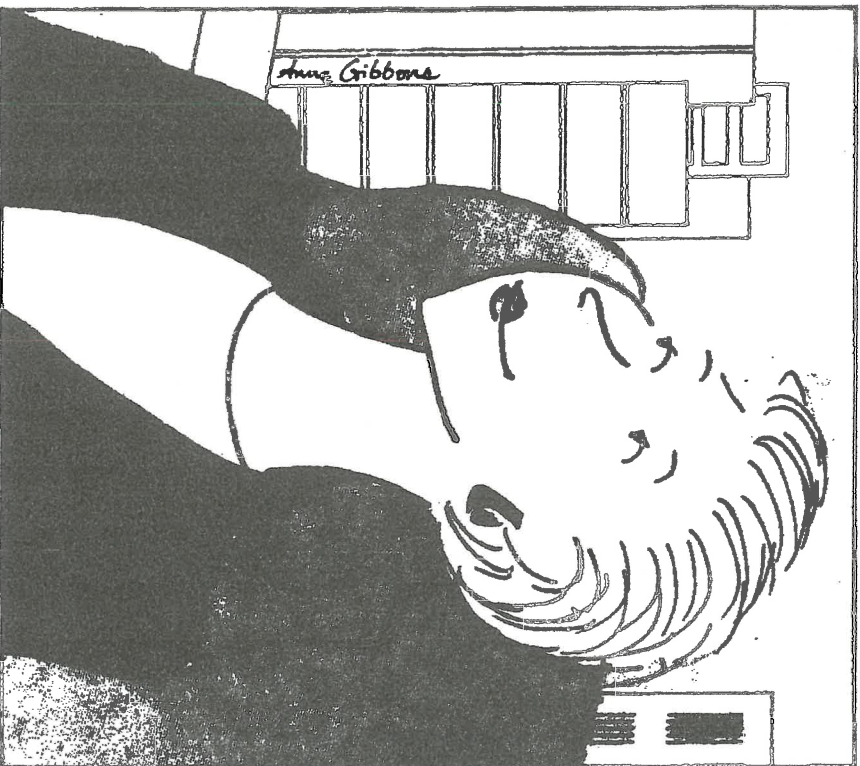
You're **fantastic!**

You are **THE Best**

Thanks for
everything!

Pat

Happy Boss' Day!



AVON WILSON

January 10, 1996

Dear Gayle,

Boy, this is really late. Last night I
cleaned my purse and there was
a lovely note and a gift certificate
for my favorite place — a bookstore!
Thank you for your kind words and
the much appreciated Christmas present.
You may be sure both warm
the cockles of my heart.

I truly enjoy working for you and
... .. interesting

It is also gratifying to work for
someone whose concept of good
government underscores mine.
Keep up the good work, knowing
your integrity, and commitment
are appreciated by the folks
that matter most.

Sincerely,

Avon

July 3, 1993

Dear Gayle:

SHEILA ARSEDO

A note to express my sincere appreciation for

the terrific lunch on Thursday at Jay's in celebrating my 15th year anniversary. Gayle, you're very thoughtful, thanks a great - Sheila

P.S. Great to hear from you & the best
C.I.C. ever was
Have 1

JANET TULCHINSKY/
BROWN

Gayle.

Everyday God is opening
New doors for me and I'm
getting stronger. I know this
Case is very difficult, But I
want to Thank you for what
you have done.

God Bless You!
Janet

Have a Happy Easter!

Jan 96

Gayle -
Thank you for the gift
certificate, and Thank you
for all that you have done!
I appreciate it.
I hope '96' is a winning
year for you! Janet

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Intra Costa County's secret settlements

Top 20 most costly cases

The eight cases secretly settled by Contra Costa, highlighted below, are among the top 20 most costly lawsuits for the county from 1990-92. The cases are identified by the name of the plaintiff.

	Payments	Legal fees	Total
1 Kimberley Chitlock	\$900,000	\$167,611	\$1,067,611
2 Peggy Johnson-Miraglia	\$200,000	\$530,493	\$730,493
3 Daniel Bicker	\$500,000	\$97,695	\$597,695
4 Tella Viramontes	\$440,000	\$86,135	\$526,135
5 David Hartsough	\$317,842	\$151,698	\$469,540
6 Jack Wilson	\$294,665	\$95,803	\$390,468
7 James King	\$200,000	\$165,235	\$365,235
8 Karen Kong	\$304,000	\$50,115	\$354,115
9 Reginald & Tawanna Jones	\$147,500	\$130,835	\$278,335
10 Land Waste Management	0	\$268,167	\$268,167
11 Susan Preston	\$152,500	\$64,287	\$216,787
12 Jennifer & Bud Large	\$97,500	\$111,999	\$209,499
13 Pamela Anderson	\$150,000	\$50,701	\$200,701
14 James Westaby, et al	\$189,504	\$1,316	\$190,820
15 Judith Bloodworth	\$130,000	\$59,184	\$189,184
16 Victor Gonzalez	\$125,410	\$60,263	\$185,673
17 David Vines	\$125,000	\$55,035	\$180,035
18 Jack Rauch	\$125,000	\$50,381	\$175,381
19 John Stiglich	\$125,000	\$29,141	\$154,141
20 Lisa Woodward	\$140,000	\$10,768	\$150,768

Sources: Contra Costa Risk Management Division and county Auditor's Office

John Stiglich
 rpe of suit: Civil rights, racketeering
 official deathmaking, wrongful ter-
 ination.
 led: 1992 settled: 1992
 settlement: \$125,000 plus rein-
 statement in his \$57,000-a-year job
 as administrative fire officer for the
 Contra Costa County Fire Protection
 District.
 Legal fees and expenses: \$29,141
 Total county bill: \$154,141

Stiglich claimed he lost his job
 because of a "corrupt political
 deal" between two county super-
 visors and firefighters' union Local
 1230, which was angered by
 Stiglich's investigation into firefight-
 ers' use of sick leave. The suit said
 Supervisors Sumne McPeak and Tom
 Powers, along with County
 Administrator Phil Batcheelor, eliminat-
 ed Stiglich's position in exchange for
 the union calling off a recall threat
 against McPeak and contributing to
 Powers' wife's campaign for the
 Richmond City Council. The defen-
 dants have denied all allegations.
 The suit is still pending against the
 union and three of its officers. As
 part of the same case, the union has
 sued the county, claiming it should
 be held liable for any problems.

Confidentiality: County records indi-
 cate the county wanted to avoid pub-
 licity and limit what Stiglich could say
 about the case. County officials kept
 secret. Stiglich says the county was
 the one that proposed and insisted
 on confidentiality. Stiglich supported
 the release of the records when the
 Times sued to obtain them.

Sources: U.S. District Court files,
 county records obtained by court
 order and interviews.

—By Michael Hytha and Daniel
 Borenstein, staff writers

Times/Robert Casey

A REPORT BY

THE 1993-94 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GRAND JURY
1020 Ward Street
Martinez, CA 94553
(510) 646-2345

Report No. 9410

COUNTY COUNSEL
LEGAL DEBACLE

*"No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we
ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it."*

Theodore Roosevelt



Approved by the Grand Jury:

Date: 6/15/94

Judith M. Mullin
Judith M. Mullin
Grand Jury Foreman

Accepted for Filing:

Date: June 15, 1994

Richard E. Arnason
Richard E. Arnason
Judge of the Superior Court

INTRODUCTION:

The 1993-94 Contra Costa County Grand Jury acknowledges that the Board of Supervisors is free to act contrary to legal advice.

