


# Oakland Tribune



September 21, 2009

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Check out Orloff's record

THE SEPT. 12 editorial, "Orloff has served the county well," describes Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff as "judicious" in seeking the death penalty. In fact, under Orloff's leadership, Alameda County has been one of the most aggressive death penalty counties in the state.

Orloff has sent more people to death row since 2000 than any other district attorney in Northern California, even after taking into account the size and number of murders in the county.

Alameda County has sentenced 16 people to death since 2000. That's more than all other Bay Area counties combined. The county sentenced two people to death last year, more than all but four other counties statewide. Another death penalty trial is going on right now. Despite the high number of death sentences, only one person from Alameda County has actually been executed in the last 30 years and he volunteered for lethal injection.

Each death penalty trial costs the county at least \$1.1 million more than a trial seeking permanent imprisonment. That means the DA's decision to seek death has cost the county more

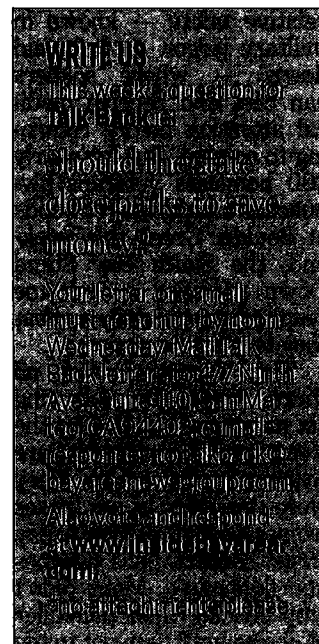
than \$17 million just since 2000.

Meanwhile, Alameda County has the worst record in Northern California for actually solving murders. The county has, on average, solved only 40 percent of homicides a year since 2000.

The people of Alameda County need accurate information about the use of the death penalty in this county so they can assess whether business as usual is in the best interest of public safety in this county.

Please visit [www.alameda-deathpenalty.org](http://www.alameda-deathpenalty.org).

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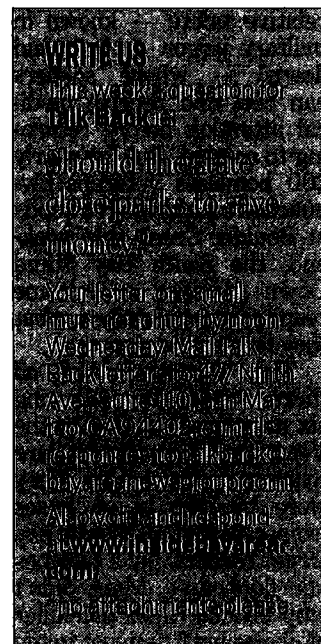
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