

DOWNTOWN/UPTOWN SHOULD NOT BE AUTONOMOUS `CITY`

Palm Beach Post, The (FL) (Published as The Palm Beach Post) - March 19, 1990

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- Section: OPINION
- Page: 2F

At first glance I would say the mini-city proposal for Downtown/Uptown would not be in the best interest of the entire West Palm Beach constituency. It could, in effect, repeat what happened some years ago in Teterboro, N.J., where large industries removed a lucrative tax base from their communities by creating their own incorporated town. It was a form of local tax evasion, avoiding school and safety service taxes, thus burdening their own employees, most of whom lived in the nearby communities, with high taxes on their homes. Have our commissioners given any thought to how much the city of West Palm Beach would lose in annual revenues by establishing this autonomous district? Would the mini-city be exempt from school taxes, taxes for fire, police and health services? Your report did not indicate how such matters will be dealt with.

This project was made possible by the dynamics of our community growth, and it should remain within the fold of the city, which created the environment for the development. In short, will it help sustain the community within which it thrives?

A.D. Wiener

West Palm Beach

BRING DICK GREGORY BACK

Readers have read comments about the vile words of Dick Gregory when he appeared at a local school last month. These narrow-minded people are one of the reasons that lies and evilness continue to rise in our nation.

They want the world to think that the United States has no racial, leadership or educational problems. These folks want us to think that any problem in this country is an illusion of demented people.

I applaud Dick Gregory for taking a stand to bring out the lies of our citizens and elected leaders. By turning our backs, evil continues to perpetuate and lies are regarded as truths. Dick Gregory merely asks that we start to think for ourselves, to be an agitator for positive change.

Oh, by the way, Dick Gregory is a very good comedian. That fact can be proven by the uncontrollable laughter that brought tears to our eyes by his entertaining us with intensive good humor that is hard to duplicate. I want to see him again. What about it, Santaluces?

Herme Richardson

Boynton Beach

GLADES SCHOOLKIDS NOT TOYS

In response to a letter regarding the placement of the new Glades Central High School in Belle Glade, there are many issues that relate to the placement of the new GCHS, not only building it next to the prison.

What seems to escape the people in favor of this location, however, is that the issue has always been taken to everyone except the parents. The majority of the people in favor of this location are some Glades-area School Board employees (GCHS teachers, a site selection committee-- nine of 13 are School Board employees).

GCHS has a 95 percent minority student population (80 percent black and 15 percent Hispanic)-- don't overlook the obvious.

But, then again, some people are so anxious to have new toys, aren't they? However, we admonish you: Don't play with our children; they are not your toys.

Cynthia C. Laramore

Belle Glade

STORY'S ALLEGATIONS A SHOCK

I am still reeling from the shock of accusations made against Growing Together Inc. and the slanted version given by Palm Beach Post staff writer Val Elliott March 9.

Having been personally involved with this high-integrity program for more than five years, I have never witnessed or known of the accusations reported in your article.

Growing Together is the finest long-term adolescent treatment center in Palm Beach County. The kids are treated with love, understanding, guidance and quality care at all times.

What a terrible loss it is if we allow allegations to destroy a truly beautiful program with its only goal to help our future-- our kids.

JoAnn Endorf

Board of directors

Growing Together Inc.

Palm Beach Gardens

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I am a very grateful parent who thanks God every night for Growing Together. If it were not for Growing Together, my son would probably not be alive today, looking forward to his high school graduation.

It is important that the public be made aware of the success of the program and the good it continues to do for troubled adolescents and their families.

Alverda Wilson

Lake Worth

MARTINEZ SHOULD RAP ISSUES

Gov. Martinez must be getting pretty bored. First of all, it isn't anybody's business if a person wants to listen to vulgar music except the individual listening. Secondly, people don't really care about what the song is saying. As long as there is a good, strong beat, the people are going to like the music. I think Gov. Martinez had better stop harassing people and start worrying about more important issues. Like, maybe, his next term.

Diego Lezcano

West Palm Beach

MARTINEZ'S BUNDY AD OFFENDS

It says something about our society when the governor of our state must resort to reminding the people of how many criminals he has tried to send to the electric chair. Brian Crowley (March 7 column) could not have been more accurate in stating that Bob Martinez has not accomplished anything he can use in an election campaign. I was both shocked and offended that Gov. Martinez was so unfeeling as to use Bundy's picture for his benefit.

Annaleah Pappas

West Palm Beach

RIGGS SHOULD KNOW BETTER

Despite inflammatory remarks by people like Billy Riggs, who should know better, there is one basic flaw in the gun-banning concept. No one but the law-abiding gun owner will pay the slightest attention to such a ban.

Does Mr. Riggs think that the criminals will stop using semiautomatics if they are banned?