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION:

Public outcries regarding secret settlements and the \$40,000 The Regional Institute of the Bay Area (TRIBA) donation controversy, triggered an investigation into the Office of County Counsel's conduct and operations and examined the Counsel's relationship with the Board of Supervisors.

FINDINGS:

1. The County Counsel is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and shall serve four years from the time of appointment and until a successor is appointed (Government Code §27640 and §27641). The incumbent County Counsel for Contra Costa was initially appointed in 1984.
2. The County Counsel is the legal adviser to the Board of Supervisors and shall oppose all claims against the County and shall prosecute all civil actions and proceedings on behalf of the County (Government Code §26526).
3. The Board of Supervisors establishes compensation, job duties, and performance standards not otherwise mandated by law for County Counsel.
4. The County Counsel's salary and benefits package totals more than \$160,000 annually.
5. It is not clear to whom County Counsel is accountable and to whom County Counsel reports from an organizational perspective. Is it the Board, the County Administrator or both?
6. The Office of Risk Management, under the direct supervision of the County Administrator, approved secret settlements based on recommendations from highly-paid independent legal counsel, hired to defend County government. County Counsel did not question this process.
7. The Board of Supervisors knew that there was no agreement between the County Counsel's Office and the Office of Risk Management to overview risk management.
8. In December 1991, Pipes Trade Council 51 donated \$40,000 to TRIBA, a non-profit organization founded and chaired by Supervisor Tom Powers.
9. There was a clear understanding and assurance that the \$40,000 from the labor union would, in turn, be gifted by TRIBA to Contra Costa County to assist the County in its legal battle defending a local prevailing wage.

10. County Counsel was aware of the conditional nature of the gift and the need to disguise the source; i.e, fear of public outcry that it was the unions, not the County, defending the ordinance.
11. The District Attorney's investigation of this incident found that the act was not "money laundering" as defined by California law, as it was not paid in furtherance of any illegal activity. The District Attorney concluded that although the true source of the gift and the specific reason for the gift was disguised, the conduct was not illegal, but rather a matter of **ethics and politics**.
12. By statute, County Counsel may be removed at any time by the Board of Supervisors for neglect of duty, malfeasance, misconduct in office or other good cause shown.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Public respect and confidence were eroded by the various charges of misconduct, perpetuated with the Board of Supervisors' apparent acquiescence, if not concurrence.
2. County Counsel neglected to intervene early in resolving the conflicts that resulted in secret settlements.
3. It is inexcusable for any attorney, let alone the County's chief legal adviser, not to analyze evidence and apply a curve for decision consequences.
4. County Counsel's failure to intervene on critical legal matters was a neglect of his responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Due to the critical role County Counsel plays in the daily governmental operation, the 1993-94 Contra Costa County Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors, within 30 days:

1. Publicly reaffirm its responsibilities to supervise, direct, and control all County legal matters.
2. Implement a comprehensive assessment of the County Counsel's ability to provide the Board with competent legal advice.
3. Publicly act upon and execute options provided to the Board, based on assessment findings.
4. Re-establish the accountability of County Counsel and thereby restore credibility with the public.

COMMENTS:

Confidentiality clauses in lawsuits, settled with public funds, can breed a stealth environment for incompetence.

Elected and public officials and employees must be held accountable for consequences stemming from acts and omissions.

County government is an awesome responsibility entrusted by the people for the benefit of an organized and humane society.

The Board of Supervisors should demand straightforward and apolitical legal advice that can be trusted with unflagging confidence and without reservation.

equipment and staff members to help run his nonprofit and political activities, a top aide said yesterday.

In addition, the county grand jury, which is already investigating the influence of labor unions in county politics, has been asked by a former supervisor to examine a \$40,000 union contribution to the county that was funneled through a nonprofit institute founded by Powers.

The allegations about Powers, a four-term incumbent and one of Contra Costa's most influential politicians, were first reported in yesterday's editions of The Chronicle.

Three former aides claim that Powers used county equipment and county staff members to work on his political projects and on the activities for his tax-exempt foundation, the Regional Institute of the Bay Area. Among those workers is Powers' son, Patrick, who draws an annual county salary of \$33,204.

Powers and his aides strongly deny the allegations, saying that any work by aides on outside projects was done on their own time. He said he learned only recently that the institute had been using county resources and said he directed his aides to replenish county supplies and repay the county \$660 for three years of phone use.

Jim Sepulveda, a deputy district attorney who investigates political malfeasance, said yesterday that he will look into the allegations.

Sepulveda said prosecutors will also determine whether the county has jurisdiction to look into allegations that Powers used the institute to disguise a \$40,000 contribution to the county, a transaction that one Internal Revenue Service official said amounted to "money laundering."

In 1991, Powers' institute accepted a \$40,000 check from a powerful union, money that was to be sent along to the county in a legal fight over labor-backed legislation. An attorney for the union said the money was funneled through the institute deliberately to conceal it from opponents of the law, which would require contractors on large-scale projects to pay wages that are close to union scale.

One supervisor said yesterday that the contribution was so well-

former supervisor Robert Scherger said. He said he opposed the law that the money was contributed to defend.

"It was a deliberate attempt of subterfuge," said Nancy Fahden, a veteran former supervisor who, like Schroder, stepped down in January. "They were trying to hide it."

Fahden yesterday called on the grand jury to investigate the transaction. The grand jury is already investigating allegations of undue union influence in county politics and policies, according to witnesses who have been subpoenaed by the political watchdog group in the past two weeks.

convicted freeway killer Charles Stevens.

Deputy District Attorney Ken Burr said the pair were on a Santa Rita Jail bus when a deputy overheard Stevens tell Zambrano that he planned to murder his co-defendant, Richard Clark. Zambrano is on trial for allegedly killing and decapitating his friend Luis Reyna, who was planning to testify against him in a beating case.

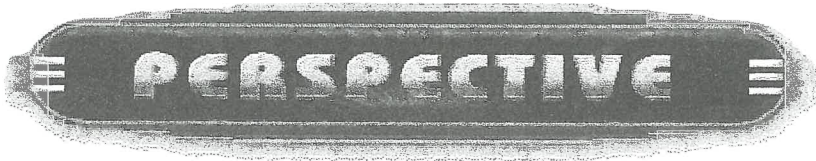
Burr called Zambrano to the stand yesterday during the penalty phase of Steven's trial, but Zambrano refused to testify about the March 18 incident, citing his right against self-incrimination.

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Published on July 27, 1997

INSIDE POLITICS: DANIEL BORENSTEIN

Bishop accuser had own campaign business, local column

AS GAYLE BISHOP prepares to face her punishment this week, there's an interesting footnote about one of her accusers.

As you might recall, the former Contra Costa supervisor was convicted last month of nine felony counts for using her county office and staff to help run her law practice and re-election campaign -- and then lying to the grand jury about it. She faces up to eight years in state prison and a \$90,000 fine.

Lynn Shoenut Yaney was one of the four angry workers who blew the whistle on Bishop. She testified at the Superior Court trial that Bishop had her staff keep a database of supporters that was used for her campaign. "It was illegal and I knew it," Yaney testified.

