

As for REAL garbage...

IN RESPONSE to Carl Landi's "Too much garbage" (Jan. 16):

Our problem over here in North Fair Oaks is garbage: As defined by San Mateo County Code, Section 4100.20, "Garbage" shall mean and be held to include all animal and vegetable wastes from kitchens; all household wastes that shall have resulted from the preparation of food, and also, every accumulation of animal and vegetable waste resulting from the establishments where foodstuffs intended for human consumption are handled commercially. Not lawn clippings! This, among other slippery, smelly, fly-breeding, rat-feeding artifacts of human living, is what we have been dumping on our streets and sidewalks, our yards, into abandoned shopping carts, vacant lots and the like.

These illegal and unhealthy conditions are allowed to prevail as a result of the County of San Mateo's lack of a mandatory and automatic garbage collection program. It is presently an unenforced condition where individual residents, if they are so inclined or financially able, subscribe for garbage pickup service. Those who are not so inclined or financially able do not avail themselves of this service, or may cancel at their convenience, or have it cancelled due to non-payment.

This is the situation we are trying so hard to eliminate, even though it requires the help of a garbage company and resultant profits to them. I also have hopes that these actions might make our neighborhood as pleasant to live in as Carl Landi's might be. And for the life of me, I can't think of a thing that styrofoam chicken baskets, plastic wrappers, broken beer bottles or a half dozen used Pampers can do for my garden!

Aage Bysheim

REDWOOD CITY

The spirit of cityhood

I AM A proud resident of the City of East Palo Alto. Where I live some of my neighbors are homeowners, others are renters. We all look out for one another, and it's been that way since I bought my home here 10 years ago.

Cityhood has certainly not produced any drastic changes in my neighborhood that are immediately observable. There are still too many robberies, too many people out of work and too many youngsters out of school who could be leading more productive lives. But with cityhood there is a spirit that has come alive here that I believe will grow and bring people here in East Palo Alto together to solve some of the problems we have. At the town meetings, for example, people who are not likely to make speeches or write a letter to the editor came together to develop a plan for meeting the needs of our new city. One of the best ideas I heard was that we should establish the various ethnic groups and organizations and a huge parade. It could

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rival the local garlic and strawberry festivals in other communities and generate jobs and income for our new city. It would bring people here to witness and participate in our rich cultural and ethnic diversity — one of East Palo Alto's greatest resources. This is the real spirit of the City of East Palo Alto where people are ready to work together for a change.

I believe that freedom is a constant struggle. It is never given and never won without a collective commitment to the best interests of the majority, not the advantages enjoyed by a few. I also believe that our elected officials are competent, courageous, and committed to helping us create a city where people of all backgrounds — ethnic and economic — can live together and prosper. They deserve our support. And the city of East Palo Alto deserves a chance for the same kind of self-determination that most other Americans simply take for granted.

Joyce King Reeves

EAST PALO ALTO

Frankly, it's an abuse

I WONDER how many residents of the Palo Alto-Stanford area have noticed they receive congressional newsletters from both Tom Lantos and Ed Zschau. Could it be that we are blessed with two representatives in Congress?

No, we are not. Lantos is our representative now. Under the reapportionment plan for 1984, Zschau, if re-elected in November, would represent the Palo Alto-Stanford area beginning in January 1985. I believe Zschau is abusing the federal franking privilege by sending his newsletter, at least five of them by now, at taxpayers' expense to people he doesn't even represent.

I checked with the Palo Alto Post Office, where I found out that a mailing to all the households and post office boxes in Palo Alto-Stanford area (zip codes 94301-06) would total 35,206 pieces of mail. The Post Office informed me that the bulk rate cost for that type of mailing is 10.9 cents each. One mailing then would cost \$3,837.45. Zschau has made five of them.

Is Zschau sending us his newsletter for informational reasons or are they primarily political? I think it's political. He's trying to make us think he is our congressman before we have even elected him. If he should win re-election, then he can start mailing to us in January 1985.

Bob Langfelder

PALO ALTO

The phony commission

TO COUNTER the regional Contadora Group's proposals to solve the problems in Central America, proposals that could lead to a peaceful solutions in the area, Presi-