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OPINION

Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau



Prickly City

By Scott Stantis



THE PHANTOM

In the past, reporters covered stories without offering opinions. But things are changing if the Dec. 7 Mountain View City Council meeting is any indication.

At that meeting, council members agreed to continue accepting free tickets from Shoreline Amphitheater. A couple of council members also blasted news reports that said

accepting the tickets was a conflict of interest since the amphitheater operator has a lease with the city.

Then San Jose Mercury News reporter Julie Patel got up from her front row seat, walked toward the startled council members still at the dais and said: "I have something to say." She made a short speech about how the media has a "First

Amendment right" to track what the city does and citizens should be glad. The media shouldn't be criticized for doing its job, Patel said, and then she stalked out of the chambers.

Council members were speechless for a few moments. Council member Rosemary Stasek finally spoke up, asking: "Wasn't that the reason for the paper's editorial board?"

EDITORIAL

FROM PAGE 12

seem to faze him," said jury foreman Steve Cardosi.

During the trial, the jurors watched Peterson day after day exhibiting a cold, indifferent attitude in the Redwood City courtroom.

"... There was no emotion, no anything," said juror Rachelle Nice of East Palo Alto. "That spoke volumes. That was loud and clear."

And, contrary to what TV trial experts had said, it didn't matter that Peterson had one of the nation's best known attorneys, Mark Geragos, who has represented numerous Hollywood stars.

"I respect Mr. G," said Nice. "I think he's a great lawyer. I think this wasn't a good test for him because I think it gave him a bad name."

It's important to note that the jurors weren't giving each other high fives after reaching their decision. Instead they said they broke down in tears and gave each other hugs.

"I'm an emotional wreck" said juror Nice. "I've changed. I look at my life a lot different(ly) and hold my family close."

As for Peterson's guilt or innocence, Nice nailed it when she said: "Scott Peterson was Laci's husband, Con-

ner's daddy — the one person that should have protected them."

While we don't agree with the death penalty in general (it gives government too much power), it is clear that the jury took its job seriously, weighed the facts and conscientiously followed the judge's instructions during the six-month trial.

We should be thankful that they were willing to take six months out of their life and make these important life-or-death decisions. The work of these 12 jurors and the alternates has strengthened our belief in the jury system.

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