Yaney recalled Bishop tried to get her to do campaign work on county time. "She said, 'Do you have a problem with this?' I said, 'I do Gayle, it's illegal.' She said, 'You work for me.' "

But what was Yaney doing while protesting to her boss about right and wrong?

JUGGLING: At the time, Yaney had her own campaign consulting business. She also wrote a column for the San Ramon Valley Herald newspaper that included musings about outhouses one week and lunch spots the next.

While it might not seem terribly appetizing, there was nothing wrong with Yaney's moonlighting -- as long as she kept the work separate. As long as we, the taxpayers, weren't subsidizing her other work.

It turns out that we might have been.

Here's what we know: A Times analysis of bills from the supervisor's office reveals that phone calls to the Herald city desk, editor, copy desk, fax machines and voice mail system surged when Yaney worked for Bishop.

In the seven months before and two months after Yaney worked in the office, calls to the Herald's Pleasanton office averaged less than two per month. During the seven months Yaney worked for Bishop, calls to the Herald averaged 48 per month.

Of the 339 calls from the San Ramon office to the newspaper during those seven months, 71 percent were billed for one minute. The rest of the calls were from two to 19 minutes long. County policy prohibits employee personal use of county phones for toll calls.

We're not talking about a lot of money here. The total cost was \$32.44. Then again, we don't know how much Bishop's transgressions cost taxpayers.

Yaney refuses to answer questions about the phone calls or her work in the supervisor's office, from August 1995 to February 1996. "The trial is over," she said, "and the verdict is rendered and I've moved on and I can't see the relevance."

SIDE ISSUES: Rebecca King, a graphic artist who did work for Yaney and for Bishop, testified that Yaney complained about her work schedule for the county supervisor and her campaign business.

"She complained," King said, "that it was difficult juggling the two job situations, and the work for Miss Bishop was difficult and getting in the way."

When Yaney testified against the supervisor, Bishop's attorneys wanted to question her about the calls to the Herald and her own possible misuse of county funds.

With the jury out of the room, Robert Berg, one of Bishop's attorneys, argued that Yaney's behavior was relevant to Bishop's defense because it helped explain why her former workers turned against her.

"I believe," Berg said, "one reason is that Ms. Yaney felt guilty about the work she was doing and, in a typical well-known psychological pattern, blamed someone else, namely Supervisor Bishop, for the wrongdoing that she, herself, was guilty of."

Visiting Judge John Tiernan didn't think much of the theory. "I guess the well-known psychological phenomenon would be transference of some sort," he mused. "... And you're bringing an expert in in that regard so we have these well-known psychological grounds?"

No expert was ever produced. The evidence was never admitted. Tiernan ruled that Yaney's possible misuse of her own time and county resources was a side issue that did not bear directly enough on the Bishop case to allow the jurors to hear it.

BLAME: The complaints in February 1996 by Yaney and three other workers led to Bishop's fall.

Publicity about the allegations, which surfaced about a month before voters went to the polls, doomed Bishop's previously excellent chances for election to a second four-year term.

Yaney wasn't just any one of the four accusers. She was the ringleader -- or so Bishop's other attorney, Blackie Burak, said.

"You say to yourself, 'Why did these women turn against her?' Well, the reason is Lynn Yaney," he said in his opening statement. "It's that simple."

It was a conspiracy theory that painted Yaney as a plant of a law firm politically opposed to Bishop. "Lynn Yaney came in there like a poison," he said later. "Lynn Yaney was behind it all."

It was a conspiracy theory Burak never proved and, indeed, backed away from by the end of the trial.

Meanwhile, Yaney and the three other office workers were given new county jobs. That deal was essential to protect Contra Costa from possible lawsuits, County Administrator Phil Batchelor says.

Yaney's column is history. She's now a public information officer in the county's Social Service Department.

HOLD THE PHONE: Before folks start clamoring to throw Yaney in the pokey for some phone calls she might have made, it's time to bring a little reason to all of this.

Bishop's backers shouldn't go rushing into prosecutor Jim Sepulveda expecting him to file charges.

As Sepulveda points out, there are serious differences between the Bishop case and what Yaney might have done.

"Gayle was not prosecuted for using the telephone and the fax machine," he says. "Gayle was prosecuted for having her staff members do work for her both in her private legal practice and campaign ... on county time."

Bishop was the supervisor, the person in charge of the office, the person who signs off on the bills. As the top dog, she's held to a higher standard. And, on top of it all, Sepulveda notes, she committed perjury. Taken together, it's serious stuff, much more serious than just some phone calls.

Everyone realizes you're not suppose to make personal calls on the public dime. But let's get real.

"I seriously doubt there isn't some county employee, including myself, who hasn't used the telephone or the fax machine for some private purpose," says Sepulveda.

While the county may take administrative action against employees who run up the phone bills, Sepulveda doesn't plan to bring them to trial.

"In order for us to consider a prosecution in a case like that, it would have to be a very egregious circumstance."

Sorry folks, but \$32 doesn't meet that threshold.

Political editor Daniel Borenstein can be reached at 943-8248 or by fax at 933-0239.

Edition: PERS, Section: F, Page: 3

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Supervisor Gayle Bishop
18 Crow Canyon Court No. 120
San Ramon, California 94583

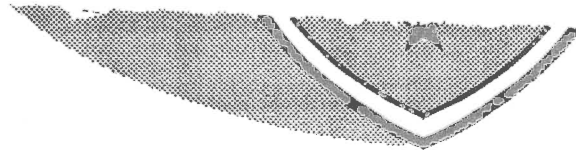
SEP 1994
SUPERVISOR BISHOP'S
OFFICE
[Handwritten initials]

* Dear Mrs. Bishop:

We thought you'd like to see the enclosed flier. Looks like DeSaulnier and Rainey are "pals". Does this mean DeSaulnier is going to do what he can to see that Sue Rainey is elected to the Board? Don't trust him. Supv. Smith, Torlakson and Powers are not friends, either. You are too independent and won't play the game. Phil Batchelor goes along with them; he knows which side his bread's buttered on.

You are doing a great job! We don't want to lose you.

A FEW WHO CARE



WILLOW PASS

With
Assemblyman Richard Rainey
and
Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Concord Police Association • 5060 Avila Road, Concord

Tickets: \$25 per person (Children Free)
Profits from the event will benefit both the Rainey and DeSaulnier Campaigns.

Bring your children for important crime prevention and K-9 demonstrations.



Please reserve _____ tickets at \$25 and _____ ticket(s) free for children.

Sorry, can't make it this time, but enclosed is a contribution.

Amount enclosed \$ _____. Please make checks payable to Mark DeSaulnier for Supervisor.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

The following information is required by county law for persons contributing \$25.00 or more.

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Paid for by Mark DeSaulnier for Supervisor, 2238 Morello Ave., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 / ID #940352 / (510) 798-0883

Paid for by Richard Rainey for Assembly, P.O. Box 4893, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 / ID #911120



7/12/94



Dear Supervisor Bishop,

You should be aware that we read Mrs. Fahden's letter to the editor and she is RIGHT! You are treated terribly by the other Board members. Also, please understand that it's not only the Board members -- County Administrator Batchelor mocks you openly at Department Head meetings. Others follow suit only to appease Batchelor. Please hang in there; we need you.