Carl K. Parsons

North Palm Beach

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FAU'S DEAL FOR BLACKS KEEPS RACIAL PROBLEMS AWAY

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Are blacks being offered free tuition to Florida Atlantic University because they are privileged? Are they better than the rest of the other ethnic groups? The answer is no. Then why?

As sad and as disappointing as it may sound and appear, blacks are offered this opportunity at FAU because the school's minority enrollment has dropped. But the saddest part is not this, it is the way blacks are being used as a "product" to keep race-related problems from arising in the school.

Janet Hernandez

West Palm Beach

* After reading the article March 8 by Ernestine Williams, about Florida Atlantic University, I was enraged. The requirements were simple, a 3.0 grade point average out of high school and a score of a least 1,000 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

All races deserve a chance to a scholarship at Florida Atlantic University.

Joe Howse

West Palm Beach

* I think it is great that people earn scholarships for college. It should be an equal opportunity for everyone. Blacks should not be given special scholarships because they have a different color skin. Just the same as whites should not. If a scholarship were set up for "whites only," we would never hear the end of it.

If a person doesn't have the money to attend college, he should be given financial aid. But to give money to average students because they were born a different color than the majority of our nation is crazy. I believe if I were black, this would upset me.

Dorothy Canova

West Palm Beach

ROSTENKOWSKI INSULTED U.S.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski's statement that the American people need to know "there is no free lunch" is Freudian.

Here's a Chicago ward heeler who maintains a campaign war chest of more than \$1 million at all times, even though he has one of the safest seats in Congress. Change "no free lunch" to "no free access," and you've got his message.

Charles O. Wey

Lake Worth

* Rep. Dan Rostenkowski says that he will no longer "protect programs of special interest to constituents." The representative should speak with his party cohorts and have them all agree to follow his lead (if, in fact, he is serious) and perhaps the deficit problem would be solved.

When will he realize that only spending within our means will solve deficits?

William J. Witowski Jr.

West Palm Beach

EGG PRIORITIES OUT OF WHACK

The decision the three judges made on the appeal that the turtle eggs were marine life and that 80 percent were fertilized necessitated

their holding firm to the fine the poacher was levied.

How is it that some judges can rule in favor of abortion when 100 percent of those eggs are fertilized? Could it be that human life is taking a back seat to marine life?

The poacher should have been fined, but let's get our priorities in proper perspective.

Bob Scott

Atlantis

* Such irony and confused thinking. Turtle eggs are considered life and a poacher is fined \$108,800. But a human fetus is destroyed in abortion and that's legal.

As a "pro-lifer," I rest my case.

Adeen Gately

West Palm Beach

CHECK BLOOD, NOT HAITIANS

Regarding your article March 6, "Haitians rap rule barring blood- giving," this is just another example of the government putting a foot in its mouth. Officials constantly insist they do not discriminate and then make it abundantly clear that they do. Just as Dr. Serge Augustin says in the article, AIDS is not a racial problem.

All blood is supposed to be thoroughly checked to eliminate the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome through blood transfusions. If this is true (which it should be) then this whole situation has caused an unnecessary disturbance.

Francene Duhart

West Palm Beach

JOEL DESERVED COVERAGE

Thanks for the fantastic coverage of Billy Joel and his concerts.

It's gratifying to see him get the recognition he deserves. His lyrics are intelligent and thought-provoking, his melodies are always catchy, and he puts on a heck of a show.

Heidi Bell

Lantana

IS BUSH ISRAEL'S DICTATOR?

How dare George Bush deliberately call into question the integrity of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. And further insult the Israelis not to let new refugees live there. And now he wants an Arab representative from Jerusalem, not the West Bank, in the negotiations.

Do Mr. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker see themselves as dictators of what they think is best for Israel?

Pearl S. Buchen

West Palm Beach

NO WONDER MORALE'S LOW

I had the pleasure of being one of the few people who attended the candidate forum meeting sponsored by the Concerned Citizens of Lake Worth on March 6.

One of the subjects was local police morale and the 25 percent of officers leaving their jobs. The question is, why? I'll tell you why. These officers of the law put their lives on the line for us and there is not one thing we do for them. How would you feel if you arrested the same people over and over again for drugs, prostitution, breaking and entering, etc.? Wouldn't you have an attitude problem when these people are back out on the street in 20 minutes? I know I would!

Patty McKeivitt

Lake Worth

VA BENEFITS THREATENED

The Office of Management and Budget is proposing that the Veterans Administration budget for fiscal 1991 include a General Accounting Office recommendation that would remove an estimated 620,000 veterans from disability compensation eligibility. The GAO believes that a "direct performance of duty" clause in defining service-connected disability entitlement would eliminate 19 percent of veterans for disease-related disabilities and 9 percent with injury-related disabilities, which includes any active-duty injury.

