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Alan P. Hemphill: Allow me to introduce myself

Thank you for reading my first column for this newspaper – but hardly my first column!

With this first column I want to put on the record where I am coming from because you deserve to know the general c.v. of the writer.

This column will be a controversial column ... I refuse to write pap. I have published more than 1,500 columns in Rancho Bernardo and Poway over a period of more than 20 years, with the result that in introductions some seem to think my first name is "Controversial."

A now-former San Diego Silly Council member tried to get me fired for a column. A Rancho Bernardo minister tried to get me fired for another ... advertisers have made threats. I don't care, if my editor doesn't.

The column will address both local and national issues, and while some may consider the column as political, I think of it as economic and philosophical.

I am both a small "I" and a large "L" libertarian of the Ayn Rand ilk, and I tend to vote with the Republican Party as the lesser of the two evils. In economic terms I am a radical capitalist who defends the positions of Von Mises and the late Milton Freidman.

My social positions tend to be somewhat liberal, modified with a healthy dose of traditionalism so as not to move social issues too fast. In general I am "pro-choice" on everything from abortion to school vouchers to military service. My hot button is education.

We are all products of our experiences, so let me briefly describe my background, and in so doing provide a means for you to judge whether I have the experience to comment on a given subject.

I was born in Alabama, orphaned at the age of 5 and raised by my grandmother in Texas – dirt poor. Insurance bought me a mostly private education in religious-based military boarding schools. I joined the Navy at 17, competed for and won multiple admissions to West Point and Annapolis, graduated from Annapolis in 1957 and served primarily on submarines – which I am qualified to command. My technical background in the Navy is computers. I was one member of a three-person team that wrote the program that first tracked Soviet satellites and 600 U.S. warships, and warned those ships constantly when they were under surveillance. I also wrote the Navy's first artificial intelligence program.

My business background: I have been a real estate broker for 30 years, opened an Apple Computer dealership, successfully turned around a computer corporation for the bankruptcy court; served as president and

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CEO of a \$100 million (in 1984 dollars) Los Angeles corporation; and served as a core adjunct professor of computer science for 14 years at National University with more than 6,000 classroom hours both at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

My civic work includes serving as president of many organizations, including North County Junior Achievement (and teaching courses in free enterprise in PUSD schools); Rancho Bernardo Kiwanis Club; a startup community foundation; National University Alumni Association; Green Valley Civic Association and The Meadows Homes Association of Hidden Meadows.

I have been or am licensed to carry a concealed weapon; race sports cars, fly planes and scuba dive.

All-in-all, a full life that gives me at least some insight into the real worlds of military, academe, entrepreneurship, the corporate world and the non-profit world. Based on those experiences, I have a LOT of opinions to share with you!

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