A FEW WHO CARE

Dear Supervisor Gail Bishop:

You should be aware that Jean Maglio in the Clerk's Office in the Admin Bldg in Martinez has been heard to malign you and mock you in the presence of other county employees. She may not think that people care but people do - and people talk. She needs to be careful about who she talks about. We think she does this to be part of the "in crowd" meaning the male board members. She will deny she does this, but she won't do it again if she knows that you're aware of it. It does no good for her to talk about you or anybody else. It's unprofessional for a person in her capacity.

You should also know that Susan Rainey has said she is going to run against you and that she knows the fire union and other unions will support her this time around.

The Orange County administrator has been fired. Do you think Mr. Batchelor might be interested in that job? We'd love to see him leave.

A FEW WHO CARE

FEB 1995
SUPERVISOR BISHOP'S
OFFICE

Dear Supv. Gail Bishop,

Please keep up the good work for those of us who have silent voices -- in other words, no one listens to us. For a long time, a few of us in County government have agonized over the way our supervisors don't seem to care about anything but getting ahead and their own self-serving actions. They don't care, and it's obvious. You seem to care. Please keep up the good work and help all of us -- employees and citizens of the county.

Most of our supv. are crooks. They bad mouth you (believe it or not) and are conducting a campaign of "talk" to discredit you. Supv. Tom T. recently said in our paper (Ledger) that you "have a way of putting your foot in your mouth regarding suspicions of other board members." See how these comments do? They are meant to make you look foolish. They are really afraid because you're starting to ask questions. No one has previously done that, so they were able to get away with a lot of things. Do you know about Peggy Johnson? John Stiglich? Randy Slusher? Charles Boch? Probably not because they don't want you to know; you might start asking questions about them, too.

Thank you for caring.

YOUR FANS

Maybe I can help, Gayle.....

Today, In Silicon Valley, I accidently arrived at a Press Briefing done by one of the major companies concerning Calendar results so far in the Hard Disk Drive business. At the meeting were editors and writers from the San Jose Mercury News. I struck up a conversation explaining how I enjoy SJMNs straight-forward reporting style and asked why Knight-Ridder can't do the same through the Times. The editor wanted to demonstrate the cooperation between the SJMN and the Times by pointing to your case, and how in depth they have prepared themselves to cover your trial in SJMN and the Times papers, "We have the smoking guns!"

Now, this is what I was told....

They can establish concessions by the DA through Mr. Sepulveda (sp?) with Safeway, on harassment cases, and with other major companies. They claim two concessions were with two major companies with projects you opposed.

They can link Mr. Powers and Chevron in concessions of influence.

They can link Ms. McPeak with major companies in influence concessions

And can do that same linkage for two other current or former supervisors

They claim that the County Administrator can be linked to concessions to cities and developers in support of land development and land usage opposed by you.

They claim that they can really provide a smoking gun related to the County Hospital issues.

And they claim to have the method of payment for the concessions through thrid parties.

Overall, they believe there is enough relationship between verified stories and the information from verified sources to create a picture of conspiracy as you claim. And they can explain why you are the target....you got too close to how the influence money worked! It was a corporate hit, and not a political hit!

That's all I was told and all I know.....didn't get names due to my appointment was ready for me! But I think it gives you places to look.

Krau Meida Hyde

Gayle

It is working...keep the pressure on the main players in the hit!

Individual greed is making certain individuals ask for more from the Corporate Folks!

The Corporate types realize they have lost control and will give up somebody to prevent further payment.....likely a very visible prosecutor who can be tied to pay-offs in harassment cases with Safeway

Also note that one of the gang of four from your office asked for more and is ready to TURN if she doesn't get it!

Two others are afraid of the results...life threatening due to paranoia.

Press the DA office and the gang of Four as individuals

CC Times is simply part of the dirt. ...the Lesher connection is still there; so look deeply at George Riggs and his connections through organizations to Martinez and corporations.

Source: SJMN

Bishop gets approval for Yancey investigation

D.A. plans appeal of court's ruling

By ARIEL AMBRUSTER
Times Martinez Bureau

MARTINEZ — Contra Costa Supervisor Gayle Bishop has won the right to put District Attorney Gary Yancey on the legal hot seat.

A Superior Court judge Tuesday gave the embattled supervisor permission to investigate whether Yancey knew about and ignored wrongdoing by other county politicians.

Bishop is facing criminal trial on charges she used her former staff aides to do campaign work on the taxpayer's dime. She's trying to fight off the charges by arguing that she's been singled out for prosecution because she is politically unpopular with an old-boys network.

Visiting Superior Court Judge R. Kent Grunewald agreed Tuesday to overturn a Municipal Court judge's ruling prohibiting Bishop from gathering any more evidence to support her argument that she is being selectively prosecuted.

Yancey's office will ask the Court of Appeal to overturn Grunewald's decision, said Deputy District Attorney Douglas Pipes.

Pipes would make no other comments. A gag order put into place by the Municipal Court judge forbids involved attorneys, Bishop, Yancey or any witnesses from talking about the case.

Grunewald rejected arguments by Yancey, the Attorney General and a lawyer for the county that Bishop had failed to gather enough evidence to make a credible case that she's been singled out.

She's shown enough to win the right to continue gathering evidence, he said.

And, he ordered, she can continue to make her case against Yancey, despite the fact that it was the state Attorney General's Office, not Yancey, that filed charges against her.

She can look for evidence that Yancey knew but did not act on evidence against other supervisors, that they used county resources for their campaigns or private businesses, or that they violated any campaign laws, Grunewald said.

Prosecutors say there's no basis to Bishop's claim, arguing they have overwhelming evidence against her because her entire staff walked out and went to Yancey to complain.

The Attorney General's Office said deciding to file the 10 felony charges against Bishop was easy.

"It was a no-brainer," Michael O'Reilly, supervising deputy attorney general, told Grunewald. "It was not a close case. Any prosecutor would have made the same decision."

Bishop might have trouble finding any information in Yancey's files to support her arguments.

His investigation files on county supervisors show no evidence of misappropriating public funds. The only exception: Yancey's office investigated a complaint Bishop made against Supervisor Tom Torlakson, who is running for Assembly.



Gayle Bishop

She may now gather evidence against District Attorney Gary Yancey.



Gary Yancey

His office will ask the Court of Appeal to overturn the judge's decision.

Yancey's office concluded that Torlakson did not violate the law.

Yancey's records, however, are limited; files older than three years are routinely thrown out, and files are only created if the department receives a written, rather than an oral, complaint.

And one file, on former Supervisor Tom Powers, has disappeared from Yancey's office. Yancey has said someone with a "nefarious" purpose stole the file, while Bishop supporters have alleged that the District Attorney's Office might have a motive to lose it.

Torlakson said he doesn't mind if Bishop looks for evidence against him, because he has never used his aides to campaign on county time. "It's a waste of time, sort of a fruitless fishing expedition," he said of Bishop's efforts.

equipment and staff members to help run his nonprofit and political activities, a top aide said yesterday.

In addition, the county grand jury, which is already investigating the influence of labor unions in county politics, has been asked by a former supervisor to examine a \$40,000 union contribution to the county that was funneled through a nonprofit institute founded by Powers.

The allegations about Powers, a four-term incumbent and one of Contra Costa's most influential politicians, were first reported in yesterday's editions of The Chronicle.