There will be many veterans who may think these proposals do not apply to them. And, they may not, at this time. But, if these changes to the present system occur without challenge, I believe that it will mark the beginning of an avalanche of changes that will not favor veterans.

Paul Long

Lake Worth

GROWING TOGETHER GREAT

I have a son in Growing Together Inc. Each night I give my thanks for Growing Together and "kids helping kids."

Without this program, my son would have taken his life. After a year in this program, and with my son approaching his 18th birthday, I have never been asked to "court order" him, nor has he been harmed in any way. As a matter of fact, his school grades went from 0.3 to 3.7 grade point average.

It is sad to think that adults are dishonest toward a program whose first rule is "honest at all times."

Mickey Bowman

Jupiter

JET-SKIERS CATCH UNDUE FLAK

A letter writer claims to have seen jet skis run over the backs of manatees that were resting on a sandbar. She has also claimed to see jet-skiers slam into their raised heads at top speed. She should play the lottery, as her odds of winning would be better than those of seeing any of these things happen.

I am a native Floridian and live in a condo in Tequesta, specifically on the part of the Intracoastal where this jet-skiing is taking place. I have never seen a jet ski hit a manatee.

For the past few months, I have heard the people in this area make many false accusations about jet skis. These people just don't want the jet-skiers making noise on the Intracoastal.

Stephen Medford

Tequesta

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YOUNG FATHER'S FIGHT FOR HIS BABY A CAUSE FOR TEARS

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I am in tears over the story of the unwed father who's fighting for custody of his son.

It's overwhelming that courts will return a child to drug pushers, drug addicts, criminals or, worse, parents who have abused their children. But a young father of 22 years, working, with supportive parents, has the child he held, loved and fed every day until he was taken away from his arms, given to a Boca Raton doctor and his wife.

Is it clout that a Boca Raton doctor has? Is it the immature 17-year-old mother's attitude? What did this circuit judge see that would make him decide to take Robby Tew's baby son away from him?

Mr. Tew, fight with all you have for your son. He deserves your love, your touch and you, his biological father, to raise him.

Sally Welsh

Lake Worth

COMMISSIONERS GOT CAUGHT

So where were the county commissioners when developers planned and built business after business that now have become bankrupt because developers overestimated population growth?

It seems the commissioners got caught with their hand in the cookie jar. Where else!

Darlene Pierce Sipe

Palm Beach Gardens

MEAN-SPIRITED FEATURE

If it were not so obviously mean-spirited, it would be funny. You send a reporter to the Kosher Market in Oriole, and for the lead picture, she worms her way into the back and photographs slabs of raw meat. She snoops on people who are waiting on a slow-moving line and who are hungry, tired and impatient to get home for some sign of irritation.

It's plain to see that she doesn't know her toes from her nose when it comes to Jewish food. The word for that exquisite roll is not bulgie, it's bulkie.

As for reporter Lois Kaplan, may she be condemned to eat salami on white bread with mayonnaise for the rest of her life.

David Axelrod

West Palm Beach

*

Kudos on the article "Keeping it kosher," by Lois Kaplan. When shopping for fresh meats, traditional Jewish people are limited to purchases at butcher shops that sell only ritually clean (kosher) products; and since there are so few such establishments in Florida, they carry delicatessen, prepared meals and other products as well for the convenience of the customers, many of whom are older citizens and cannot shop frequently.

Lucky for us, we, in West Palm Beach, have a kosher market nearby (at Okeechobee Boulevard and Haverhill Road) that provides for our culinary needs and likewise "caters to Jewish desires," and it is much closer than Delray Beach as well.

Lawrence Ehrlich

West Palm Beach

FREEDOM MUST BE EARNED

If you give the Growing Together Inc. clients total freedom they will take advantage of it and boom!-- no one will be in the program because no druggie is going to want to be in a drug program.

I feel very aggravated because if you make Growing Together a "just come if you want" program, no druggie will get help.

I think that Growing Together is a good program because it doesn't give its patients total freedom. The patients have to earn it, and that is what helps the kids get straight.

Laura Matthew, age 13

West Palm Beach

BARRY CASE RACIST POLITICS

Although I do not for an instant condone what Mayor Marion Barry of Washington has done in his private life, I must say that the FBI has used a lot of the taxpayers' money and a lot of effort to go to elaborate lengths in their "sting" operation to trap the mayor on a "misdemeanor drug charge."

This absolutely smells of racist politics. The article written by Stephanie Saul in the Opinion section Feb. 15 that Mr. Barry was investigated for 10 years by the FBI and there was even a bribe attempt-- of course without success-- and the only charge the (the FBI) could come up with is a "misdemeanor," makes me believe even more strongly that this was all racially motivated.

