



November 20, 2007

Letters to the Editor for Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007

A great place

I would like to thank Desert Hot Springs residents who supported my candidacy for mayor. Our efforts ended 90-plus votes short of victory.

My passion for running for mayor was the \$2.5 million dollar budget deficit resulting in 20 city employees losing their jobs, six in the police department. Never again should city residents tolerate budget deficits that keep us from moving forward.

I look back over the past years with mixed feelings. I saw it as a positive when I was attacked personally by some who felt that my candidacy for public office was an attempt for higher office. I love community service and Desert Hot Springs, even with all its problems and challenges to become a viable community.

Every city resident who runs for a city office should be applauded for their efforts to be an active participant to improve our city. Being older now and somewhat wiser than a few years ago, I believe such personal attacks will do me little harm.

It's time to appreciate the positive dialogue the residents received on the issues facing the city and continue working together to make Desert Hot Springs the pristine city our forefathers predicted it to be.

Adam Sanchez
Desert Hot Springs

What a joke

My fiancéé - 27 year old, slim, and in excellent health - was denied health insurance by Blue Cross because of the presence of the HPV virus.

The American Journal of Medicine has documented that 74 percent of women - and by age 50, 80 percent - are infected with this virus. In the age group of 15-49, only one in four do not have the virus and 80 percent of these women were infected from four or less sexual partners. In 90 percent of women, the infection goes away on its own, is undetectable after two years and only in rare cases does it develop into cervical cancer.

Tell me again that we do not need universal health care like every other industrialized country in the world, and that a for-profit corporation does not prejudice against the slightest possibility of a liability on its balance sheet.

I am sick of hearing uninformed and unread Americans say we do not want socialistic health care like the Canadians or Europeans, systems delivered at almost half the cost of ours. In my worldwide travels with dozens of business and friendship associations, I have yet to hear a complaint about their health care but do hear their laughter and shock at hearing these ignorant American statements ring constantly.

George Carson

Palm Desert

Setting record straight

The Nov. 8 article, "HIV/AIDS hits Native American tribes hard," is not factual. The Centers for Disease Control estimates their HIV incidence at .5 percent or 195 infected individuals in a population of 4 million.

The National Center for Health Statistics ranks HIV/AIDS 18th as a cause of death in their communities, killing only 64 compared to over 2,000 deaths from cancer. Cardiovascular disease and diabetes killed 10 times more than HIV/AIDS. The Nov. 9 article, "Soiree sets the tone for annual AIDS conference," quotes Clayton Barbour as saying, "Everyone is at risk (from AIDS)." That statement is grossly misleading.

The CDC reports that in the 33 states that report to the government, 85 percent of male HIV/AIDS cases are as a result of male-to-male sexual contact and/or injection drug use, 15 percent are from heterosexuals having sex with individuals known to have or be at high risk for HIV infection.

In women, 99 percent of the cases are from injection drug use and/or having sex with individuals known to have, or be at high risk, for HIV infection. A heterosexual not injecting drugs and not having sex with someone with HIV has zero risk of being infected with HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Richard Darling, DDS President and CEO, The FAIR Foundation

Palm Desert

What a waste

A not-so-hidden cost of our intense focus on the tragic war in Iraq is our failure to take any substantive steps toward dealing with global warming and concomitant inattention to such immediate problems as drought and the rapid lowering of our drinking water aquifers all over the country - a prime example being the southeast and southwest U.S.

We are spending ourselves into massive debt and apparently have insufficient reserves to deal with problems here at home such as water, sewage, pollution, aging highways, bridges, schools, law enforcement, etc.

The great George Bernard Shaw once noted, "A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on having the support of Paul." In this case, I would suppose Paul would seem to be military contractors, petrochemical companies and the pharmaceutical industry.

In any case, we would be well advised to do something about our outrageous water consumption while we still can. I guess I might get more support for this suggestion than my equally sincere belief we should end the senseless war in Iraq and avoid another with Iran.

Marguerite Fuller

Indio

Another view

When I was a small child, I was fascinated that I could pull on the end of yarn and begin to unravel a whole sweater that was being knitted (my mother stopped me). More than 70 years later, I would like to begin to tug on a six-year-old yarn.

Fact: Many people believe the World Trade Center Building 7 was brought down in a classic

controlled explosive demolition at 5:20 p.m. on Sept. 11, collapsing into its own footprint. It took less than 10 seconds.

Fact: The 9/11 commission report makes no mention of this.

Fact: It takes several weeks for a skilled demolition crew to set and wire explosives for such an event.

Fact: The north and south towers fell in like manner, requiring nine and 10 seconds, respectively. I have never read any attempt by government or media experts to explain this curious phenomenon.

Albert D. Fuller
Palm Desert

We need help

Regarding the Nov. 17 article, "Climate change 'instant guide' draft approved."

It is interesting to me how the man-made global warming crowd always leaves out the supporting facts. Why? Because the facts don't support their claims. Proclamations are not facts. They are alarming and useless.

Consider these facts. The Earth has cycled through three major Ice Ages in the last 100,000 years; the last one ended 15,000 years ago. Human populations have increased during each warm period and decreased dramatically when cold. During the last major glaciation, half of the Northern Hemisphere was covered with ice. The sea level was 300 feet lower than now.

There was a mini Ice Age from 1350-1850 A.D. This is the period of time that the great famines and plagues of Europe occurred. Prior to this it was significantly warmer. The Vikings were in Greenland farming in 1100 A.D. No one is farming there now as it is too freaking cold.

All these things happened before coal was our major heating fuel and SUV's roamed the Earth. Should we conserve oil and find ways to clean our air? Yes. Are China and India going to help? No. Does Al Gore have a clue? Sorry, dumb question.

Leolin T. Brush
Palm Desert

Is Al crazy?

Crazy Gore, wayward clergy and lying politicians proselytize that human-made mechanical gas emitters cause warming and ignore the fact that all living creatures have gas-emitting respiratory and digestive systems.

For example, fish expel 14 pounds of carbon dioxide for every 10 pounds of oxygen they use. Yearly, each ruminant animal exhales thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide and flatulently expels hundreds of pounds of methane. Since environmentalists banned clearing forests' dead wood, flatulent termites have dramatically raised their yearly methane explosions to 200 billion pounds.

Most importantly, there are 6.6 billion gaseous humans who raise, nurture and protect multibillions of other gaseous creatures for sustenance, comfort and ecological balance.

Kyoto's 5 percent carbon dioxide reduction, from 1990 levels, is pure folly. In 1990, there were only 5.3 billion humans. In 2012, there will be 8 billion humans exhaling 8 trillion pounds of carbon dioxide a year. With this whopping increase, will crazy Al propose a "Soylent Green" solution?

Before converting to Algoreism, answer this question: Who or what made all the live gas-emitters?

Donald T. MacEwan
Palm Springs

Pumping it up

All too many local publications, including Palm Springs Life Magazine and the Desert Guide, keep mentioning the eight great desert cities. Considering Coachella is predicted to be the largest city in the Coachella Valley, I think we need to make the number nine great desert cities.

I am developing Los Suenos (The Dreams), a gated community of 137 homes in the city of Coachella, and I think it's about time that city is given equal billing with Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Indio, La Quinta, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells and Cathedral City.

Lorin Dreyfuss
Managing partner, Flatbush Development
Rancho Mirage