Three former aides claim that Powers used county equipment and county staff members to work on his political projects and on the activities for his tax-exempt foundation, the Regional Institute of the Bay Area. Among those workers is Powers' son, Patrick, who draws an annual county salary of \$33,204.

Powers and his aides strongly deny the allegations, saying that any work by aides on outside projects was done on their own time. He said he learned only recently that the institute had been using county resources and said he directed his aides to replenish county supplies and repay the county \$660 for three years of phone use.

Jim Sepulveda, a deputy district attorney who investigates political malfeasance, said yesterday that he will look into the allegations.

Sepulveda said prosecutors will also determine whether the county has jurisdiction to look into allegations that Powers used the institute to disguise a \$40,000 contribution to the county, a transaction that one Internal Revenue Service official said amounted to "money laundering."

In 1991, Powers' institute accepted a \$40,000 check from a powerful union, money that was to be sent along to the county in a legal fight over labor-backed legislation. An attorney for the union said the money was funneled through the institute deliberately to conceal it from opponents of the law, which would require contractors on large-scale projects to pay wages that are close to union scale.

One supervisor said yesterday that the contribution was so well-

convicted freeway killer Charles Stevens.

Deputy District Attorney Ken Burr said the pair were on a Santa Rita Jail bus when a deputy overheard Stevens tell Zambrano that he planned to murder his co-defendant, Richard Clark. Zambrano is on trial for allegedly killing and decapitating his friend Luis Reyna, who was planning to testify against him in a beating case.

Burr called Zambrano to the stand yesterday during the penalty phase of Steven's trial, but Zambrano refused to testify about the March 18 incident, citing his right against self-incrimination.

former supervisor Robert Schroder said. He said he opposed the law that the money was contributed to defend.

"It was a deliberate attempt of subterfuge," said Nancy Fahden, a veteran former supervisor who, like Schroder, stepped down in January. "They were trying to hide it."

Fahden yesterday called on the grand jury to investigate the transaction. The grand jury is already investigating allegations of undue union influence in county politics and policies, according to witnesses who have been subpoenaed by the political watchdog group in the past two weeks.

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San Ramon Valley Herald

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1996 to PAGE A-16

My Word

The media and Bishop's defeat

By George H. Finlay

IT is said, "A newspaper is to a politician what a barking dog is to a burglar." True. But sometimes a newspaper does more than bark; it can bite and destroy.

Take, for example, the recent media coverage of Supervisor Gayle Bishop.

Bishop is accused of directing her employees to campaign for her election on company time. The charge is made just days before the election. Full blown and immediate news coverage refers to the four employees making the charge as "victims." With no time to confront and rebut this total and terrible surprise, and no day in court, Bishop is pilloried.

The "rush to judgment," unprofessional reporting did its job. Gayle Bishop lost the election.

"Voters dump Bishop" was the cruel post-election headline. Jail time is threatened and reported. Finally, the branded Bishop is herded into a holding area and surrounded by orange uniformed prisoners. There are photos taken with accompanying "news" coverage. It was cheap tabloid, guilty-by-association "paparazzi" journalism at its very worst.

Since then, there has been complete news silence. No word from the four "victims," no investigative reporting or follow-up on the natural suspicion of an orchestrated conspiracy, no information as to whether the accusations are flimsy, trumped up (by whom) and picayune, or really serious enough to justify such shoddy treatment and harsh punishment.

The only thing the media cite is that Bishop "makes enemies and steps on toes." That's news? Whenever the minority fights the majority, there is always some stepping on toes and feathers ruffled. At

times Bishop may have lacked certain communication refinements, but dedicated people often do when fighting uphill battles.

Bishop was substance, not shadow. She was a voice, not an echo. Look at her record. She supported the fight on gouging garbage rates. She supported the fight to lower East Bay Municipal Utility District's ridiculous "east of the hills" water rates. She is invaluable to the kids' Head Start program.

She's a key player in all important telecommunications highway seminars. She was against the "pork" of a new, expensive hospital in Martinez. She was a fearless, tireless fighter against the bulldozers and chain saws of the powerful developers who stand ever at the ready to march up and down our scenic hills.

WHEN participating in the twice-a-month Walnut Creek and Danville 7:30 a.m. community leadership meetings (seldom if ever are there reporters present), attended by District 3 mayors, community leaders, public officials, etc., Bishop didn't just hear, she listened.

A valuable public servant who fought hard for her district is now lost. Tainted journalism played a major part in her defeat. Reporters chose not to remember that "innocent until proven guilty" and fair play are still the American way. Slanted coverage directed at a media driven electorate is not a "bark," it is a powerful pitbull bite and it destroys.

The media may not have, and in of themselves, crucified Gayle Bishop. But they surely contracted for the lumber.

George H. Finlay lives in Alamo.

February 24, 1996

To Whom It May Concern,

I worked for Contra Costa County Supervisor Gayle Bishop as a member of her staff from January of 1993 through June of 1994. During my term of employment, Supervisor Bishop never made it a requirement for me to work on campaign related activities. In addition, I was never asked to work on campaign related activities in Supervisor Bishop's office. The work environment in Supervisor Bishop's office was a very pleasant and cooperative one. Supervisor Bishop treated her staff extremely well; she was fair, generous and considerate. My impression of Supervisor Bishop was one of a dedicated, hard working and honest public servant committed to serving the constituents of her district.

Sincerely,



Chris Genovall
1124 Sanders Drive
Moraga, CA 94556

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't forget accomplishments

IF GAYLE Bishop were in fact guilty, (and of such heinous crimes as felony scrapbook, felony Rolodex, and felony faxes and phone calls worth less than \$20), then why did her accusers have to lie? Comparing their testimony between the grand jury, investigation tapes and the actual trial shows obvious whoppers.

Why did the prosecutor have to resort to exaggeration, distortion, deception, and an array of manipulative tricks to get her convicted? Why was so much crucial evidence in her favor excluded and suppressed?

According to the instructions given to the jury, any government employee who makes a personal phone call, even though it is immediately reimbursed, is guilty of felony misuse of government property. Despite the ludicrously

trivial nature of the allegations, the outcome was predictable.

I have watched Bishop courageously stand up to developers, garbage interests, unions and other special interests that hold our county government in a vice. The whole affair was engineered so that she would resign in disgrace, and so that her enemies — many of which are guilty of robbing this county blind — could enjoy some sick gratification, get revenge for the trouble she has caused them, and send a message to anyone else who dares speak out against graft and corruption.

When will those that know the truth about what is actually going on have the moral courage to speak up?

Laurie Schuyler
Concord

Editor's note: The writer worked for Gayle Bishop as her chief of staff after her former staff was placed on administrative leave.

We invite reader input with Letters to the Editor.

► Please sign your letter and include a home address, daytime and home phone numbers.

► Please limit your letter to 250 words. It may be edited for brevity and clarity.

► Write: Letters to the Editor, The San Ramon Valley Herald, P.O. Box 10367, Pleasanton, 94588. Or call Bob Cuddy, 416-4852. Fax (510) 416-4850.

True representative

Most people in this country believe you can't find a politician who represents the common man. Well, I know of at least one and her name is Gayle Bishop.

She is a county supervisor who took the time to attend our homeowner's group meeting. Bishop is known for her unwavering support of community groups who are trying to preserve the biggest investment of their life, their neighborhood. Isn't that the kind of politician you want representing your neighborhood?