S. Griffith

Port St. Lucie

HARDLY WORTH THE TEARS

Norberto Pietri should not have cried at his sentencing. The Florida Supreme Court will more than likely set him free on some technicality.

Don Hudson

Lantana

RESTORE PUBLIC BEACHES

I have been following your coverage of Palm Beach's scheme to milk us taxpayers of millions to restore "their" beach.

I am so outraged by this. As many times as I've driven the Ocean Boulevard strip, I've never seen a sign directing me to public beach access. I, like many, have blindly assumed that these areas were off limits to me and my family.

If \$13 million is indeed available for beach restoration, our legislators should see to it that this money, our money, goes to beaches such as Carlin Park. Here the taxpayers will truly benefit, as there are parking, public restrooms and a beautiful, welcoming public beach.

This reader is joining Bill Medlen's growing group of crusaders.

Doreen Brannan

Lake Worth

JUDGES' REASONING STRANGE

A turtle in a shell is life, a judge says. A fetus in a uterus is a substance, a judge says.

Whap! A \$108,800 fine and prison, a judge says. It's OK, go ahead, kill a fetus, a judge says.

Strange.

Charlotte Roseman

Hobe Sound

*

Turtle eggs are considered life because the turtle is almost extinct. Do you think if the human race becomes almost extinct that judges would decide a fetus is life?

I think of the revenue (fines of \$108,800) that the crisis would bring per incident. Well, maybe not, no one would be left to pay the fine.

June Council

West Palm Beach

WATER RULES UNBELIEVABLE

Palm Beach County has 142 golf courses using water to keep greens green, and we have to count our toilet flushes and get hassled for using 2 gallons of water a week to wash corrosive salt air and grime off our little car. Unbelievable.

Aino K. Lautsio

Michael Riccitello

Lake Worth

JOIN GOP, ROSTENKOWSKI

Now that Rep. Dan Rostenkowski has handed President Bush exactly what he wanted, a Democrat suggesting tax increases, cutting Social Security benefits (by putting a freeze on cost-of-living adjustments) and help for the wealthy by reducing the capital gains tax, he should go all the way.

Mr. Rostenkowski should come out of the closet, admit he is a Republican, and be honest enough officially to change his party affiliation to Republican. S. Emerson Golden

Lake Worth

WARMED-OVER REAGANISM

The Bush presidency is nothing more than warmed-over Reaganism. It is utterly devoid of any new ideas or innovations. The problems created by the Reagan-Bush administration in the '80s, dominate the '90s.

So why is Mr. Bush riding so high in the polls?

Over the past 10 years, the Democratic Party has all but abdicated its role as the opposition party. The news media continue to fawn over Mr. Bush as it did over Ronald Reagan. These trends are anathema to American democracy.

Michael E. Stinson

West Palm Beach

PATROL'S BEHAVIOR EXCELLENT

On behalf of our teachers and staff, we wish to publicly acknowledge the mature behavior displayed by our student safety patrols on their recent trip to our nation's capital. In spite of some inaccurate reporting in The Palm Beach Post, the student representatives of the Palm Beach County Safety Patrol were some of the most inquisitive, disciplined and cooperative students who have ever participated on the trip.

Dr. Richard Hughes, principal

Palm Springs Elementary School

Lake Worth

VICTIMS GET LITTLE CONCERN

The mother of a rape victim questioned our present legal system of "injustice." It's very simple. The law is perverted and, contrary to popular belief, has been designed and tilted to protect the guilty at great expense to crime victims, law-abiding citizens and/or taxpayers. And most important, to greatly reward far too many greedy defense attorneys.

Regrettably, very little concern is given to victims of crime, their families and friends by ensuring that prompt and proper justice is served.

Bill Brandenburg

West Palm Beach

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EQUATING DEVELOPERS WITH TOBACCO FIRMS OUTRAGEOUS

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To equate developers with tobacco companies is to say the least insulting (Business column, Feb. 27). To the people in an industry that provides the second most basic human need, after food, that statement is outrageous.

As for Robert Douglas' disclaimer, it is ironic that the Romanian people revolted against the Ceausescu tyranny, which claimed "collective well-being" in tearing down whole villages and replacing them with large apartment blocks. Is Mr. Douglas suggesting that the individual's right to choose where and in what kind of habitation he wants to live, raise a family or retire to, as reflected by the marketplace, is now to be replaced by a technocracy?

We are, as it is, the most controlled industry in our country. Before developing any parcel of land, we have to obtain approvals of numerous agencies and government departments, taking upward of a year in most instances. When construction begins, we have numerous reviewers, inspectors and other officials.

When he refers to "urban sprawl," can he define the its meaning, its causes and who and what creates it? I think not. The problem facing housing and those seeking housing is not gated communities. They represent only a small fraction of housing in South Florida.

