

Letters: 5/24



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Drivers have been given an extra advantage on those intersections where there is a "countdown" on the crosswalk light. Pay attention or pay the fine.

K.E. Rettler

Bradenton

How about trading Obama, armaments for Netanyahu

I'm watching the news, and President Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are on, and I am thinking how much Netanyahu looks, talks and acts like a strong leader. And Obama? Well, "leader" is not what comes to mind.

So, another thought comes to mind. Could we trade Obama to Israel for Netanyahu? Now I know the Israelis are smart and we recognize that is not a fair trade, so perhaps we could throw in a squadron of F-22s, a dozen nuclear warheads and a couple dozen cruise missiles to boot!

That should serve two purposes. We would be fair, and we could all perhaps get rid of Iran and Syria!

John A. Holcom

Bradenton

Letter rebutting another on Kochs is factually wrong

Kathy Solomon's May 22 letter begs response. While attempting to rebut an earlier letter from James Frazier regarding Koch Industries' sway over U.S. energy policy and its co-opting of the tea party, the near entirety of her own response is factually inaccurate.

The unending demonization of George Soros from the right attempts to drive the debate away from the Koch brothers into mere obfuscation. Ms. Solomon derides Soros as an "uber-wealthy leftist." According to Forbes, his 2011 net worth is \$14.5 billion; however, that of David and Charles Koch is \$22 billion each. Further, their contributions to their own pet projects dwarf that of Soros to his (source: the nonpartisan factcheck.org).

Solomon maintains Mr. Frazier "incorrectly stated (the Cato Institute, Americans for Prosperity ... and FreedomWorks) were all created and primary funded by the Koch Brothers [sic]." In fact, Charles Koch co-founded the Cato Institute in 1977, while David Koch founded Citizens for a Sound Economy, which in 2004 separated into Americans for Prosperity and FreedomWorks, both under his auspices.

Further, Solomon writes that Soros is "the founder of The Open Society, The Tides Foundation and Move-on.org [sic]." The Open Society Foundation, in conjunction with the Soros Foundation Network, promotes "human rights, justice and accountability" (is this supposed to be a bad thing?); meanwhile, the Tides Foundation is actually a nonprofit organization founded by Drummond Pike in 1977; and finally, MoveOn.org is a nonprofit formed in 1998 by Joan Blades and Wes Boyd in response to the Clinton impeachment hearings.

Frazier's original point was that Koch Industries have a stranglehold around oil and coal lobbyists and are therefore instrumental in dictating U.S. energy and economic policy. To pretend otherwise is folly. If Ms. Solomon were to do at least a modicum of research, perhaps her opinions would carry more weight.

Lance Abbring

Bradenton

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