

# Sunday Mercury News

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Editorials

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## Letters to the editor

### Where's the compassion for the poor?

There is a false impression that American people have no compassion. The truth is many Americans have no compassion. Take the July 23 story about two hungry infants — 2 months old and 18 months old — not being helped.

When your paper rightly printed the story and exposed some of the inhumane and illegal actions of the county welfare department, a number of persons called our office and offered to help this family with infant children.

Then you have a letter from Sharon Andona who says that people should not be able to travel in America, if they are poor. She apparently believes that the American dream where a broke person could come to an area and a few years later become a millionaire is dead, for under the Andona rule such persons would never have the opportunity to exercise the American dream or have the right to travel in this free country.

Andona would make the two infants suffer because their parents came to California.

Two other letter writers, Mr. Liller and the Gundersens, have concluded that since Harvey and Rosetta (the parents) had cigarettes they were not poor. I gave



Don Wright — Miami News

them those cigarettes because they were upset that their two-month-old infant might die, and because a pack of cigarettes cannot feed a family of four.

We also apologize to Mr. Liller that poor people have rings. Harvey Parker paid thousands of dollars in taxes while he was working. Now he believes that his country should assist his children from starvation. Is that asking too much?

It is sad that people who have compassion for their fellow man are silent, and those who have no compassion are always expressing their insensitivity and hate in the press.

God help the innocent children of this country who happen to be poor without their choosing.

— Kevin M. Aslanian  
Welfare Recipients League