The problems are many. For one, public transportation that is inadequate and unacceptable to the people, also the love affair we have with the automobile and the convenience it offers over public transportation as it exists today and, most of all, affordability, which is composed of many elements, with interest rates on mortgages being only one aspect, but a critical one.

The issues dealing with housing are many and complex, and government policies are sometimes at cross purposes, but in the end the public, as expressed in the individual decisions made by home-seekers, determines the kind of housing that the building industry has to provide.

Alec Engelstein, president

The Engle Group

Boca Raton

WHERE'S UPKEEP MONEY?

In answer to your editorial about the proposed South County Civic Center, nowhere did you address the problem of financing the \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year that will be needed to maintain this building.

You mentioned that the purpose of the civic center is to be a meeting hall for local clubs. This certainly is not an essential item that would drastically improve our way of life. Rather, it is strictly a luxury that we cannot afford at the present time.

We are having a financial crisis in Palm Beach County, and the county commissioners are constantly thinking of ways to cut the budget. Yet they are saying that they can afford \$200,000 each year to run the South County Civic Center-- a non-essential building. Does this make sense?

Mildred Adler

Delray Beach

HRS 'WAR' REALLY STUPID

Florida's Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, which should be in the forefront and leading the charge in this country's so-called war on drugs, has decided for us that capitulation is the way to win.

How can this organization, which has made so many mistakes and lost so many of our youngsters through mishandling and poor judgment, now go ahead with another stupid decision to wage war on the best drug-rehabilitation program in this or any other county in the state of Florida, namely, Growing Together Inc.?

What difference does it make if a teenager is deprived of his privacy when in the past he has abused this privilege by using drugs or making drug deals in his seclusion with no one to oversee or hear him?

Pray tell me, if force must be used to keep a child drug-free or to keep him from overdosing, is it not justifiable, or does HRS want still another child's death on its hands? When will they learn that coddling is not the way? Richard W. Sokal

West Palm Beach

*

Everything the public has read about Growing Together Inc. is absolutely true. The "newcomers" are guarded at night by "oldcomers" in case the newcomer decides to run away. The newcomers are attached to oldcomers by means of a type of harness that should be used for an animal, not a child. The newcomers aren't allowed to communicate with their family for extended periods of time.

The program tries to take the past out of their minds and make it to where they no longer wish to communicate with those people in their past. If that isn't brainwashing, tell me what is.

I would like to say a tremendous "thank you" to HRS for discovering the ill-treatment of these children.

Shirley Lucas

West Palm Beach

LANTANA LIBRARY APPRECIATED

It seems that Don Horine wrote his bit about libraries with scant knowledge of the Lantana Community Library. Sure, it is small in comparison with the West Palm Beach Public Library, but then so is the community it serves.

The Lantana Community Library isn't some hole-in-the-wall operation. The library chairwoman, Virginia Spence, donates her time. She orders books and processes them, oversees running of the library and generally takes very good care of library needs.

Of course, there is no interchange with the county library since the Lantana Community Library is a private one. There is no source of government money, and the small fees charged in no way make up for the books lost, strayed or stolen. Various service clubs have donated to the library as has the town of Lantana-- they appreciate the asset this library is to the town.

Viola Ross

Lantana

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OPINION

Palm Beach Post, The (FL) (Published as The Palm Beach Post) - March 26, 1990

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- Correction: *CORRECTION*, PUBLISHED MARCH 27, 1990, FOLLOWS:*****

The following two letters had some paragraphs transposed in Monday's Letters to the Editor section. They are reprinted correctly here.

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Viola Ross

Lantana

GIGANTIC IMPACT-FEE BOOST RUINING BUILDING INDUSTRY Due to the insatiable desire for money, the Palm Beach County Commission, under the leadership of Karen Marcus, has ruined the construction industry.

Basic costs of living and insurance rates have jumped up; even workers' compensation is out of reason. Then comes a gigantic impact-fee increase of \$3,000-\$5,000 to obtain a building permit.

Are the commissioners trying to stomp out the average man to convert the entire county to a rich man's abode?

I draw house plans for a broad spectrum of people, but the average native citizen is in dire straits. The builders are resorting to owner/builder permits to avoid workers' compensation insurance to save cost, and they are also moving out of the county. My business has dropped from 10 to 15 plans a week to four to five plans. I had to borrow to pay my taxes because I didn't have enough money coming in.

The economy is not healthy, and we didn't need this aggressive move on us from Palm Beach County.

Larry Bogard

Palm Beach Gardens

BBB COMMENT IN JEST

As an arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau Auto Line and, in particular, one of the three arbitrators that heard a letter writer's case, I am appalled at her letter and would like to set the record straight.

