

# M E T R O

Election Coverage: 'Son of A' pitch—the half-cent solution to clogged South Bay roadways.



President's Helper: Vice President Dan Quayle has played a prominent role in dismantling environmental and work-safety regulations.

## Vice Squad

*Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness dispenses political favors, quietly helping campaign contributors exempt themselves from environmental legislation*

BY GEOFFREY DUNN

**B**ETWEEN MURPHY BROWN and the golf course, Vice President Dan Quayle has emerged as one of the biggest political buffoons in American history. No matter how well-trained he was as the president's pit bull for the Oct. 12 debate, his gaffes and oratorical blunders remain embedded in the country's political lore.

Behind his clown's mask, however, Quayle has quietly—and secretly—played a prominent role in dismantling some of the country's most important environmental and work-safety regulations. Through his President's Council on Competitiveness, Quayle has trashed the environment on behalf of big business, while soliciting campaign contributions in return.

"The vice president is part of a shadow government that works behind the scenes to help polluting industries undermine the law," charges California Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Los Angeles), chair of the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. "The [Competitiveness Council] is a rogue operation. And it's flagrantly illegal."

Though most of Quayle's deals have been cut with Midwestern business cronies, they've had a direct impact on Santa Clara Valley air and water quality. Quayle's behind-the-scenes maneuvers have gutted the 1990 Clean Air Act and the 1970 Clean Water Act. Save for an occasional page-three sidebar, however, the national press has all but ignored this assault on the democratic process and the environment.

Continued on page 14

## Hot Seat

*Two Peninsula supervisors vie for the seat in Congress vacated by Tom Campbell*

BY HAL PLOTKIN

**I**T'S A ZOO in the newly reconstituted 14th Congressional District, which stretches from Belmont to Sunnyvale. Perhaps anticipating a resurrection of the bovine imagery Democratic contender Anna Eshoo, a San Mateo County supervisor, used to symbolize her unsuccessful run for Congress four years ago (as in "I'm willing to challenge sacred cows"), her Republican challenger, fellow Supervisor Tom Huening, has gone ape.

Huening's campaign propaganda features a friendly looking gorilla, meant to symbolize his pledge to reform Congress by fomenting "a freshman-class revolt" along with other newly elected representatives. His objective: dumping the seniority system and forcing committee assignments to be awarded

on merit rather than congressional experience.

But Huening's dream—his goal as one of the main organizers of a planned summit of new congressional members scheduled to take place in Omaha, Neb., shortly after the election—seems to have little hope of coming true. The big hurdle: Of the candidates (most of them Republican) who've signaled their intent to participate, polls indicate only a handful will win their races. The majority of those who do triumph will likely have incurred substantial debts to party leaders, destining the rebellious newcomers to a Spartacus-like fate.

Eshoo dismisses Huening's Omaha proposal as a gimmick, though she does pledge to attend the summit if elected. Instead, she contrasts her positions on environmental and educational issues, defense spending and tax policy with those



Darker Shade of Green: Congressional candidate Anna Eshoo roasts her opponent's environmental record.