

care: fiction?

sources. <http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/thu-august-20-2009/exclusive---betsy-mccaughey-extended-interview-pt-1>). I honestly thought she was part of a comedy act but after McCaughey's "Daily Show" appearance she abruptly resigned from the board of directors for the Cantel Medical Corp. and well-known journalist and author, James Fallows of the Atlantic Monthly described her role in the healthcare debate as thus: "She has brought more misinformation, more often, more destructively into America's consideration of health-policy issues than any other individual. She has no concept of 'truth' or 'accuracy' in the normal senses of those terms."

I applaud Mr. Ruth for taking the time to explain his point of view and listing the sources that have helped shape his opinion. And now that I have done the extra research and reading, I respectfully disagree with nearly all of it. I would give all the sources that Mr. Ruth cites a bit more credence if these individuals were to present their cases without a hidden agenda paid for by a health care industry.

worried about its future profitability than the health of patients. Yes, there is one side to this discussion but my preference is that when these boisterous pundits are attributed for their selected "facts," the reader deserves some background information lest we go search it out ourselves and then find out we've had our intelligence insulted.

If we all agree that America is in need of some sort of health care reform then are we not just discussing what IS and what IS NOT fact? If so, there is hope that this debate can continue in a civil manner and not degrade into a spewing of misinformation from spin-masters of hyperbole and

the United States is in need of solutions, not more negativity.

*Lawrence Hannigan
Milpitas*

Walmart abuses rights

Dear Editor,

Walmart in Milpitas should not be allowed to replace good local jobs that pay living wages

and health benefits with more Walmart poverty-level jobs by expanding into a Supercenter.

Residents of Milpitas do not want to see friends and neighbors who work in good paying grocery store jobs be displaced by poorly treated Walmart workers, one out of two whose children live without health care or rely on a public program. In communities where Walmart has opened or expanded, scores of smaller mom and pop stores have closed. Often these workers have no place else to work except for this company at their poverty-level wages.

Walmart's 2008 yearly profits passed \$13.7 billion, but workers see little of this gain. Women fill the majority of low-paid jobs, and have for years

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send reader information.

million female employees suing Walmart for sex-based discrimination, the largest ever filed in the United States. Chief plaintiff Betty Dukes herself worked for years at a Richmond, Calif.

passed over for training and pro-

not reward a company that flagrantly abuses women's rights by allowing it to grab an even bigger share of Milpitas dollars.

*Dorilyn Pease, treasurer,
9 to 5 Area, National
Association of Public Employees,
Milpitas*

Post office access

Dear Editor,

This is an open letter to the Milpitas City Council and Engineering Department staff. Isn't there some way that the left hand side of the Milpitas Post Office be eliminated as one car waiting to turn left can block every person trying to get out of and even into the parking lot? After all just a quarter block to the right is Corning Street and a U turn can be made there or a right at Corning and a right on Main is all it takes. Make the exit a right turn lane only and you will eliminate time, money, gas and exasperation.

*Low Horyza
Escuela Place*

reading with interest
forth debate in the
editor and Other
in section on health
in the United States.
debate has been
by two divergent
w. One side offers

and back and forth it
of us who are trying
our minds have to
the cross-talk and
eric and dig out the
for ourselves. Since
at our fingertips we
Google search.

ing the Other Voices
e by Milpitas resi-
l Ruth (Nov. 26) I
d to do some more
y own and respond.
-nently believe that
a concerned citizen
shes to inform the
is publication about
ounding health care
nk him for provid-
es for the inf-

es to disseminate. I
all the selected read-
authors online and I
ze to Mr. Ruth that
also included some
eo that I watched
ig any of the experts
You mentioned the
ltre..." by Canadian
r. David Gratzer. He
have testified before
Employment, Labor,
ins Subcommittee
Examining the Single
a Care Option" this
e has plenty of video
ings on YouTube.
he takes the time to
book and in another
al funny clip he

available here:
e.com/results?search
david+gratzer&searc
=f.

