



November 20, 2009

Your views: Letters to the editor

Don't let mortgage perpetrators make rules

The recent editorial, "Sunshine State scams," about mortgage fraud, contained words dealing with such things as mortgage debacle, ethics and cowardly Republicans and Democrats in Congress opposing tough Wall Street reforms.

In the 1990s, I was on the board of directors of a U.S. financial institution regulated by the federal government. The regulators encouraged us to make loans to those who would not have previously qualified for home mortgage loans.

We knew these regulators were repeating this with all regulated mortgage banks. We declined. Others did not. The predicted catastrophe occurred. Surprised?

The editorial encourages our citizens to support new action by those same people who facilitated the debacle from the beginning, a debacle followed by cries of the sky is falling by the fox-in-the-hen-house perpetrators.

Be wary of Greeks bearing gifts and those supporting them.

Thomas Leithauser

Titusville

Feral cat article aims 'to stir up' public

I don't understand why Thursday's column, "Caregivers liable for actions of feral cats," by Watchdog Editor Matt Reed was printed in FLORIDA TODAY.

As far as I'm concerned, it was to stir up the public. People who feed, spay and neuter feral cats should be rewarded and complimented.

These poor animals are dropped off, dumped by their owners because they don't want them anymore and left to fend for themselves. That is the cruelest thing anyone can ever do.

If no one takes care of them, they will die of starvation. Is killing them better than caring for them?

If Reed is going to print something in your paper, then print how good it is that people care.

I know of many people who feed feral cats every single day; these cats are spayed and neutered.

Unfortunately, many of these people can't take the cats home as they have birds, or for other reasons, but the point is to give credit where it's due and please stop getting the public in an uproar, as many will stop feeding them and all these poor, innocent animals will die.

Thank God for people who care!

Lynn Csikortos

Melbourne

Commissioners unwisely spend tax dollars

Overwhelming evidence indicates a dramatic reduction in revenue for Brevard County in the coming years, yet three of five county commissioners continue to act as though we are living in the high-flying days of the real-estate bubble.

Commissioners Mary Bolin, Robin Fisher and Chuck Nelson voted Tuesday to extend a contract with AT&T that expires in August 2010 for an additional three years at a cost of \$3.2 million per year without going to bid, and in spite of competing vendors showing they could save the county between 40 and 70 percent on some of the services AT&T was providing.

This unnecessary and lengthy contract extension means the county is now frozen as is in regards to its voice and data network, with no possibility of change for the next four years — a lifetime in the realm of technology.

The county's existing phone system is obsolete, its manufacturer bankrupt and third-party industry data indicates the county could have saved between \$1 and \$2 million per year by implementing newer technology — savings that would have paid for the new system in less than two years.

Commissioners Bolin and Nelson — alleged fiscal conservatives — are squandering your tax dollars with a smile.

Matt Nye

**District 4 Republican candidate
Brevard County Commission
Melbourne**

Form exit strategy for troops in Afghanistan

Because American soil, since 9/11, has not been spared from Muslim terrorists' acts, I support a change in continuing President George W. Bush's military strategy in Afghanistan, and oppose sending 40,000 additional troops.

Why? The hefty cost, the straining of our defenses, the corruption of U.S.-backed Afghan leadership and Gen. Stanley McChrystal's plan to put U.S. soldiers into Afghan units and increase our casualties.

The media have reported the Karzai regime benefits from the illegal drug trade, holds aid money and sells American arms to Taliban insurgents.

Surely, diplomats from Afghanistan's neighbors know we can't transform a corrupt regime into a legitimate government. Isn't it foolish to fight extremists the Karzai system won't?

Afghan and Pakistani Taliban insurgents cross national borders to unite against foreign occupiers.

As long as our uniformed troops and outsourced associates occupy Afghanistan, we will continue to sink deeper into an Asian quagmire.

Let's begin forming an exit strategy.

Merl Brightbill

Melbourne Beach

GOP strategists lead misinformation drive

Newspeak is flourishing here in the first decade of the 21st century. Wouldn't George Orwell be surprised that it is being used effectively, not by some communist regime, but by Republican strategists in the USA?

Clear skies and healthy forests were terms used for initiatives that gutted environmental protections.

The war against Iraq was referred to as the war on terror. Nonexistent weapons of mass destruction were a justification to go to war.

Efforts to pass meaningful health care reform have brought a new spate of newspeak. Terms used to frighten people are: death panels, government takeover and health care rationing.

Those words have nothing to do with any proposed health care reform bills, but if they cause confusion, health insurance companies can continue to make record profits while Americans continue to go bankrupt due to serious illness.

The strategists who scuttled health care reform in 1993 are leading the misinformation campaign. We cannot allow these tactics to work. Reform will benefit everyone: the uninsured, the underinsured, and the insured.

Let your senators and congressmen know newspeak is not working. Ask them to support meaningful health care reform.

H.E. Nathan

Indian Harbour Beach

Media should be better government watchdog

We are currently experiencing dramatic economic problems in our country as well as at the state and local level. Most of our governing bodies are running in the red.

How about running a list in the paper that shows a historical breakdown of government employee numbers and cost with a population comparison on the county, state and federal level? Say every two years going back 10 years and then every five years for an additional 20 years?

I am sure the numbers will be eye opening at best and more than likely shocking.

The news media is supposed to help protect us from an out-of-control, wasteful spending with no thought for the taxpayer government.

William Boggess

Merritt Island
