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Salute the good judges

Letters to the editor

Always avoid even the appearance of impropriety. That is the phrase everyone in the legal profession is told to live by. When I was sworn in as an attorney, Monterey County was fortunate to have judges whose personal and professional lives were above reproach. There was a real respect for the bench by the population at large and members of the Bar. I cannot remember a judicial slot occupied by anyone under investigation or whose fairness or judgment was being questioned. Recent resignations, investigations and allegations of judicial game-playing, and outright stupidity by members of the bench, have cast a shadow.

Lost in the maze of inappropriate allegations are those judges who do their jobs and live their lives in a reserved manner. They prefer to be known by their good work, not by the headlines they make. To those who have kept the goal of a fair and honest judiciary as their goal, the community salutes you. For the rest who find yourself mired in the news, please go back to "Law School 101."

Robert L. Gore
Monterey

Expensive farce

After returning to Carmel from the Memorial Day concert at the Naval Postgraduate School, a friend called alerting me to the 2,500 crosses on the beach, each with the name of a service person killed in Iraq.

It was after 4 p.m. and the thin, white crosses were being removed. We spoke to a man carrying an armful. He said they'd begun planting them at 4 a.m. The police came and told them to remove the crosses because they didn't have a permit.

As I looked down at the people walking between the rows, reading the names, then pulling up a few crosses, I saw kids 4 and 5 carrying two or three each, and older kids joining in. That's when this old submariner began to melt down.

I thought of the 50,000-plus who died in Vietnam and how much of this beach would be consumed by that many crosses. American blood is too precious to waste this way. Like Vietnam, this war is a farce -- a deadly, horrendously expensive farce.

Michael D. Biele
Carmel

A vote for Kotowski

The most important investment we can make is in the education of our children. Our public school graduates must be well prepared with the knowledge, skills and abilities required for success in the challenging 21st century.

Continuation of strong, collaborative, ethical leadership of the county superintendent of schools is essential.

As associate superintendent, Nancy Kotowski is a proven leader. For the past 15 years, she has provided distinguished leadership resulting in consistent student achievement. She will provide the best possible educational opportunities for our children.

Basil E. Mills
Salinas

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