

Letters to the Editor: Recession not a time to pander on immigration

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Body

Recession not a time to pander on immigration

The president continues to reinterpret the law by ignoring Congress and his own statement in 2011, that he could **not** suspend deportation through executive order. That was then, from a president whose many pronouncements have unpredictable expiration dates.

We are reminded that we are a nation of immigrants whose definition becomes blurred when **immigration** laws are **not** enforced.

We are also a nation of laws, that is until President Obama decides otherwise, demonstrating his contempt for the rule of law.

The Obama administration is again **pandering** with its latest political move to bolster the president's re-election campaign by adding millions of illegal young workers to the legal workforce of Americans of all ages and veterans returning home.

But, where are those jobs?

The president prefers to create new crises, insisting on keeping his failed policies moving "Forward" to the point of creating the worst **recession** since the last depression.

U.S. presidents don't whine, they Lead!

Irene Lynch

San Ramon

What message was Obama trying to send?

President Obama recently awarded Dolores Huerta with a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Is he trying to showcase her as a role model for American women, or is he just letting everyone know that he appreciates that "birds of a feather flock together? I'll be very interested as to how your paper answers that question.

Ray Greer

Danville

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'Passionate' assertions win argument in end

While Mr. Entwistle (June 5) may have erred in flatly stating that the rant of his disdain was showing "boorish cynicism," it should be remembered that the rant in question was one of the most vacuous of the year. Most of the other comments, while occasionally florid, were dead-on.

Mr. Masuoka (June 18), properly brings Entwistle's writing style to attention, but then inexplicably misquotes him and President Obama.

The president never said that the wealthy had to give up their corporate jets. What he said was that tax subsidies for corporate jets should be just as much on the table as student loans and food stamps.

Masuoka then blows a huge puff of smoke when he claims that Obama would never admit that wealthy Americans (the president included) benefit more from the tax code than most of the rest of us. As a matter of fact, Obama has said exactly that. That is one of the reasons he wants to change it.

In sum, Entwistle's assertions, while "passionate and exquisite" (Masuoka's description), were more accurate than the less florid, but "condescending" and "ad nauseam" conjectures of Masuoka.

William Youngblood

Danville

Brown's tax hike really just for teachers

In a recent Wall Street Journal editorial it was pointed out that there is a "dirty little secret" surrounding Gov. Brown's proposed tax increase proposition.

Contrary to the governor's goal of using the revenue generated by the tax increase to improve education, the proceeds will instead go to the teachers union to fund pension and benefit plans.

Wouldn't it be nice if voters were given the real facts surrounding this proposition? Apparently, few if any dollars raised will be used to reduce class size, retain teachers or keep schools open. Can't help but wonder why the local media hasn't reported this information.

Charles Raymond Johnston

Alamo

Health care editorial hit nail on the head

I enjoyed Jeffrey Pfeffer's editorial about health care for all. He began with his argument about how many people died because the blood banks didn't want to spend money screening for the AIDS virus. The same is true for hepatitis C -- which appeared slightly before AIDS. Most of the hepatitis C came back to us from our wars in Southeast Asia; yet screening for hep C didn't happen for many years after it appeared. So there are millions of Americans walking around with hepatitis C who don't even know they have it.

There's an excellent film on the almost criminal lack of concern by the blood banks and government officials called "And the Band Played On." This was the period when Reagan defunded so many government agencies, including or especially those having to do with the health and welfare of the people. This wonderful film showed the struggle that the Centers for Disease Control went through trying to get funding or even to get officials to do anything at all about this disease. It's no wonder that so many people have contracted AIDS and hepatitis C.

Pfeffer is correct. We blatantly ignore the fact that many Americans are dying due to lack of health care or inadequate health care while throwing money and time at matters that do not improve the well-being of our citizens.

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Paulette Kenyon

Pleasanton

Budget hawks should look at nuke spending

As millions across this nation continue to suffer economic hardship, all levels of government are faced with budget shortfalls, often facing agonizing choices over which critical social, educational and economic support programs to cut.

Meanwhile shrill pundits decry "wasteful" government. Yet how many of these self-styled fiscal conservatives will take a whack at our bloated nuclear weapons budget?

From 2000 to 2012 the number of nuclear warheads in our stockpile decreased from 10,600 in 2000 to 4,700 today, a good thing. Nevertheless, the nuclear weapons budget went up, and this trend is projected to continue.

The current (FY2013) \$7.6 billion budget request amounts to \$1.7 million per warhead, nearly four **times** what we paid to maintain each warhead in the stockpile in 2000.

Physicist Robert Civiak, a former nuclear weapons program budget examiner, suggests that common-sense budget reductions of \$1.5 billion would bring us to 2000 spending levels (adjusted for inflation) yet keep the stockpile safe and reliable. <http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/FY2013BudgetAnalysis.pdf>). Ask Sens. Feinstein and Boxer and your U.S. representative to cut the real waste in government.

Stephanie Ericson

Dublin

Lab should monitor more for radiation

As summer approaches, I couldn't help but imagine myself lying by the pool side soaking up sun. I recently learned some disheartening news that makes me rethink this.

The Livermore Lab is responsible for a toxic groundwater plume, which extends to the community pool on Charlotte Way, which they plan to clean up soon. While I think this cleanup is a great thing, the ground has been tested and found to be contaminated with a radioactive element, plutonium.

As construction happens on a pipeline to clean the plume, there could be plutonium in the dust. Livermore Lab has so far ignored the idea of installing continuous air monitoring to detect radionuclides at the construction zone.

One microscopic particle of plutonium that is inhaled can damage cells, causing cancer and other illnesses. **Not** only will this pipeline be located near the pool, but also near an elementary school, apartment complexes occupied by children, and Big Trees Park.

Livermore Lab, I beg you to please rethink your stance on a continuous air monitoring system for radiation

Alison Forrest

Livermore

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