The comment about remuneration for arbitration was made after the hearing had been closed and made only in jest, to lighten up a tense situation, and everybody responded in laughter.

Gardner B. Browne

Tequesta

ONE MONTH NOT MUCH

A writer wrote to your paper demanding a "white" history month to offset Black History Month.

He's cutting down on white history an awful lot, isn't he? What does he think studying about Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, etc., is if not white history? What does he think studying about all the wars we've been involved in is if not about white history? What does he think our history courses teach 10 months of the year if not white history?

Asking for one month is cutting back an awful lot, isn't it?

Sylvia Spier

Lake Worth

GET VAGRANTS OFF STREETS

As a follow-up to Joe Brogan's article concerning the transient sought in the sexual assault and suffocation of the 14-year-old Jupiter girl in Carlin Park, I can't believe that our lawmakers can't lobby for a vagrancy law to keep these scumbags off our streets. This incident should really open everyone's eyes. How would you feel if it was your daughter? Most states do not put up with this at all.

Chip Schelhorn

Golfview

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Shirley Lucas

West Palm Beach

EVERYONE EQUAL AT POLLS

My letter is to the residents of Northwood who do not live in the affluent, better-educated coastal area, as reported in the Angela Bradbery column March 15.

Your vote counts as much as if you had graduated summa cum laude from an Ivy League college. But it won't if you don't vote. So go to the polls on March 27 and make your vote count.

Marguerite Johnson

West Palm Beach

SHOOTING RANGE NO THREAT

In response to a letter about noise complaints from Bonnett Hunting Preserve and Gun Range, I guess it was merely a matter of time before these newly arrived residents would complain about the shooting-range noise.

This is one of the few controlled gun ranges in Palm Beach County. This range poses no threat to homeowners who have by now encroached on most of rural Palm Beach County. In fact, it is much safer than the uncontrolled ranges that many shooters find willy-nilly throughout what little rural area is left in Palm Beach County.

Steve Little

West Palm Beach

LANTANA LIBRARY APPRECIATED

It seems that Don Horine wrote his bit about libraries with scant knowledge of the Lantana Community Library. Sure, it is small in comparison with the West Palm Beach Public Library, but then so is the community it serves.

The Lantana Community Library isn't some hole-in-the-wall operation. The library chairwoman, Virginia Spence, donates her time. She orders books and processes them, oversees running of the library and generally takes very good care of library needs.

Of course, there is no interchange with the county library since the Lantana Community Library is a private one. There is no source of government money, and the small fees charged in no way make up for the books lost, strayed or stolen. Various service clubs have donated to the library as has the town of Lantana-- they appreciate the asset this library is to the town.

Viola Ross

Lantana

THE TRUTH ABOUT SALVADOR

Identical letters appearing about a week apart in The Palm Beach Post have accused the press of unfair reporting of terrorism in El Salvador and, thereby, aiding the move to stop U.S. military aid to that country.

The press has simply reported what all human-rights investigators have found, however-- namely, that military-sponsored death squads have been responsible for the murder of thousands of trade unionists, church people, social workers, teachers, students and peasants. The government itself has not denied death-squad responsibility for the murders of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the American nuns and, more recently, six Jesuits. Yet, not a single person has been brought to trial and the terror continues.

Harry Fruit

Lake Worth

HOMELESS AT AGE 68?

Read my lips, "I'll have a kinder and gentler nation." Billions to Panama, Nicaragua, Poland, Israel and all the illegal immigrants, plus an extra-generous pay raise for our Congress and cut in the capital gains tax.

No new taxes, but we will eliminate the cost-of-living increase for Social Security recipients, the disabled veterans and loyal government

employees. I have already been told my mortgage rate on my manufactured home is going up 2 percentage points.

Perhaps at this rate, at 68 or 69, I'll have to join the multitude of homeless people on the streets.

John Hencoski

Lantana

EVERYONE DEAF? MAYBE SOON

The sound level at our movies and other entertainment centers is horrendous. If this is allowed to continue unabated, we could all become "decibel-deaf."

Bernard J. Kozlow

Lake Worth

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DETERMINING WHEN LIFE STARTS NOT A PARENTAL DECISION

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Jac Wilder Versteeg's article on "What is life?" March 23 was correct in every detail except for his conclusion: "Is a human embryo life? That question can be answered only by the potential parents."

How can one human embryo be life and another not be life just because two sets of parents see the question differently? From the embryo's viewpoint, the opinion of the parents is irrelevant.

Mr. Versteeg correctly notes that "a judge can't answer (the question) and neither can a majority." However, he overlooks the point that science can provide an answer by determining from DNA (and other) analyses whether the embryo is human or animal and whether it is living or dead.