Kathleen Van Winckel
Walnut Creek

SRVT
5-9-95

Truth beyond Bishop

Regarding the letters on the Gayle Bishop fiasco (Times, June 28). It irks me no end when successfully prosecuted minor law infractions are touted as shining examples that the judicial system does work while all around us the most serious chicanery, maleficence and brazen flouting of laws go unchallenged.

The Gayle Bishop harassment and the circus and extremely politically ambitious prosecutor put on is a prime example.

The behind-the-scenes machine actions would make a very lively story if revealed; there is where the truth lies, not in the farce of a trial.

N.E. Waggoner
Livermore

Biased coverage of Bishop

Your obvious vendetta against County Supervisor Gayle Bishop grows more obvious and more irresponsible by the day. The March 11 Times front page yet again splashed non-news in an effort to hang Bishop before she even has a chance at a fair hearing.

The story repeats information and speculation laid out previously, and once again cast aspersions on her credibility. This follows the adage that if you speak a lie often enough, people begin to believe it.

For anyone who's had even one previously loyal employee walk out on them, it is so difficult to understand the devastation caused by the apparent betrayal and abandonment by her staff? Is it so hard to see the motives behind Phil Batchelor's handling of the complaints and his buddy Gary Yancey's obvious grandstanding?

Don't you question how complainants who make less than \$40,000 a year can retain such a high-priced legal firm to represent them? And what are they representing them for? They are still on the county payroll.

This situation smells, and if anything has helped muddy the supervisorial race, it's your biased coverage.

Kelly F. Guncheon
Walnut Creek

SRVT - 1/7/96

Bishop's view needed on board

The San Ramon Valley Times has been reliable in supporting fast growth in Contra Costa County. SRVT is an organization that wants more subscribers and money from advertisers. It does not have the same priorities as people who live in Contra Costa.

The SRVT's article on Curt Kinney's bid for Gayle Bishop's seat was no exception. The article implied that Bishop has been ineffective. From the Times' viewpoint, that may well be. However, from the citizens' viewpoint, Gayle Bishop has, at times, been our only voice for positions that value the quality of life in Contra Costa. The issues of air pollution, traffic gridlock, crime, stresses on schools, police and fire services and water availability are important when evaluating fast growth's effect on the quality of life in Contra Costa.

It appears that fast growth proponents saw how successful it was to divert attention (and lawsuits) away from them in their overthrow of East Bay Municipal Utility District board members. The new EBMUD board has pitted communities against each other to cover up the real problem — fast growth's competition for water. Now they want to stack the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors in the same way.

We need Gayle Bishop representing the citizens.

**Sue Wilson
Alamo**



SRVT 1/7/96
**Fending off
the developers**

ONE OF the pleasures of living in Northern California is knowing we don't live in Southern California. That's why we have as many Los Angeles jokes as we have lawyer jokes. But the Southland is creeping north, just as fast as the developers can buy off politicians. The only obstacle the developers face around here is Gayle Bishop.

While we enjoy the natural beauty of our communities, we slashily hand the same over to real estate developers. As a result, we spend endless hours fighting traffic to get our kids to their overcrowded schools.

I thank goodness we've got Bishop fighting for us on the Board of Supervisors. Her political opponents promise us they won't wind up "ineffectively" on the losing side of 4-1 votes. Of course they won't. They're going to do what almost every other Contra Costa supervisor has done these last 20 years — whatever the developers want.

Bishop may lose a few votes here and there, but in the process she secures vastly better planning than the developers want to give us, and that means better air quality, better traffic conditions, and better schools for us in the future.

Folks, please ignore the bought-and-paid-for political opportunists the developers are running against Bishop in the March election. If you like L.A., move there, but don't build another L.A. in my backyard.

David B. Kearns
Danville

7/21/94 Tri Valley Herald

Arrogant supervisors

It's clear to us that the four Contra Costa County supervisors who voted down the planning committee in District 3 are intimidated by Supervisor Gayle Bishop's mindful and thoughtful approach to governing. They are envious of Bishop's popularity, where she has such strong support for the representation she provides.

The board's decision to do away with a useful, valuable and purposeful planning committee to save the county about \$30,000 per year is ridiculous. How much does the board think it is going to cost the county in the future from poor planning mistakes made without this organization in place?

What does this say about encouraging involvement, representation and participation of the people, by the people, for the people? Do these board members have all the answers and they don't need our input?

Mark and Laura Gallegos
San Ramon

7/21/94 SRV

Bishop's courage

Contra Costa County Supervisor Gayle Bishop's achievement in obtaining the resignation of L. Kaye from the San Ramon Valley Planning Commission showed courage, integrity and leadership.

She is to be commended.

William D. McC
Dan

Praise for Bishop

Congratulations to Supervisor Gayle Bishop for her courageous actions in standing up to the "bully boys" on the Board of Supervisors and fighting to protect our rights to plan the future of our communities. By her strong and assertive steps, she has shown she and her constituents, will no longer tolerate business as usual from our Board of Supervisors.

We elected Bishop to represent our interest in Martinez. She represents a change from the "good old boys" "this is the way we've always done it" mind set to a more open government, with a new vision for economic growth and cost-effective, efficient government services.

Unfortunately, the "bully boys" under the command of "Chairman Tom" Powers, insist upon "business as usual" even if it is not in the interest of the taxpayers. In the face of this approach, Bishop stood her ground and for that she has been treated with absolutely no respect by fellow board members.

I attended a Board of Supervisors meeting this past May and witnessed firsthand Bishop's treatment at the hands and gavel of the "bully boys." I watched in disbelief, then with anger, at the treatment Bishop received when she attempted to participate in a discussion of county policy relating to all publicly funded hospitals in the county. The policy discussion had been brought to the board by "Chairman Tom."

Because Bishop took a position that was in the interest of the public and contrary to Powers, she was cut off. She was talked down to by Powers and ridiculed or ignored by the other bully boys. No person deserves to be treated this way.

I served at the highest levels of state and county government for 12 years, during which I attended numerous meetings of boards of elected officials, chaired by men and women, some good, some bad, but none as mean-spirited as Powers.

Powers has demonstrated through his rude demeanor complete disrespect to Gayle, and in turn to us, her constituents. He has made clear his intent to disenfranchise all of us who are represented by Gayle, and share a view different from his on how public policy should be made in the future. I don't think so. This is one American who still will not tolerate taxation without representation.

Bishop's critics have accused her of alienating her fellow board mem-

bers. On the contrary, when she went to Martinez, she never had a chance. She would be treated as a supervisor in name only. To understand why Bishop is taking abuse at the hands of the bully boys, we must look at the one critical fact that has not been presented in the press, that is, Bishop was never ever supposed to win election.

The "business as usual" crowd threw everything but the kitchen sink at her to keep her from winning. But she did win, and with the largest vote ever cast for a county supervisor.

So now, the "business as usual" crowd has a dilemma. How do you handle someone with her principles and tenacity? You could listen. You could treat her and her ideas with respect and dignity. You just might even respect the vote of the people. Unfortunately, that has not been the case.

Instead, they decided the best approach was just to ignore Bishop, ignore the election and when that won't work, attack. What I observed at that Board of Supervisors meeting that morning was not the exception to the rule.

Powers owes Bishop an apology, but he also owes an apology to each and every one of us who continue to believe in fair play, open and honest dialogue, honor and respect.

If you believe as I do, call Chairman Powers' office and ask him to apologize.

