

# PASADENA STAR-NEWS

## OPINION

### YOUR VIEW

We welcome your letters on public issues. Keep them brief, please. All letters are subject to editing.

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spoken like the consummate insider. Sacramento is jammed packed with politicians just like Brown, who trade one political job for another, jostling for the next political office. This time around, this voter isn't buying the snake oil that he's selling.

He has had his turn (twice) as our governor, now it's time for someone else to be elected to this office. This time I think the best "man" for the governor's office is a woman.

**Geneviève M. Clavreul**  
Pasadena

### Brown a retread

Re the recent Guest View: "Jerry Brown's back, baggage and all."

Dan Walters' column paints a rather accurate picture of Jerry Brown, and I think it would serve California voters well to remember that an eccentric governor is not always a good thing.

As an RN I remember well SB666 and Project Iatrogenesis, then Gov. Brown's answer to our state's chronic nursing shortage. He convinced State Sen. Diane Watson to sponsor SB 666, of which Project Iatrogenesis was a key component. This proposed plan so infuriated California professional nurses that we turned out in the

thousands (non-union and union alike) to express our outrage at his plan that would allow work experience and on-the-job training to be substituted for education as qualifications for RN or LVN licensure. In short, NAs could become LVNs and LVNs could become RNs, and so forth. This example of outside thinking is something we, Californians, can well do without.

Brown who has spent most of his adult life in one political office or another would like us to believe that we need "someone with insider's knowledge but an outsider's mind,"

Thursday, March 4, 2010

# OPINION

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## Jerry Brown's back, baggage and all

A few hours after California voters decisively rejected Jerry Brown's bid for the U.S. Senate in 1982, the two-term governor delivered a characteristically enigmatic response.

One widely quoted reaction was, "I believe the people of California would like a respite from me, and in some ways I would like a respite from them."

Another passage, widely ignored, was, "I believe there is room for my ideas and my voice. I shall return. ... After a period of time, my services will be available in some interesting capacity."

More than a quarter-century later — having served as state Democratic chairman, run for president (for the third time), hosted a radio talk show, survived two terms as Oakland's mayor and persuaded voters to elect him attorney general — Brown is back in the spotlight as the only Democratic candidate for governor.

Brown was the state's youngest-ever governor when elected in 1974, just 36, but is no longer a wunderkind. He will turn 72 next month and, if elected in November, will be the state's oldest-ever chief executive.

He would have us believe that he's now a battle-hardened political veteran that can make state government



dan WALTERS

### GUEST VIEW

functional, "someone with insider's knowledge but an outsider's mind."

But as he defines himself, his Republican foe, mostly likely former eBay boss Meg Whitman but possibly Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner, will be mining his vast record for ammunition to redefine him. Which of Brown's many public personas, one must wonder, will be engraved in the consciousness of voters, many of whom have no personal recollections of Brown's chaotic — albeit highly entertaining — reign as governor three decades ago?

Will it be the environmental visionary who championed alternative

energy and mass transportation and slowed highway construction? The liberal who opposed the death penalty, but signed so many tough-on-crime bills that prisons became overcrowded? Or the re-election-seeking politician who opposed Proposition 13 but then embraced it, calling himself a "born-again tax cutter" and slashing state taxes?

These are only a few of the nuggets from his governorship. His post-gubernatorial career, especially as a left-wing presidential candidate and iconoclastic radio talker, is an equally rich environment for opposition researchers. And then there's the Brown family's semi-secret financial ties to the military dictatorship of Indonesia, a book-length saga unto itself.

Either Whitman or Poizner has the vast financial resources to create and peddle a negative image of Brown — and Whitman fired two such blasts Tuesday as his announcement webcast hit the ether.

Whether Brown's world-class verbal skills can overcome a big-bucks opponent and create the lasting image of a practical and effective political manager is the pivotal question of the forthcoming campaign.

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