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- Business
- Weather
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- Obituaries
- Features
- Entertainment
- Elections
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- Community
- Photos
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## OPINION

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### Letters to the editor for Saturday, May 29, 2004

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May 29th, 2004

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### Support the U.S. effort

The war on terrorism is a virtual war. It has no battle lines. It is a conflict between people living by Western Judeo-Christian principles and those Muslims embracing a radical sect of the Islamic faith. A terrorist is just that, one who wants to inflict terror. They do not fear death and have no respect for the life of others. They own little property, are part of no visible governing body, have no formal military or political presence. They simply seek to disrupt political order in the world so as to create anxiety, havoc and fear among people in Western democracies.

At the moment, the unsettled conditions in Iraq have provided a venue for recruiting and training of terrorists. The U.S.-led coalition is trying to rally the millions of Iraqi people to rise up and say "enough, we want to live in peace." When they finally decide to do so, a free, self-governing Iraq will form and bring security and stability to its people and its neighbors. This is the laudable goal of our president, and our military forces and they need the support of all Americans for it to be achieved. Failure will be disastrous not only for Republicans but for Democrats too.

**Bud Brewer**  
La Quinta

### Don't applaud savagery

I wonder if Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe et al., in their outrage at our outrage, read American contract worker Thomas Hamill's statement concerning the quite humane treatment he received at the hands of his Iraqi captors. And despite the initial disgraceful spin concerning Jessica Lynch it was later proven that the treatment she received after her capture was fair and proper.

Just as not all Americans are as callous and brutal as those being accused today neither are all Muslims, Iraqis or people of any other country. Terrorists and criminals of whatever nationality or religion are uncivilized brutes and they and those who condone or ignore their horrifying conduct should be severely punished and ostracized from society at large. Shame on those who would even attempt to compare atrocities and make excuses.

To applaud savagery or even to accept or excuse brutality diminishes the very soul of humankind.

**Eleanor Jackson**  
Palm Springs

### Wake up sleepy people

So now the Bush administration can blame Ahmad Chalabi, whom we've given \$33 million to, and only two weeks ago stopped giving him \$320,000 a month, for the false information about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq that led to our invasion. Left out of this statement is the not-disputed fact that Bush wanted to go into Iraq from the second day in office, even before Sept. 11.

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It's very easy to fool someone who's searching for any reason to do something he wants to do anyway. It's my guess that Iraqi oil was on the table for discussion in those secret meetings that Dick Cheney had when developing our energy policy that the administration is so desperately trying to keep out of the public eye.

They are oil people, you know. Wake up sleepy people.

**James Quinn**  
Palm Desert

## Don't be short-sighted

I couldn't help but feel disappointed after reading the May 26 article "**Easing the teasing.**" As parents and taxpayers, we are all too willing to throw Band-Aids on the problem and spend an enormous amount of time, energy, and money on bullying remediation. Yet, rarely does anyone consider that we really need to focus on prevention.

Too many kids have been growing up without a basic level of civility and regard for others, and unfortunately we're reaping what we've sown.

As president and founder of The PoliteChild, I can tell you that when schools bring in programs that work specifically on kids' social skills, that teach the "whys" as well as the "what's" of good social behavior, the results are extraordinary. There is order and calm in the classroom and playgrounds, kids can focus on their lessons, and teachers are able to teach instead of referee. The school becomes a safe and happy place to learn.

It's time we stopped being so short-sighted and realized that an ounce of prevention is worth far more than than a pound of cure. Our kids, our schools, our teachers, and our community deserve it and will be far better because of it.

**Corinne Gregory**  
Palm Desert

## Let 'em marry

The California Supreme Court is considering whether the mayor of San Francisco overstepped his authority by issuing 20,000 same sex marriage licenses to gays and lesbians. Why is all this concern and foreboding running rampant with local, state and federal authorities? If two people, who both shave, want to tie the knot, let them. If two partners, with cleavage want to get hitched, more power to them.

Since more than 50 percent of traditional marriages -- between men and women -- end in divorce what are conservatives trying to protect? The so-called sanctity of marriage? Come on, more than half of marriages don't work.

If gay and lesbian partners want to join the rest of us in failed relationships that should be their right. If they want to experience the fun of divorce lawyers, splitting up property and paying alimony, God bless them. They pay taxes and should have the right to wake up one morning and discover that their mate makes them sick; that they hate everything about their partner and never want to see that person again. It's the American way.

Any fool who wants to get married should be allowed to.

**Arnold Kane**  
Cathedral City

## Praise for governor is premature

I read your editorial praising Gov. Schwarzenegger for cutting waste by eliminating the cushy political patronage jobs at many of the state's boards and commissions ("**Governor takes aim at wasteful spending,**" May 25). The governor may be thinking about cutting these boards and commissions, but for now he is happy to dole out these jobs to pay off friends.

Just last month, the governor gave one of those "cushy jobs that require little time and attention, but pay astronomical sums of money" to former Republican Senate candidate Rosario Marin after she lost to Bill Jones. With a salary of \$117,818, Marin isn't crying over her consolation prize.

Maybe you should wait for the governor to actually start doing what he says he's going to do before praising him. His message might resonate, but his actions appear to be nothing more than an endorsement of the status quo.

**Kurt Barrie**  
Palm Springs

## Sensitivity is misplaced

In your note to readers on the front page of Sunday's (May 23) edition, you explained your rationale for publishing the "Doonesbury" "head on a platter" comic strip. Your sensitivity to this issue is appreciated but misplaced.

Simply stated, "Doonesbury" is not a comic strip, it is and always has been a political cartoon with a dedicated political agenda. It belongs in the editorial section (if anywhere), allowing the comics to remain a section for readers of all ages to enjoy the humorous respite they seek.

**Ralph Ozorkiewicz**  
La Quinta

## You've got to be joking

You have got to be joking. The front page of the Local section today (May 26) shows an unwed couple having their fifth baby after drug abuse and jail? ("**Couple leave behind drug addiction to raise new baby**").

What about the other four children? Where are they? Who pays for them? Why are you glamorizing unmarried couples that bring yet another baby into this world? Can you be sure that this fifth child will be the "the lucky one?"

Then you have the photo of this woman half-naked on the bed after giving birth to her fifth child? Who would ever want anyone to see that? Please tell me you can find something more newsworthy than this. It makes me want to toss my breakfast and gag on my coffee.

**Danielle Marman**  
Palm Desert

## Prom story slights Palm Springs

As a Palm Springs resident for more than 30 years with children who attended Palm Springs High School, I was deeply disappointed for the current graduating class when I saw the extensive and singular coverage of Cathedral City High's prom.

My sincere congratulations to those students who deserved to have the coverage. I'm sure each of them felt the pride and excitement when their pictures and names appeared. Since Cathedral City was on the front page, I turned to the Local section expecting to see Palm Springs High School, but instead found several more large photos of Cathedral City. I can only imagine the "slight" and "wonder" that Palm Springs students must have felt.

All schools deserve to have their events mentioned more often, but particularly such a big occasion when they occurred on the same night. Nothing was mentioned or shown about Palm Springs High. As the only community newspaper in our town, I feel you have an obligation to give fair and equal coverage to all issues and especially to our younger citizens; many of whom give their time and efforts in so many ways to our city. They deserved better.

**Candy K. Weinper**  
Palm Springs

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