



Letters: State worker pay, etc.

Published 2:15 am PDT Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Story appeared in Sacramento Bee Editorials section, Page B6

Underpaid state workers

We are delighted that The Bee has finally recognized what the rest of us have known for years: "State employees are underpaid" ("Purple pension eaters," editorial, May 15). Rank-and-file workers have gone without a raise for nearly three years and state managers and supervisors have had no cost-of-living increase for six years.

And we appreciate The Bee's admission that our SEIU Local 1000 affiliate "has every right to push for salary increases to help state employees." Yet The Bee would have us believe that Local 1000 is threatening a strike solely over the pension issue. That is simply not true.

Despite this year's huge budget windfall, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his "white-shirted" negotiating team have failed to identify any funds for a new contract for state employees in the administration's revised budget proposal.

The governor continues to ignore the deterioration of state services that California taxpayers need and expect and continues to devalue those who provide these important services. That's what the Bee should be editorializing about.

- J.J. Jelincic, Sacramento President, California State Employees Assn