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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### Force PG&E to pay for tests

Thursday, May 12, 2011

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the editor, June 15  
06.15.11

Letters to the editor, June 14  
06.14.11

Letters to the editor, June 13  
06.13.11

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The California Public Utilities Commission has taken an important step toward prioritizing customer safety by requiring safety documentation from PG&E for most of its pipeline network ("Broader burden of proof on PG&E," May 10).

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But a second step is also essential, to protect ratepayers' pocketbooks. PG&E predictably will try forcing its customers to pay for its very expensive pipeline pressure testing, necessitated by its shoddy record keeping. But, since those expenses are a direct consequence of past PG&E negligence, we ratepayers should insist that the corporations shareholders, rather than its customers, absorb every single dollar of those costs themselves.

For the CPUC to be a truly independent regulator, it must require such an outcome, appropriate both in terms of capitalist principles and of fundamental fairness.

*Alexander Binik, Fairfax*

### Draft the mayor

As a long time Chronicle subscriber and a San Francisco outsider, it is obvious to me that Mayor Ed Lee is one of most competent city leaders in many a moon.

Along with other initiatives, his balanced policy shift on the policy for juvenile illegal immigrants charged with felonies speaks of his common sense. The silence is deafening from the army of candidates running to replace him when it comes to Lee's initiatives.

It is time to mount a "draft Lee" effort before San Francisco loses him to the bureaucracy of City Hall.

*John Chase, Alameda*

### Teachers' march

This is directed at Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, who questioned why teachers who marched in Sacramento on Monday were not in their classrooms teaching ("Teachers skip class to rally against cuts," May 10).

Sir, sometimes the best lessons in life are taught outside of the classroom.

These teachers who bused into Sacramento early Monday morning taught their pupils that their education is worth fighting for.

#### Galleries

1-3 of 21



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7. Legislature passes main budget bill in Dems plan

#### FROM OUR HOMEPAGE



#### Super foe of gay marriage

As same-sex marriage nears legalization in NY, a Super Bowl hero says it represents 'anarchy.'

Comments & Replies (58)

They did this to prevent more school days from being stolen from their students.

If more professions had the passion that teachers have, this state might not be in the financial predicament that it is in.

*Diana Urcuyo, Pleasant Hill*

### Bring back our bus

One of the reasons we moved to the north waterfront area of town was the available public transportation.

However, the erratic arrivals of the F line streetcar, which is our only method of getting to and from the Embarcadero, plus the crowded conditions of the cars when they do arrive (we love our tourists, but we need to get places, too), are frustrating to put it mildly.

This will only be exacerbated when the World Cup races begin next year.

I strongly suggest you bring back the 10-Townsend Muni bus.

This will greatly improve public transportation and alleviate the problem.

*Noreen Pheffer, San Francisco*

### Leash commercial dog-walkers

Commercial dog walkers are abusing our parks.

As a frequent visitor to the Presidio, I encounter many groups of eight to 12 off-leash dogs in all areas of the park.

Although I love dogs, it does not seem fair or appropriate for commercial operators to allow their paid-for charges to run rampant in public parks where they threaten native wildlife and plants, as well as adults and children.

At the very least, these commercial operators should be limited to four on-leash dogs (the maximum one person can truly manage) in specific areas of the park.

They should be held accountable for infringements of park policies and, as other park vendors do, should have to purchase a license to operate in the park.

These funds could be used to enforce the regulations and maintain the dog-access areas.

*Jean Colvin, San Francisco*

### Bad owners can endanger dog

In Berkeley last weekend, I came across a friendly couple riding bicycles who had tethered with them a Chihuahua-size dog.

They spoke of how fond they were of the animal, and yet when I reached down to pet the poor creature, it was as distressed as any animal that I have ever seen.

The people had no idea how badly they were over-stressing their pet by forcing it to run at the pace of their bicycles, which offered relatively no stress to them. I feel terrible that I was not quick enough to let these people know how they were inadvertently torturing this little dog, who had no voice of his own to protest.

Please, readers, do not make the same mistake with your own pet. Just imagine yourself being dragged along on a rope behind a car or motorcycle driven by a driver who was oblivious to your levels of endurance.

*Gregory Huth, Berkeley*



#### Star turns for Father's Day

A look at celeb dads like Ben Affleck hanging with their kids. Photos

Comments & Replies (3)

Father's Day escapes | 5 gift ideas



#### Rioting after hockey loss

Cars are set ablaze, stores looted, stabbings reported in Vancouver as Boston wins Stanley Cup | Photos

Comments & Replies (327)

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o\_day\_terrence 6:40 AM on May 12, 2011

Gregory Huth - Excellent letter! I'm definitely not a dog person, but they should still be treated with care and respect. I hope your letter will wake up those dog owners who claim to "love" their pet, but are doing harm instead. Thank you.

REPLY (17) (0) POPULARITY: 17 [Report Abuse]

1 reply



sunset\_district 8:02 AM on May 12, 2011

Diana Urcuyo wishes more people had passion enough in their professions to leave their job for a day and go protest somewhere.

Those teachers who went to Sacramento will receive their normal pay for that day (due to their union contract). In addition, their union paid transportation, lodging, and food costs.

What do you suppose the teacher "passion" would have been if they lost a day of pay and had to pay their own way to Sacramento?

Its easy to be passionate about something when it costs you nothing.

REPLY (14) (7) POPULARITY: 7 [Report Abuse]

2 replies



**thewriteguysf** 8:03 AM on May 12, 2011

AMEN Mr. Binik!!!! It's time for the California Public Utilities Commission to protect the interests of the California public, instead of the California public utilities. PG&E screwed up; PG&E should eat the cost.

REPLY

(8)

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