also references an
ritten by Betsy
A quick search
had just recently
"The Daily Show"
ewart so of course I
link to the video. (I
amend that everyone
ess to online video

I don't know how an expansion of Walmart will impact Milpitas but then neither does anybody else. I would suggest, however, that allowing a business to expand in the current economic climate is positive for the community and will send a positive message to other businesses that are looking to expand rather than a negative. In the same vane, attracting business that are expanding should have a very positive impact on property values, tax revenues and the "quality of life" that is so ephemeral.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Milpitas City Council you have two choices: decline the request to expand and thereby relegate Milpitas to those that wither and die, or approve the request and engender a culture of expansion and prosperity. Your choice should be for the latter.

Brian Moore
Calle Oriente

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Save Mart will close if Walmart expands

Dear Editor,

I find the letters to the editor about Walmart very interesting. Brant Whiteside's letter (Dec. 9 Milpitas Post) lacks a factual basis in reality. The Walmart expansion will indeed negatively impact Save Mart and will jeopardize nearly 65 grocery workers at Save Mart and possibly other local stores.

The City of Milpitas hired CBRE, a consultant for Walmart, to do significant parts of the environmental impact report. While this relationship between the city and Walmart creates a financial incentive for CBRE to favor the proposed Walmart expansion, the recently released draft EIR states that Save Mart on Calaveras Boulevard would likely close as a result of the Walmart expansion.

The Milpitas General Plan states that the city must attempt to retain businesses and expand employment in its land use decisions. The Walmart expansion, then, violates the city's general plan because it is likely to close not retain businesses.

Mr. Whiteside appears to parrot the corporate line and the prepared talking points of a "benevolent" Walmart. I urge him to read the draft EIR prepared by Walmart's own consultant.

However, I shouldn't be too harsh on Mr. Whiteside. The document is 524 pages, making it barely comprehensible to the average citizen, and disrespectful of all those who would engage in this process. The draft EIR appears to violate CEQA standards, which call for reports to be no

more than 125 pages.

Walmart's own consultants have buried the harsh reality amid hundreds of pages of legalese that the expansion project is a job killer for many Milpitas residents who have worked at Save Mart for decades and have contributed to our local economy.

I oppose the expansion of the Walmart store and I wish our new Milpitas Planning Commission member, Erik Larsen, the best as he represents the interests of Milpitas residents and works to protect our quality of life. No one deserves to lose their job in this economic downturn — the worst since the Great Depression.

Jennifer Touchton
Milpitas Coalition for a Better Community

Vacant buildings are perfect for trade schools

Dear Editor,

Let's turn the high Milpitas building vacancy rate into a promising future for our residents who can't afford to go to college.

It's time to accept the fact that the only constant on earth is change itself. The more flexible and educated we are, the better our survivability. Looking at Milpitas now, we have millions of vacant square footage in manufacturing and warehouse buildings serving no good use and providing no revenue. For example there are now three vacant buildings behind or next to Wells Fargo Bank at Milpitas and Calaveras boulevards that would make a great campus for a junior college level trade school.

Why can't Milpitas conceive and support the notion of developing the best community trade schools in the state or even in the country? Higher level trades persons salaries will be the center of our middle class. My dad was an electrician and my uncle was a nuclear physicist at Ames Research Center. My dad made more money in his career than my uncle.

The biggest need from the trade service in the future — my best guess in this area:

- HVAC technician: Every building depends on a comfortable environment internally. High-tech manufacturing do not exist without precise temperature, quality and humidity controls. An HVAC tech in order to do his or her job has become proficient in math, basic physics, basic chemistry, low and high voltage electricity, electronics, mechanics, plumbing, computer and logic controls and their communication. They also need to know all building and safety codes that cover their work. They also design and support cooling and heating capacity improvement projects. They need to know how to troubleshoot for problems in all the above areas.
- Hybrid and electric car mechanic