Semanticists and lawyers can cloud the issue by asking about the quality of life: Is it viable outside the uterus, and, if so, under what conditions? These questions are diversionary smoke screens that will no longer even be asked after science finally succeeds in growing a normal individual entirely ex-utero.

The question for the parents to decide is not whether a human embryo is life, but, rather, how do I treat human life?

Louis Stang

Wellington

* Jac Wilder Versteeg (March 23) engages in some inelegant sophistry as he attempts to validate the idea of protecting turtles in their embryonic stage of growth but not extending that same protection to humans at the same stage of their growth.

Turtle eggs do need protection, as they have many predators. Human embryos have only one predator-- doctors, who have made a mockery of the Hippocratic oath for financial gain.

The plain evidence is that many in our society value animal life above human life. Mr. Versteeg's main theme in his column was, "You can't make moral decisions about humans based on the way we decided to treat animals." A look at the American landscape shows just the opposite to be accurate. Is not Planned Parenthood applying the very successful animal-control methods of the misnomer that is the Humane Society to humans?

I would not expect to find the famous quote from Dr. Albert Schweitzer, "All life is sacred," hanging over the door of either organization.

Paul J. Kearns

Palm Beach Gardens

* Let us please look beyond any turtle-egg-vs.-the-fetus debate.

First of all, human beings are not an endangered species and their total demise is not in jeopardy like the sea turtle.

Because of human mass population, overdevelopment and greed, turtle nests are being plundered and destroyed. Their habitats are being polluted with our sewage and waste materials. They are choking to death on our discarded plastics and garbage, and drowning in our fish nets.

Just because these creatures are not human does not make their plight any less significant. Their existence depends on human actions for their survival. Stiff penalties must be enforced. We, at least, owe them that much.

Frances Adcock

West Palm Beach

* I don't think poaching should be compared with abortion. Humans are not an endangered species; however, nearly all species of marine turtles are either threatened or endangered.

Lynn Zerrien

Lake Park

REAGAN A SORRY SIGHT

I never thought I would ever feel sorry for our former president, Ronald Reagan. To see him squirm and hunt for words to justify his untruthfulness was indeed a sorry sight.

Dave Welsh

West Palm Beach

PERILOUS STRETCH OF ROAD

The tragic accident on State Road 80 on March 21 was not the first such accident along this stretch of roadway. After the section was opened between Big Blue Trace and Royal Palm Beach, there were several accidents, many happening at dusk.

The morning after one severe accident, I called the highway department and asked whether they could erect temporary signs stating that all lanes of traffic were now open. The man I spoke to pooh-pooed my idea, saying that the people really ought to pay more attention when they drive.

Margie Forrest

Wellington

VIRUS NOT ALWAYS DETECTABLE

Regarding a letter March 21, "Check blood, not Haitians," the writer states, "All blood is . . . thoroughly checked to eliminate the spread of AIDS through blood transfusions."

This, unfortunately, shows the complete naivete the public has toward blood transfusions. Once a person becomes infected with acquired immune deficiency syndrome, it takes six months to detect. If blood is given within this time, it will usually register as safe. Do you find this acceptable?

Philip Athy

Stuart

HONESTY BRINGS RECOVERY

It worries me and makes me sad that (the Growing Together Inc.) directors are wallowing in the main component of the disease "denial." Allegations do not bring citations. Documented proof does. Recovery comes with honesty.

Sue Cave

Lake Worth

BUSH CRITICS NO LESS LOYAL

Columnist Joseph Sobran, in your March 19 issue, deplores in a cynical and contemptible manner the right of individuals to criticize President Bush for his statement on East Jerusalem. He is especially vindictive, since the major criticisms were voiced by American Jews.

I assume that Joseph Sobran is a loyal American, but criticism of our president by Jews does not make them less loyal.

David Goldstein

West Palm Beach

`MONK' IS WORTH SEEING

Clint Eastwood has again contributed a worthwhile production of musical artwork. Music lovers of all ages should see the motion picture Thelonious Monk, an in-depth view of one of the rare music geniuses of the modern music era. A generous collection of rare film footage of the man helps reveal how his music paralleled his life.

Wes Allan

West Palm Beach

A PAUSE FOR COGITATION

Don Wright's baseball cartoon that ran in the newspaper on Friday was right on target except for one minor detail. In between each chaw, chin dribble, fanny scratch and frontal scratch, is a long pause.

I guess that's when professional baseball players think of what obnoxious act to do next.

Mark Mathosian

Boca Raton

TEACH PRISONERS A TRADE

I just read that \$70 million is to be spent for prisons. I am for it if it will produce a better person after their term is up.

If they will be taught a trade, they can produce merchandise in prison that can be sold, reducing the cost of maintaining prisons and making them better people.

