

Arizona Daily Star®

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Published: 05.11.2008

Letters to the editor

Your letters count

Letters received in past week: 183

Letters published: 62

Hot issues: From May 3 to May 9, the Star received five letters opposed to Wal-Mart moving into the former Macy's building at El Con Mall (three supported). Eight letters writers were concerned about rising gas prices and three opposed the federal gas tax holiday (one approved).

To read tips on how to comment, visit us online at dailystar.com/opinion

Stop waiting for arena consensus

Re: the May 7 editorial "Don't settle for boring arena Downtown."

The City Council should reconsider the tortoise arena. What a striking view for people driving by and so highly indicative of the way the council reaches decisions.

How many projects have been scuttled after multiple study groups, task forces and committee meetings have discovered that it will be more expensive today than it was last year.

If we wait till we all agree on something, we will all be dead. Quit talking and do something.

Peter Offret

Retired driver, Tucson

Plan an arena we can be proud of

Re: the May 7 article "Council: Tortoise arena is dead."

I do hope that the City Council and the other heads involved in the arena are not going to sell Tucson short.

We need a modern and innovative arena that should seat around 12,000 people. Anything less is putting us back into a mediocre type of building, as what happened with the Tucson Convention Center.

I'm sure the citizens of our fine city and others using our entertainment centers would be willing to help us get the right type of building for a variety of uses. The city should push ahead with planning a fantastic place and not another building with no luster. This is the City Council's chance to put Tucson in the limelight and not the murky haze of wondering what it did wrong.

William Kapfer Sr.

Tucson

Bill would make lenders liable

Re: the May 3 editorial "State should license mortgage loan originators."

I would like to thank the Star regarding the loan officer licensing issue. As a member of the Southern Arizona Mortgage Lenders Association (SAMLA), I am in favor of licensing and education requirements for originators. In fact, most of my colleagues in the industry support the proposed SB 1028.

I caution Senate President Tim Bee from allowing too much political compromise to get this bill to a vote. As

it stands SB 1028 is the culmination of multiple years of effort, crafted with the guidance of the Legislature, the Department of Financial Institutions and the lending industry.

To dilute it or make fundamental changes to gain the support of those senators angered by the proponents of the bill will weaken the law and provide for little consumer protection. This bill is good for the people of Arizona and deserves a chance to be voted on.

Tom Heath

Vice President of Advocacy, SAMLA, Tucson

Death troubles neighborhood

Re: the May 7 article "Woman found dead was shot, stabbed, official says."

I can't even begin to describe the shock this quiet, peaceful street suffered the day Edna Sue Phifer was discovered. We never think things like this can happen in our neighborhood. It's such an emotionally charged situation. On the one hand you want to know what happened but, on the other hand, reading this article and knowing what happened in that home across the street and a few houses down, is heart wrenching.

My heart absolutely aches for this family as do the hearts of the rest of my family and I'm sure the many friends and family members who obviously loved her deeply. The only comfort they have is she is in the loving arms of her heavenly father who is providing her the ultimate comfort and unending love.

I want them to know that people who didn't know Sue are praying for her and her family and grieve with them.

Pattie Johnson

Realtor, Tucson

Play areas are priceless

Re: the May 6 article "Accessible play areas."

As someone who has spent many years working with people of all ages who have physical as well as developmental challenges, I want to give a big thank you to everyone involved with the planning and building of accessible playgrounds in this area. The opportunities that you are creating for social interaction and community involvement are priceless.

A big thank you also goes to the Star for the list of accessible playgrounds that it provided. We all need a place to play. You've been a big help.

Linda Conrad

Adult Developmental Home provider, Tucson

Editor's note: The accessible playgrounds list is on StarNet at www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/237554.php

Global thinker's firm may benefit

Re: the May 4 opinion "Mishandling of pact bodes ill for U.S. trade" by Jim Kolbe.

The opinion by former Congressman Kolbe failed to include the information that the firm for which he is senior advisor, McLarty Associates, is more commonly known as Kissinger Associates or Kissinger McLarty Associates.

It is a firm that represents international clients, some of whom will directly benefit from the free trade agreement which Kolbe supports.

Les Porter

Retired, Tucson

Insensitive statements

Women voters should keep in mind a deep-seated meanness toward females as evidenced by Sen. John McCain. When asked by a woman voter in July as to "how can we beat that bitch?"(Hillary Clinton) he breezily replied, "That's an excellent question." Why he didn't gently reprimand the woman for such a sexist question is an obvious political slap at women.

And he said this about Chelsea Clinton in 1998, when she was only 19: "Why is Chelsea Clinton so ugly? Because Janet Reno is her father."

Unbelievable. No apology can wipe away his implicit disdain for women: One a vulnerable teenager, the other a viable woman candidate for president and the third an accomplished attorney general of the United States. Shame on you, senator.

Loraine Cariello

Tucson

Tucson's many poor drivers

Folks in cities typically claim that the drivers in their towns are the worst, without really meaning it or having a large enough data base for meaningful comparison.

Well, I think it may actually be true for Tucson, having lived in many different places in the United States and abroad, including Washington D.C., and Sydney, Australia.

There are places where drivers are aggressive (cultural vice), but tempered by a reasonable level of driving skill.

There are places where folks are polite, but lack the physical abilities to consistently and safely control their cars (training deficiency). Then there are segments of the driving populace that habitually break or bend traffic laws designed for safety (poor enforcement), but are otherwise skillful, reasonable drivers.

Tucson, however, seems to have a huge number of drivers who are simultaneously unskilled, aggressive, rude and stupid.

Kurt Tek

Military officer, Tucson

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