

LETTERS ARROGANT AMERICANS

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Body

ELEANOR K. Prager thinks a law should be passed requiring all immigrants to study English when they enter the country because she is beginning to feel like a foreigner in her native country (Letters, June 24).

I have experienced this self-righteous attitude lots of times over the years and would be willing to bet that she is one these people who, when traveling to a foreign country, expect the natives to accommodate her in English.

Americans are probably the laziest people on earth when it comes to learning a foreign language. I used to work for the U.S. military in Europe, as a German civilian, and was amazed how little interest most Americans showed in learning the native language, even though they usually were stationed there at least two years.

In fact, they were arrogant enough to expect the local shopkeepers to speak English and were rather indignant when they could not.

I honestly think that most immigrants try to learn English and shouldn't be put down by people who probably never even tried to learn another language and have no appreciation of the difficulty involved, especially for an older person.

- Gisela Frehe

Sunnyvale

PHONY FLAG DISPLAY

I HAVE always been irritated when I see the flag flying outside a car dealership or a fast food joint. I believe this is more an attention-getting ploy than a display of patriotism. Convention holds that the flag either be taken down during darkness or properly illuminated. I have observed that at many establishments it flies day and night, rain or shine, and sometimes in tatters.

On June 26 President Clinton ordered that the flag be flown at half-staff for four days starting June 27, in honor of those who died during the Dhahran bombing. At approximately 20 of the above mentioned establishments I observed only one flag flown at half-staff on June 27.

I feel that if these self-proclaimed patriots do not understand proper flag etiquette or do not choose to comply with a presidential order then they should not fly the flag at all - ever.

- Doug Ryan

Santa Clara

AUTISTIC KIDS NO THREAT

BEING the 14-year-old sister of a five-year-old autistic girl, I think the media have portrayed autistic children as harmful to others (News story, June 27).

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Having five years of experience with an autistic child, I will say they act differently and do different things, but my sister has never been a danger to others. The event that occurred is unusual and tragic, but it is extremely rare for an autistic child to harm others and the public needs to realize this.

- Katie Bohannon

Los Gatos

POINTLESS BASHING

FOR the past few years, dirt-digging Republicans have spent much of their time and energy trying to create a scandal big enough to bring down the Clinton administration. Unfortunately for them, the Republicans haven't been able to uncover the sort of big-time wrongdoings like Watergate or Iran-Contra.

So, finding the Democratic White House relatively clean, they've resorted to sniping at it on smaller issues like Whitewater, a small land deal in which the Clintons ended up losing money, or Hillary having an imaginary talk with Eleanor Roosevelt.

Leonard Larsen's Thursday column shows just how ridiculous the conservative attempt to smear Clinton has become (Commentary, June 27).

He says that a good example of what he claims is a White House "culture of lies" is a remark made by Clinton adviser George Stephanopoulos last month, in which Stephanopoulos told the folks in Craig Livingstone's hometown that Livingstone "did a terrific job." Since then Livingstone, who was a White House employee, has had to resign for suspected wrongdoing. So now conservative commentators like Larsen are claiming Stephanopoulos' remark was a lie and a coverup. What nonsense. Praising a co-worker to his family and friends is common politeness, not a lie.

It's about time Clinton-bashers stopped inventing frivolous accusations and started showing some concern for the good of this country.

- Jennifer L. Green

San Jose

SAVE THE JOSE THEATER

IF the San Jose City Council and developer James Fox want the facade of a downtown theater for a new multi-story apartment complex, I think they have erred in selecting the historic Jose Theater.

The Jose Theater is a living testament to the great entertainers of the early 1900s. Charlie Chaplin and Al Jolson graced that stage. We should preserve the beauty and legacy of our historic buildings. I suggest instead that Council members and Fox look at the facade of the new United Artists Pavilion Theater for their apartment complex. The Pavilion Theater is a dying testament to the mediocre politicians of the late 1900s. Pauly Shore and Charlie Sheen play to halls of seats almost as empty as the Jose Theater. The Council members should get one downtown city block done well before they decimate the historical value of another.

- Rocio Lovelace

Santa Clara

SUE THE LOTTERY

THE state Keno game is history.

It was ruled illegal by the State Supreme Court, even though the game has been played for several years with the knowledge of the State Lottery Commission. This was an illegal gambling enterprise.

The State Lottery Commission admits this by their defacto admission that the revenues were not projected into their forth coming budget.

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Being that this was a criminal conspiracy and an illegal game, the players of this game are entitled to their money back.

I certainly hope that a class action suit will be filed against the California State Lottery.

- Tom K. Sullivan
San Jose

Notes

Letters, E-mail & Faxes

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