Lillian Rieber

West Palm Beach

RED CROSS RESTUDYING POLICY

The letters published by Ann Landers Sunday are outdated and indicate a misunderstanding of Red Cross disaster relief policy. Since the time they were written, the Red Cross has decided that all of the \$52 million designated for the earthquake relief effort will be used in northern California to meet current and future earthquake-generated needs.

Traditionally, surplus money left over after a disaster has been placed in a relief fund for future disasters. But because of the increasing desire of the public to designate to a specific cause, the Red Cross is now reviewing its policy.

To put the designation issue in perspective, while \$52 million was designated for relief in the aftermath of the northern California earthquake, only \$11.9 million was designated for relief to Hurricane Hugo victims. The Red Cross is projecting that the Hugo operation-- the largest disaster relief operation in history-- will ultimately cost \$72 million.

Bud Good, general manager

National Headquarters of the

American Red Cross

Washington

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BOCA INCINERATOR COST REACHES ASTRONOMICAL HEIGHTS

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Solid Waste Authority Director Tim Hunt spoke on March 12 to the Palm Beach County legislative delegation and said, "The total estimated cost of the new incinerator complex at 45th Street, plus the proposed incinerator complex at Site One, in west Boca Raton, will be approximately \$900 million."

We assume that the new incinerator complex on 45th Street cost \$300 million. Could it be possible that the planned hazardous, dangerous toxic- waste incinerator, toxic-waste landfill and garbage landfill at Site 1 will be double the expenditures? An exorbitant, astronomical 600 million taxpayer dollars?

I could not believe what Tim Hunt had declared. I quickly looked to the rear of the auditorium, where six high-priced attorneys from both the SWA and the Palm Beach County Municipal League were sitting together. Six poorly concealed grins and 12 eyes, bulging in eager financial anticipation, all cheered Tim Hunt on.

A \$600 million bond issue would surely generate a host of lucrative attorney fees, high brokerage-house charges, endless securities-dealer commissions and other innumerable financial expenses. The \$600 million in bonds plus the considerable 20- year interest charges would be repaid by all the residents of Palm Beach County, including those living in the municipalities, through the SWA's collection of garbage collection fees.

Our garbage collection fees might very well be higher than automobile insurance.

Tim Hunt hastened to add, "We do not have any plans at present to build an incinerator at Site One in west Boca Raton."

If this statement is true, why did the SWA recently purchase 1,200 acres at Site One for 19 million taxpayer dollars?

Lenny King

Boca Raton

(Editor's note: Mr. King is an assistant to County Commissioner Ron Howard.) ISRAELI AID PURE BLACKMAIL

The concept that the billions of dollars that Israel gets from the United States is "to protect our interests in this volatile part of the world" is a phony ploy that fools exactly no one.

The money that Israel gets is from pure political blackmail by pro-Israeli lobbies and pressure groups with the concurrence of legislators who want Jewish votes to stay in office.

In the U.S., bridges are unsafe and falling apart, water and sewer systems are ancient, the deficit is not being controlled and environmental projects that would give us clean air and safe drinking water are curtailed for lack of money.

These conditions require that all foreign aid be examined to ensure that the necessity for it is greater than the legitimate needs of the U.S. taxpayer, who provides the money for his own country.

George A. Rotchford

Delray Beach

EAGLE-ETTE FEATS FANTASTIC

It is highly distressing to me to hear that The Palm Beach Post does not consider the fantastic accomplishments of the Atlantic High School Eagle-ettes as "sufficiently newsworthy."

The Eagle-ettes and Company have been a fantastic group for quite a while. They have brought much fame and glory to their school and the community at large. It would be nice to inform your readers that the troupe whom they are often asked to support has, indeed, been worthy of their assistance.

During this past weekend, they participated in a National Drill/Dance Team Competition at Sea World in Orlando. The group took a first-place trophy in every event it entered, competing against many excellent schools from all over the country. The captain, Love Codella,

won first place as a soloist.

Joan Barsky

Delray Beach

TREATMENT DOESN'T WORK

My child broke the rule of confidentiality that Growing Together Inc., so strongly stresses. She never could quite deal with the iron-handed rule they took.

Some of the things she confided in me were that:

*Bread and water were given to the kids as a punishment.

*Girls were stood up in front of the mirror and told to say, "I'm a slut and a druggie."

*Kids were restrained by foster parents.

*Kids were denied medical attention. I guess this is why they don't want anything repeated. It makes them look bad.

Drug treatment has been around for 25 years for adolescents. There are only a few centers across the nation that treat youths like this one, and they have received negative publicity on 60 minutes, Geraldo and the Martin Downey Show. The statistics show that the ones who do graduate go back to their past. Conveniently, this is covered up.

So why treat youths in such a barbaric way, when they can be treated like human beings? There is no proof that this kind of treatment is better.

Hilda Bendett

Boca Raton

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