

# UP FRONT

**The lawn sign** goes high-tech. Those old cardboard signs that blow over with the first breeze or curl up in a heavy mist may soon be a thing of the past. Patriot Signage of Cincinnati is now making signs printed on white plastic bags that slip over a wire frame that, according to a company press release, "is easily inserted into the ground, regardless of soil conditions." Perfect for the candidate who runs for the Assembly this year, the Senate next year, Congress or mayor two years down the road. Just discard the bag, save the frame, print a new message — and the game's afoot once more. Prices, they claim, are competitive.

**They're big, they're bad** and they're getting old. The post World War II Baby Boomers have been threatening to change things in the country for about 25 years now without a great deal of success; unless, of course you consider Dan Quayle — the first boomer to reach national office — a success. And at least a couple of boomers from Sacramento think its time things changed. Boomers are by far the largest segment of the country's population, are of voting age and are ready to make a difference, according to the release from Baby Boomers United — with the heart. Apparently the way boomers should begin to change things is by sending a message that we've had enough of "the good old boys network" by voting for Jerry Brown in the Democratic presidential primary. Oh, never mind.

**Attorney general alien space baby.** Mind you, we don't read this stuff, but it was brought to our attention that California's very own attorney general, Dan Lungren, was recently a featured guest columnist in the *National Enquirer*. It seems that Lungren offered the "con" position to that often-asked question, "Should death row inmates be allowed to have kids?" The "pro" position was taken by Paul Comiskey of the Prisoners' Rights Union in support of a lawsuit by San Quentin death-row inmates who believe they should be allowed to pro-

create, either naturally or artificially. The magazine quotes Lungren saying the suit "is one of the cruelest hoaxes to be played on the loved ones of victims." Just for the record, Lungren's office said he did not write the item specifically for the *Enquirer*. Rather, it was rewritten by the magazine from "The Lungren Letter" — a column that the attorney general sends out to newspapers around the state.

**Maybe a roadside rest?** San Diego Councilman Ron Roberts thought he had a sure winner when he suggested naming a portion of still-to-be-completed Route 56 after baseball Hall-of-Famer Ted Williams. After all, Williams was a hometown boy who went to Hoover High and played for the Pacific Coast League San Diego Padres before going on to become a six-time American League batting champ with the Boston Red Sox and the last major leaguer to hit .400. Okay, so he hasn't lived in town for 60 years, he was still one whale of a ballplayer. And he was due to visit later this summer when San Diego hosts the annual Major League All-Star Game. But one other member of the council, Abbe Wolfsheimer, had other ideas. She represents the district where Route 56 will be located and she thought the freeway should be named after a true San Diego hero, none other than Governor Pete Wilson. According to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, Wolfsheimer said she believes heroes are people "who exhibit great brains and not great brawn." Apparently others on the council felt that argument excluded Pete Wilson from consideration as well, since they voted 7-1 to recommend that the road be named after Teddy Ballgame.

**Rose King**, the political consultant who heads up the firm known as "Directions," objected to our referring to Assembly candidate Terry Curtola's campaign as "Stone Age" (see *CJ*, May 1992). "Terry and I were surprised to learn that the ripe old age of 52 qualified us for the dark ages," King wrote. "We thought we were the generation that pioneered political activism in the

'60s (Terry was elected to the city council at the age of 29, while I was busy running the 'Recall Reagan' campaign)." King and Curtola were schoolmates at St. Vincent's in Vallejo, and Curtola is one of King's clients this year.

**Deirdre Alpert**, the Democrat from San Diego who defied all odds in 1990 by winning a solid Republican Assembly seat, says she's developed some empathy for presidential candidate Bill Clinton, especially Clinton's admission that he smoked marijuana while a student at Oxford, England, during the 1960s — but didn't inhale. Seems Alpert put her name on an Assembly bill aimed at protecting religious symbols placed on public land. In this case, the symbols are a couple of crosses atop Mt. Helix and Mt. Soledad in San Diego County. Alpert even trekked to the top of Mt. Helix to visit the cross. In a carefully worded statement at a press conference on the mount, Alpert dwelt on the historical significance of the cross. But she never mentioned the bill. That's because she had already decided to abandon it. The reason: The bill dealt with the First Amendment, and Alpert interpreted its language as threatening a woman's choice on abortion.

*"The means by which Providence raises a nation to greatness are the virtues infused into great men."*

— Edmund Burke upon the death of William Pitt, the Elder

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# ROSTRUM

**Robert Lagomarsino**

Concerning your analysis of the 22nd Congressional District primary (see *CJ*, May 1992), on what factual basis is the claim made that my primary opponent has "stronger environmental credentials?" Michael Huffington has never held public office and has *no* record. While he claims to be against offshore oil, he owned three active offshore oil leases in the Santa Barbara Channel, selling them off to a foreign conglomerate after deciding to run for office. His hundreds of millions of dollars in fortune come from Texas oil interests. My record, on the other hand, is both strong and consistent. Just last week, the Bush administration agreed to my request to drop its planned sale of 87 Central California offshore leases. I also convinced the major oil companies to stop shipping Alaskan oil through the Santa Barbara Channel. I created the Channel Islands National Park, wrote the law forcing offshore oil platforms to clean up their emissions and created a wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest. These are real actions — not symbolic of last-minute political posturing. Second, until creation of the 22nd District, I have never run in or had a congressional district with a Republican majority. Many rank my current 19th District as "leans Democratic."

ROBERT LAGOMARSINO  
Member of Congress  
19th District

**David Dreier:**

For the record, Congressman David Dreier, as chairman of the California Congressional Target Committee, has not endorsed any one candidate in any open primary race (see *CJ*, May 1992, 42nd Congressional District). In fact, in all races he has encouraged many different candidates to run to attract the strongest and best candidates for the general election.

JOHN KILLE  
Press Assistant  
Congressman David Dreier



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