Bill Sullivan
San Ramon

8/4/94
SRVT

454 Lamont Way
Danville, California 94526
21 February 1995

FEB 1995
SUPERVISOR BISHOP'S
OFFICE

Dear Supervisor Bishop,

I'd like to express my admiration for your ability to withstand the arrows from your fellow Board members. Such agility is difficult to master! Having been present at several recent Board meetings, including the one held on February 7th during which the vote regarding the Merrithew construction was taken, I recognize the thickening of your skin that's occurred over the past two years. Laurels to you.

I've always been a community volunteer, be it PTA boards or site councils, youth sports, the Nature Conservancy, or the County Grand Jury. Because I served on the Grand Jury for two years and was foreman of the 1992-93 panel, I felt a responsibility to let two years pass before applying for any County advisory board or panel. Now that I feel adequately distanced from the Grand Jury experience, I am willing and able to again serve. My areas of interest/concern are social justice, land use/planning, and transportation. Should your office desire, I'd be pleased to talk with you about volunteering for such service.

Thanks for your time,

Annemarie Goldstein

Annemarie Mulligan Goldstein
454 Lamont Way
Danville, CA 94526

SKVT
4/4

Bishop stood up for all of us

WE NEED to remember why we elected Gayle Bishop as supervisor four years ago.

In the face of rapid new residential development, rapidly increasing traffic congestion, overcrowded schools, repeated water shortages due to a cycle of droughts, and a disappearing rural atmosphere, Bishop stood up and supported better growth management and open space protection.

She has insisted that new development pay its own way and not be approved until all the resources that development will consume have contracts from suppliers and service providers. This may slow the development process, but it protects our existing communities. Bishop cannot change decisions already made that may continue to negatively impact us for years to come. Dougherty Valley was essentially agreed to before her election. She has worked consistently to lessen the impacts of that and other growth, as well as to protect the interests of future residents.

Yet she has faced an overwhelming majority of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, who have for many years been approving large development projects for which they had no secured source of water, limited sewer capacity, insufficient tax structures to build required new highways and in numerous cases, have approved development in hazardous locations subject to flooding, ground subsidence or sinking and toxic atmospheric releases.

Somehow vested rights are not extended to the people purchasing these homes whose health and welfare are at risk. This is not planning.

Thank Bishop for having the guts and determination to stand up to other board members and to some of California's largest developers.

One against four is not good odds. Keep the members of the Board of Supervisors on their toes and open to better growth management. Support Gayle Bishop in her time of need.

Edward Pancost
Danville

Public-spirited people should support Bishop

Before Jesse James robbed a train or stagecoach, passengers heard the drumming of distant hoof beats. I think we're hearing hoof beats while reading the Times account of the latest attacks on the most honest member of the county Board of Supervisors, Gayle Bishop.

A new raid on the county treasury (like the unneeded \$130 million county hospital) or a new developer assault on our dwindling open space (like the Dougherty Valley paving project) must be coming. The ridiculous and trivial charges trumpeted on the front page of the Times are intended to destroy the only supervisor who can be trusted to stand up to these bandits.

Public spirited residents throughout the county need to speak up for the supervisor who speaks up for them. Bishop is our last line of defense against the greedy special interests. They have already tried to silence her by stealing her key committee assignments and running an unknown, unqualified candidate against her. Voters in Supervisor Bishop's district should heed the sound of threatening hoof beats and be sure she is returned to the Board of Supervisors. Somebody has got to be there to keep 'em honest.

Joseph M. Hogan
Moraga

Kudos to Bishop

122 SPAA
I am writing this letter to congratulate Supervisor Gayle Bishop for her appointment as chairwoman of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and to commend her for asking the tough questions about the need for, and cost of, building the new Merrithew County Hospital.

The county hospital lost \$20,126,789 in 1993 and \$20,712,827 in 1992. These losses, which continue to grow, are made up by a direct cash grant from the County General Fund. In 1993, there were only 1,243 county indigent patients discharged from the county hospital.

The other 6,000 in-patients were either Medicare, Medi-Cal or private insurance patients who could go to other hospitals in the county. Gayle Bishop is leading the fight to find more cost effective alternatives for caring for the 1,243 county indigent patients.

Contra Costa County cannot afford to spend \$20 million annually to subsidize the care for only 1,200 or so patients. Our county hospital is losing more money than any other hospital in Northern California.

If the new hospital is built, the county will add another \$17 million of new costs each and every year, much of it having to be subsidized from the general fund. Our county needs more deputy sheriffs, more 911 dispatchers, libraries, schools and roads. The county hospital is a "black hole" of wasteful governmental spending and should be closed.

Thank you Gayle Bishop for standing up to the unions, the county bureaucracy and the special interests to protect the county general fund and develop a countywide health system which will provide care for indigent patients in their community.

I urge the county Board of Supervisors to adopt a "Balanced Budget Amendment" requiring that the county hospital operate without subsidies from the general fund.

The residents of Contra Costa County cannot support the expenditure of over \$125 million to build a new county hospital. Now that Los Medanos Hospital is available (and empty), a new fresh approach to this issue is needed. Gayle Bishop is providing the leadership we need to restore fiscal responsibility to our county government. I hope the other members of the Board of Supervisors will seize this opportunity to show fiscal restraint and concern for the taxpayers of our county.

Neal Gilbert

Praise Bishop's stand

Contrary to "Supervisor Too Busy to Form Pet Control Committee" (Times, April 20), Gayle Bishop has been a firm advocate of responsible animal reproductive control. She recognizes a problem which demands attention.

All impounded animals available for adoption should be sterilized (where are those thousands paid to our pound for spays and neuters?).

Citizens should spay-neuter each pet and educate the public about the millions of innocent victims of our negligence. There aren't enough homes for them all.

Bishop is working toward a pet control ordinance. I attend her liaison meetings in Alamo representing Community Concern for Cats, presenting pet overpopulation issues.

Following San Mateo County and Novato's pioneering legislation, our county is closer to devising a responsible, humane pet reproductive control ordinance.

When it is implemented, our thanks for an end to unnecessary suffering and death will be to Gayle Bishop for her leadership.

5/2/95 SPAA
Ruth Feldman
Alamo

Poor decision

At the Feb. 28 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Quick Lube facility at the Danville Boulevard-Stone Valley Road intersection, was brought before the board. County staff stated that the traffic count for this intersection meets "county standards." It was pointed out that the right-turn lane onto Stone Valley Road by Alamo Hay and Grain has gone from 291 vehicles in peak hour in 1991 to 377 vehicles in peak hours in 1994. The county projection for the year 2010 is 227. It was also pointed out that current traffic counts for other parts of this intersection are above their 2010 calculations. County staff stated traffic counts have actually gone down over the last few years. I pointed out that the three variances, including a 5-foot setback for the building, and a 2-foot landscape means the building will be 7 feet from the sidewalk.

Our supervisor, Gayle Bishop, pleaded with the other supervisors

not to put this project on this busy intersection; in fact, she offered to help the owners, the Anderson family, to put any other type of business on this site. All of this was neglected as the other supervisors, who don't live here, voted to approve the Quick Lube Facility.

HOW TO WRITE TO US

Readers' Forum
West County Times
P.O. Box 100
Pinole, CA
94564

Letters must include your signature, printed first and last names, address and daytime telephone number. Letters of more than 200 words are subject to condensation. Letters are subject to editing, and not all can be published. You can fax letters to (510) 262-2776. Internet address: WCTIMES@aol.com

neighbors, workers and our environment.

