

## Letters to the Editor

THE FRESNO BEE

Zoo must remain a cherished part of Valley's history. This summer I had the privilege of being a Volunteer Junior Counselor at the Chaffee Zoo. My job was to help monitor children who took part in the zoo camps held every summer. The camps, whose topics change each week, teach kids about animals, conservation and the environments in which they live.

It was a great experience for me to work with the children at the camps, and I also got to learn from the educators at the zoo as well.

Unfortunately, if Measure Z isn't passed, I won't get to make new memories with my fellow counselors and with the children, and learn more about myself while learning about animals.

The weeks I worked this summer meant as much as any vacation trip I took. Knowing that I was a part of the zoo and helping with something that has been a part of my earliest childhood memories was so fantastic that I know I will be coming back next year to do more volunteer work.

If I were old enough, I would vote "yes" on Measure Z. How could I not, knowing that every year thousands of people get to see tigers up close, stare into the eyes of an elephant and now feed a giraffe? I only hope that the people of Fresno County can realize that our zoo is a part of the history of the Valley and needs to be with us for years to come.

Catherine Litten  
Age 14

Clovis East High School

### **Do it right**

I disagree with people who feel the Chaffee Zoo area would suffer from expansion. Has anyone been to Disneyland lately? There is a right way of doing things.

Robert Romero  
Fresno

### **'Cures for the world'**

As a native Californian and citizen of the world, I would like to see Proposition 71 (Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative) pass on Nov. 2. Our family deals with debilitating diseases such as diabetes and multiple sclerosis. We know many others who deal with these and other ailments and who could be helped by this research.

California has many research facilities and universities where willing doctors and scientists are ready to develop cures for the world. This proposition would make California the global leader in stem cell therapies.

Using discarded days-old embryos to save living people seems so sensible, instead of just throwing away the potential for cures.

Yes, there is a monetary cost, but every research project needs funding and with the bond initiative there is potential savings on health care, which costs Califor-

nia and all of us billions. Stem cell research could help reduce some of this expense and would pay for itself in the next decade.

Let California step up to the challenge that the Bush administration feels is not important enough. Let's prove to the world that we are determined to close the stem cell research funding gap. Vote "yes" on Proposition 71 so we can see a brighter future for all of us.

Laura Lee Lindegren  
Fresno

### **'Kept in the dark'**

Why are we kept in the dark about what is going on in Iraq? Why has this administration limited information?

This has been one of the most secretive administrations in our history. Doesn't this administration owe it to us to keep us informed of what is going on? Is this not part of what we are fighting for to ensure our freedoms and way of life, and yet the administration has worked hard to keep the people in the dark?

It acts as if it is not accountable to the people, and that we do not have a "right" to know what is going on. It is dangerous when governments limit accountability to the people or work to keep citizens in the dark as this administration has.

We need to stop the partisanship and stand for what is right. We all as Americans and members of the democratic pro-

cess have a right to know what is going on. If this is a government of the people, for the people and by the people, then we must ask and receive the information we seek on Iraq.

Ahmad Bahrami  
Fresno

### **'Terrible price'**

I am opposed to our offensive -- in every sense -- war in Iraq but I esteem our brave soldiers. I read the California Advocate for the week ending Aug. 20 and discovered that a child of a co-worker had been seriously wounded in Iraq in June.

Specialist Chris Wafer was gravely wounded by mortar fire but, as mortars continued to fall, he carried a fallen comrade until help came to assist them both. How admirable, brave and dutiful, and how shameful that our government and media downplay the terrible price paid by failing to report this.

Why have The Bee and local television and radio ignored this story? Is it so that the sort of patriots who used influence to avoid such duty but condone this war can sleep without having to think of casualties?

Kurt Logan  
Fresno

### **'Not just numbers'**

In response to Jim Davis' article "Fresno garbage proposal tabled," Sept. 22: For more than 70 years, our city's waste collectors have literally been doing our dirty work. They wake up early every morning and do their duty without complaint. Now some Fresno City Council members are threatening their jobs by pursuing the privatization of a portion of Fresno's trash collection.

A big part of our council members' jobs is to make tough decisions and there are few that are tougher than this. But I would like to remind them that people like Bryan Lundin and his fellow city workers are

not just numbers on a ledger. They have families and they depend on the income that they receive from the city. When deciding their fate, think about the real impact that it will have on our community pride. Besides, the city's unemployment rate is high enough.

Michael Karbassi  
Fresno

### **Windmill dangers**

Your story on windmills (Sept. 13) wrongly implied that bird kills by wind turbines at Altamont Pass are less of a problem than at other wind farms. The story read: "the Altamont Pass turbines ... were responsible for fewer bird deaths than the national average. ... Still, the Center for Biological Diversity charged in a lawsuit filed this year that the Altamont Pass turbines kill more than 1,000 birds annually."

The discussion of electrocutions in the story also implies that they are a greater problem at Altamont than kills by wind turbines.

This is misleading. The issue at Altamont has not been just bird kills, but killing birds of prey, especially rare species such as golden eagles and burrowing owls. Wind turbine-caused raptor mortality is greater at Altamont than at any other wind farm in the world, based on numerous reports. The California Energy Commission recently published the most comprehensive study yet, "Developing Methods to Reduce Bird Mortality in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area." Based on extensive surveys over four years, the study concluded that turbines at Altamont are killing 1,766 to 4,721 birds each year, and 881 to 1,300 of those birds are raptors.

The Center for Biological Diversity filed suit against the largest wind power companies because the killing of up to 1,300 raptors each year, including up to 116 golden eagles and 380 burrowing owls annually, is blatantly illegal under state and federal wildlife laws and is a level of carnage and ecological impact unparal-

leled by any other wind farm in North America.

Jeff Miller  
Bay Area Wildlands Coordinator  
Center for Biological Diversity  
San Francisco

### **'Autry's next project'**

I know Fresno Mayor Alan Autry has been very busy. After all, he has singlehandedly rendered the Fresno City Council moot, set our family values on the straight and narrow, cleansed our souls and become the self-appointed puppet master of that pesky Fresno Unified School District board.

He seems to want to be thought of as the mayor of a successful metropolitan city. If this is true and he does wish to climb the political ladder, Mayor Autry's next project should be something to benefit everyone who visits our county seat. He should start by resurfacing Fresno's main streets.

Well-maintained streets make traffic move more smoothly, lessen emissions and ensure that drivers won't constantly be braking to avoid losing control on very rough roads. The freeways are dandy for north/south traffic. What we need are some decent east/west throughways. Shaw Avenue, with its ruts and washboards, is like an old wagon trail throwing vehicles from side to side. Belmont Avenue is just as bad. And Herndon Avenue is a rat maze of stop-and-go traffic, mostly stop.

Although this would not be nearly as dramatic as a combination prayer meeting and political rally in front of City Hall, it certainly would improve Fresno's image and make a trip around Fresno much more pleasurable for residents, tourists and people from outlying areas.

Jan Fanucchi  
Clovis