

Letters to the Editor

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Rescue racing greyhounds

Rescue racing greyhounds

Re the Dec. 2 story *Hollywood group works to save greyhounds*: Thank you for the lovely photos and this informative article.

Kudos to all involved at Hollydogs and Hollydogs Inn-Pet Hotel, and especially to Silvana and Sergio Cortella for their many years of tireless work rescuing, transporting, adopting and providing a sanctuary for greyhounds.

Greyhound racing is cruel and inhumane. Racing greyhounds endure lives of almost endless confinement in small, stacked wire cages. While racing, they suffer and die from injuries such as broken limbs, paralysis and cardiac arrest. The greyhounds are short-term investments, valued only as long as they generate a profit. Greyhounds' post-racing fate falls to devoted volunteer groups such as Hollydogs.

Dogs play an important role in our lives and deserve to be protected from individuals and industries that harm them.

I have adopted gentle, beloved greyhounds since 1997 and am a board member of GREY2K USA, a national nonprofit organization that works to end the cruelty of dog racing. For more information, visit www.grey2kusa.org.

CARYN WOOD, Gilbert, Ariz.

GOP plays politics

During almost all of the eight years of George W. Bush's presidency, Republicans continually accused Democrats of a lack of patriotism whenever they criticized the administration's foreign policy.

Now, with a Democratic president in the White House, the entire Senate Republican caucus, with the exception of Sen. Richard Lugar, refuses to vote on ratifying the START arms-control treaty.

North Korea and Iraq are the only other parties that don't think we should sign this important treaty. It looks like Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell really meant it when he said his No. 1 goal was to make President Obama a one-term president. Since when did party politics trump national security?

BETH A. RUBIN, Miami

How to save

Think of how much we could reduce government debt if we sold off government offices and rented them back. If government can't manage its money better, we'll have to consider this.

RUSS STABLEY, Fort Lauderdale

Greener pastures

I wonder how many of the sports writers and broadcasters in Cleveland who attacked LeBron James for leaving would consider an offer from The New York Times or one of the three major networks to relocate to New York City.

Their bags would be packed before their morning coffee was cold.

OSVALDO VALDES, Hollywood

Middle class imperiled

Middle-class taxpayers will pay for the tax deal between President Obama and the GOP. The deficit hole created by the deal will add to the existing economic problems in a big way.

The Deficit Commission, the GOP and the tea party will immediately talk deficit reduction next year. And guess who is going to pay for all of it, the middle class -- and politicians' whipping boys: Social Security and Medicare.

It would have been much better for the middle class to let the Bush tax cuts expire than what this new Obama/GOP deal is going to cost. Ruining the country for the 9.4 percent of the unemployed, while ignoring the rest of the economy, is the wrong thing to do.

JORGE AGUIAR, Doral

Protect Keys environment

The Miami Herald has done a fantastic job covering the Florida Keys. Reporter Cammy Clark's stories on the history of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park as well as a travel piece on Key Largo were exceptional.

I was also pleasantly surprised and pleased with the Dec. 6 editorial, *The real Florida a money maker*, about the state park system.

The editorial board hit it on the head -- Key Largo businesses are well aware of the importance of the environment to our local economy. We are attuned to preserving and protecting the very thing we all came here to enjoy.

JACKIE HARDER, president, Key Largo Chamber of Commerce, Key Largo

Flawed tax deal

President Obama agreed to a deal with the Republicans to extend the Bush tax cuts for the upper 2 percent of wealthy Americans so that the remaining 98 percent can keep a roof over their heads and food on their tables.

This is not a bipartisan deal -- it's blackmail, pure and simple. I wonder which planet the Republicans hail from, certainly not Earth.

CATHY MARGOSHES, Sunrise



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