

Sign On.....

As I read in the paper and hear on the TV news, I am interested in why some criminal cases take so long to get to court. Several years in some cases. I asked my attorney, who is also a retired judge, why they take so long. Here are some of the reasons he gave me: Perhaps the defendant didn't sign a paper asking for a speedy trial. Sometimes the defendant's attorneys stall and hope for reduced charges. Some ask for changes of venue to hope for a more lenient court. On the prosecution side, sometimes the witnesses, if there are any, won't cooperate. The prosecution has to be sure they have a case. The court venues might be overloaded. A couple of these reasons are my thoughts. In any case, to have someone sit in jail for years just to get a case into court seems a little much to me. I don't know what can be done about it, but a little streamlining might help-getting more judges might be a solution of a sort.//Speaking of crime, we sure are having a lot of killings lately- in a couple of cases, just teenagers being the victims-one in of all places, the cemetery. What is Eureka coming to?//The case of the Arcata rancher and the hundreds of dead cows is a puzzling one, to me. How can a person let this happen to his animals? After all, cows are people, too! Seriously, I spent summers on my grandparent's farm in Idaho many, many years ago. We had cows, not nearly as many as this rancher had, but we had feelings for those cows, and didn't want anything to happen to them. I remember my grandpa treating a cow that had gotten into green alfalfa and she swelled up like a balloon. He took a

knife and pierced just in the right place, and the gas blew out like air escaping from a punctured tire. He cared for those cows. How a man who claims to be a rancher could let hundreds of cows die is beyond me! No punishment is strong enough, in my opinion.//I read where a couple of professional football players refused to honor the National Anthem at a pre-season game the other day. I think they should be pulled from the lineup for that. Why doesn't the rest of the team put pressure on them? It's a small, but very important motion, and we need to honor our country.*//Last comment, I touched on the re-alignment of H and I streets. Cutting those busy streets down to two lanes, is a big mistake, in my opinion. I live a block from those streets and am on them every time we go somewhere.

Condensing them to two lanes will create more congestion, and adding bicycles to the mix will just complicate it more. AS many people have said, bicyclists should use J street, as it is much less traveled and safer, in my opinion. The money spent on the re-alignment could be spent on radar speed control and more officers on the street. Speeding drivers are there, regardless of how the streets are laid out, and enforcement , to me, is the answer.

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