

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## President's tantrum



Paul Chinn / The Chronicle 2007

**Maggie Gee was a civilian flight instructor for the Women Airforce Service Pilots and trained pilots in World War II.**

Regarding "Trump creates a crisis" (Editorial, Jan. 8): So our autocrat-in-chief thinks he can have our nation's military build his ridiculous border wall without Congress' consent by declaring a national emergency?

Our only national emergency is the increasingly unhinged individual occupying the Oval Office. President Trump's temper tantrum — give me over \$6 billion or I'll shut down the government — and subsequent threat to declare a national emergency shows that he is mentally unfit to lead our nation. It's time for Congress to invoke the 25th Amendment and remove Trump from office.

Karl Gustaffson, Half Moon Bay

## Preschool for all is important

Regarding "Newsom bets on early education" (Editorial, Jan. 7): As a former kindergarten teacher, I tell everyone who will listen that attending preschool makes a huge difference in success in school.

All research, without exception, shows that students who attend preschool not only have an advantage in kindergarten, but throughout their education.

This worthy expenditure is justified by further research that predicts that for every dollar spent on preschool, \$5 to \$10 is saved in school and adult services later on.

California needs to think in the long term, as many other nations have, and fund preschool for all our children.

Paul Giganti, Albany

## Gadget to clean rooms

Concerning "Home items get smarter — and creepier — like it or not" (Business, Jan. 8): Never mind all of these new smart technology gadgets like an oven that coordinates your recipes or a toilet that flushes with a voice command.

This mother of three wants to know when someone will invent a product that gets a kid to clean

up his or her room.

Regina Regalbuto, Santa Clara

### **Governor's education focus**

Gov. Gavin Newsom is smart to include in his agenda a major focus on early-childhood education. I have witnessed firsthand the immediate and long-term impact of it in Finland, which consistently ranks in the top echelon of academic achievement in the Western world.

The governor would also be wise to focus on increasing physical activity for all of California's schoolchildren, given that numerous studies show that it not only improves health, it also increases cognition and academic achievement. In fact, as current and emerging research in neuroscience and evolution studies is demonstrating, physical activity just may be the foundation, the very heart of education in effect and the essential missing link in the stumbling educational-reform movement.

Joel Kirsch, Mill Valley

### **Political extortion**

President Trump has no wall because he hasn't persuaded 60 percent of the country that it's necessary or appropriate. Unable to persuade them, he's resorting to force: Vote my way or I'll hurt you.

That is not democracy. It is the tyranny of a dictator. Neither side in America should ever use a government shutdown to extort policy concessions it cannot get by persuading the majority.

Jay Chafetz, Walnut Creek

### **Newsom's stewardship**

Gov. Gavin Newsom begins his term in office with a lot of goodwill and good wishes. As a married gay man, I will always be grateful for Newsom having spearheaded the same-sex marriage movement by declaring, as mayor of San Francisco in 2004, that such nuptials could legally occur here.

Such boldness will serve Newsom well as he seeks to tackle our state's housing crisis, climate change problems, and a White House that is increasingly hostile to our sanctuary policy for undocumented immigrants.

Newsom expressed the right attitude about President Trump's attacks on California and overreach into our state's affairs when he said "You gotta go after a bully."

I am hopeful about our state's future under Newsom's stewardship.

Charles Carrington, San Francisco

### **Women in aviation**

Regarding "Female flier's name sought on airport" (Jan. 6): I appreciated learning about

Berkeley-born aviator Maggie Gee and Tiffany Miller's efforts to address the stunning absence of airports named for a woman.

Gee is certainly a worthy candidate to be considered to grace at least a terminal name at Oakland International Airport. The piece prompted the question of why Amelia Earhart's name has not already been appended to Oakland International Airport. She is arguably among the most pioneering and celebrated aviators in world history and Oakland figures prominently in her legacy, including her 1935 accomplishment of the first solo flight ever from Honolulu to Oakland.

It's high time for Earhart to receive appropriate recognition. And if the Port of Oakland fails to grasp the opportunity to name its airport after either of these worthy female aviators, then perhaps the city and county of San Francisco should do so at San Francisco International Airport.

David Gilbert, El Sobrante

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