



INTERNET POLL

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you think the seven terrorist suspects arrested in Florida this week really had plans to attack Sears Tower?

To vote or view results, go to www.californian.com/poll results. This is not a scientific poll.

for Dummies” and a case of carpal tunnel syndrome.

**Gary Gallert
Murrieta**

Distrust not to blame for rise in absentee votes

Once again, Art Cassel is just plain wrong (“Distrust spurs absentee voting,” June 21). He contends that more people use absentee ballots these days because they mistrust electronic voting. In fact, a Field Poll conducted in November 2005 shows a steady increase in absentee voting in California going back 30 years, long before electronic voting was used.

Absentee voting was opened up to all voters in the

late 1970s when the law eliminated requirements for absentee voters to declare a physical handicap or show they would be out of state on Election Day. Many people prefer voting absentee as a way to cope with long, complex ballots. Absentee ballots are a convenient choice, extending the “voting window” from 13 hours on Election Day to three or four weeks. And absentee voters avoid the prospects of bad weather and long lines at the polls.

Mr. Cassel is just as mistaken about absentee voters as he is about voters losing their privacy when they cast paper ballots on Election Day. Paper ballots are accorded the same respect for privacy and confidentiality as absentee ballots. No votes are divulged in public. The registrar of voters office operates with complete integrity and will continue to bar election observers like Mr. Cassel (who routinely show up with video cameras) from videotaping confidential voter information.

**Barbara Dunmore
Registrar of Voters
Riverside County**

Fundraiser inspirational

Kudos to the Anselmos