This election year, when the editorial pages are filled with letters praising for candidates, it is especially important that someone like Bishop gets credit for being at the forefront of Contra Costa's growing movement to stem the "toxic tide" of chemical accidents and the era of special treatment for powerful polluters.

When Bishop was elected, her office called community and environmental activists to ask what she could do to help even on issues outside her district.

Over the years, she has always made herself available to work out front and behind the scenes to help "the little guy" who was dumped on by power industries.

She hosted a national expert on "good neighbor policies." Professor Sanford Lewis of Tufts University, long before others had embraced the concept. Bishop took the heat from the oil companies like Shell and Tosco who felt threatened by having to commit to rosy promises in writing with their impacted neighbors.

But the best is yet to come, as Bishop is at the forefront of the push to adopt common sense land use policies that will end special treatment for big industry.

As a staunch defender of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), she knows that meaningful public input in permitting is a good thing, not something to be painted as costing jobs.

Thanks again, Bishop for all your hard work for the people most politicians forget about! Let's take one more step together for communities and the environment by strengthening land use policy in Contra Costa County.

Denny Larson
Community Organizer
Citizens for a Better Environment

WCo Times 10-13-96
Denny Larson
Vallejo
Gayle Bishop does care

On behalf of our 10,000 members in California, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) wants your readers to recognize the tremendous leadership of Supervisor Gale Bishop on behalf of the health and safety of industrial

Preston & Ellen Taylor
315 Alamo Square, Alamo, CA 94507
510-743-2794 fax 510-743-2795
e-mail 70651.1125@compuserve.com

July 24, 1997

Dear Gayle,

For months we have wanted to help you in some way. The only method we have found is to speak the truth to others about our experiences with you. Our only regret is that we have not expressed our support directly to you. Now, we suffer with you as this evil plot takes effect.

Our hope is that you realize how respected and loved you are. Thousands of valley residents know the truth and respect you for your honesty, integrity and strength. This is more than an individual can expect in life.

Only those who never had the opportunity to meet and talk with you, or those who held animosities based upon your foiling their greedy plans, believe any persecution of you to be justified. Ignorance is the basis for public opinion and most know only what local newspapers wish to print.

We, like so many others, know the truth. You were targeted, fired upon and wounded. The criminals who pulled the trigger have been protected by their money and the political connections it buys.

We know the pain is real. We cannot know the depths to which this has affected you and yours. We do not attempt to minimize your grief, but assure you that people you have helped still know you. Thousands who appreciate your energy and candor do not believe the lies.

Even those ignorant enough to swallow this poisonous garbage end up distrusting the accusers and questioning the system. You are the least sullied and most dignified of them all. They cannot walk the streets without wiping spittle from their faces. You can lead a parade with your head held high.

You were abused, abandoned and punished for your unflinching commitment and dedication to honesty and conscientious representation of your constituents. We are all diminished by the injustice of this outrageous power play.

Please focus on the positive effects you have wrought. Count yourself among the best. We do.

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen Taylor".

Dear Ms. Bishop:

I can't adequately express the joy and warm feeling of pride I felt for you - as you spoke concerning the appointment of an INTERIM Director of Health Services! You were simply magnificent!! Lady, you were so right, so on target, so relevant, so deliberately thorough and truthful - your fellow Supervisors, Mrs. Finucane + Bachelor looked like High School novices!! The points you raised were most powerful - unincumbered by party loyalty or politics!

Of all the involved county officials, it was extremely noticeable that you were the ONLY ONE to even use the words "Affirmative Action!!"

From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU! On behalf of the Black Families Assoc. of Central County, THANK YOU!! On behalf of the struggle for an opportunity to participate (FOR ALL PEOPLE) - THANKS!!
Dawnson Huxton, Chair, Community Involvement, Black Families.

234 Acacia Lane
Alamo, CA 94507
July 26, 1994

Supervisor Gayle Bishop
18 Crow Canyon Court, Suite 120
San Ramon, CA 94583

Dear Supervisor Bishop:

I read the article in the Contra Costa Times about you. I was very pleased to see that we finally have a supervisor who is willing to stand her ground, regardless of the pressures that might be brought to bear.

It is refreshing to see that you are not so dedicated to the art of diplomacy that you are ^{unwilling} willing to sacrifice your individuality and convictions just so that you don't look bad. This whole country has been so inundated with people negotiating, people more concerned with how they appear than with their convictions, people whose sole purpose in life is to please everyone, that they lose sight of the consequences of their actions.

Personally, we have lived in the San Ramon Valley for 22 years. Every day for the past 10 years we have been asking ourselves whether to flush or not to flush due to the water shortage/drought. Across from us, a developer is constructing a number of new homes which will cost in the range of 4-5 hundred thousand dollars, with accompanying landscaping. We, on the other hand are losing our landscaping and seriously considering building a small house with a half moon on the door in the back yard to save water. (Just kidding, but you get my point.)

I find it absolutely negligent on the part of our supervisors to allow this kind of mass developing to go on, when we do not have the water to support this increased housing. All in the name of not looking bad by denying a developer the right to build more homes? All in the name of being diplomatic? All in the name of not wanting to make waves? Phooeey on that.

You obviously tell it like it is, you get mad when somebody tries to pull a fast one, and you are vocal about it. It's about time we had someone who isn't afraid to stand up and be counted. Good for you, and you've got my vote and thanks for being strong and vocal about your position.

Sincerely,

Vicki Carlson

Vicki Carlson
(510) 938 - 7287

June 19, 1997

Gayle and Jack Bishop
2800 Finley Rd.
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Dear Gayle and Jack:

We just have to let you know how outraged we are at your verdict (and at the whole trial, for that matter). We only met once, briefly, during one of those AAUW gourmet dinners many years ago. I remember we talked for a while about our favorite villages in the Cotswolds. From the very beginning, Alan and I have been ardent supporters of you, and we voted for you with all our heart and our convictions, including that last time, when your enemies were already actively engaged in destroying your career and reputation.

Our hearts go out to you and your family. The only reason I haven't written to you much earlier, is that in my wildest dreams I could not have imagined that any jury would come to this conclusion.

Please know, that those who believed in you in the beginning, still do and are disgusted and outraged at what is being done to a great person and a great public servant. It is frightening to think that a person of your caliber, and with your noble convictions can be destroyed by the forces that don't agree with us, and by a handful of vengeful employees who don't know the word loyalty.

Hang in there, Gayle and Jack. There is a lot of sympathy for you out there, although sometimes it may not seem like it to you.

In admiration and friendship,


Janine & Alan Platt

Dear Gayle...

7.13.94

I just wanted to drop you a timely note to let you know of my deep respect and support as a County Supervisor! You are credible because you have always been truthful and fair. Watching and listening to you over these past months I have discovered one of your most distinguishing characteristics is your self-reliance! Keep up the good work - and don't let anyone try to break your "spirit".

Sincerely,
Roseanne Szorn, CCD

Dear Mrs. Bishop,

Thank you so much for being my CCD teacher this year. I learned so much from you and I am very blessed to have such a dedicated teacher. You were a wonderful rolemodel for me and the rest of the class! I hope to see you at church!

Much Love, Elise