

art to *Fear Factor*, and that the *Chronicle* would subject all of Austin to it.

What a bratty, unnecessary, and not at all insightful reprimand to local artists who are simply making a living doing what they are passionate about. Yuck, and shame on you for having any part in that empty, useless rant.

Sarah Rabe

This Is Not Compassion!

Dear Editor,

Re: Crisis pregnancy centers ["Having Your Baby," News, Aug. 4]: Where is the compassion? These people are supposed to be offering a public service to women/couples in crisis. Instead, those seeking help receive faulty information from automatons parroting their programmed script. At least robots have an excuse – they don't have hearts. There is no room for judgmental, crystallized thinkers when dealing with the public's private matters. What is needed is a good listener with an open heart who operates in truth and provides accurate information to empower others to make their own decisions. This is compassionate care.

Sylvia Acuna
Los Angeles

Defending Documentary

Dear *Chronicle* Editor,

I would like to comment on Marjorie Baumgarten's review of Aaron Russo's documentary *America: From Freedom to Fascism* [Film Listings, July 28]. Marjorie does a disservice to readers, as well as to the tax-honesty movement by mischaracterizing Russo's argument as being based on the lack of ratification of the 16th

Amendment. Aaron touches on this fact (check it out ...) as one of many examples of how the federal government will lie to the public to line its pocket. In the film there are several conspicuous Supreme Court case sites that confirm that the 16th Amendment "confers no new taxing authority" to the federal government. Ratification is irrelevant to the issue of income tax. The ratification issue is now promulgated as a straw man that is easily knocked down. It serves to cloud the issue instead of to clarify the facts.

The fact is the income tax as written does not apply to the income of most Americans working in the 50 states. It is only applicable if he requests that his "income" be treated as taxable. This erroneous confession is typically perceived as a requirement for employment as it is presented as such by uninformed employers. This confession is in law voluntary, hence their term "voluntary compliance." It is unfortunate that the reality of this voluntarism is reinforced by ignorant and vindictive agents, backed by corrupt judges, and executed by morons with guns and shackles.

In what is left of our country, war is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is strength. Our ignorance is the strength of the state. It is time for this ignorance to end. I applaud Aaron Russo for his effort in this matter because "expecting to be ignorant and free is to expect what never was and can never be."

Brian Jurek

Strayhorn Cover Too Much!

Dear Editor,

You know, I tried to see your side of things when the cover was a picture of a woman in gynecologist's stirrups with a Bible between her legs ["The New Texas Family Planning," News, Jan. 27]. I could understand the point of putting euthanized animals on the cover ["What

Happened to the No-Kill Millennium?," News, Nov. 18, 2005]. But the latest image really went too far ["She's Her Own Grandma," News, July 28]. And as if McClellan (or whatever her name is now) herself wasn't enough, she's holding two children, one wearing a T-shirt with her Web address on it ... just thinking about it makes me a little sick.

She wasn't my mayor then, back when the destruction of Barton Creek began. She isn't my "Grandma" now – never was, never will be. (Perhaps your cover should have shown her with two airport baggage handlers; I read in another local publication that she claims baggage handlers at airports call her "Grandma.") And she will never be my governor. I hope she'll never be the governor of any Texan.

Please, keep in mind that your publication is distributed in restaurants, coffee shops, and other places that serve food. It's difficult to look at that cover without feeling revulsion. Seriously, look at it and think of who she is, what she's done, and how she's posing in that photo. If that's not enough to make you lose your appetite, I don't know what is.

Please, bring back the stirrups and dead kitties.

Sincerely,
Mary Dallas

Upset by Anti-Israel Screeed

Dear Editor,

I am very disappointed you published Michael Ventura's anti-Israel screeed in the Aug. 4 edition ["Letters @ 3am"].

It is one thing to question the logic of Israel's recent actions but quite another to assert that "the greatest danger to Israel, in the long term, is its dependence on the United States."

Actually, Michael, the greatest threat to Israel are states such as Iran and Syria and terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas

that are committed to killing every Jew and wiping Israel off the map.

One would have to be living in an alternate universe (or writing articles while stoned at 3am) to believe that the Israeli-American alliance poses a greater threat to Israel than, say, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's belief that Israel "is a fake regime [that] cannot not logically continue to live" (Associated Press, April 24) and his country's continued efforts to obtain nuclear weapons.

The Israel-American alliance has been very beneficial to both countries and is more important than ever in our post-September 11 world.

The present situation in Lebanon was caused by a terrorist group (supported by governments) crossing over established international borders and kidnapping Israeli soldiers. I would love to see the reaction in this country if a Mexican terrorist group crossed the Texas border and kidnapped a few U.S. soldiers. Does Mr. Ventura think we would – or should – simply sit back and not respond to such a brazen act? And what if this Mexican group then started shooting rockets at El Paso? Would we just take it and not respond? Of course not.

But for some reason, writers like Mr. Ventura hold Israel to a higher standard and use this incident to implicitly suggest that the United States should abandon the only democratic and free society in the Middle East.

As has been observed before, if all the Arab states and terrorist groups put down their weapons, there would be peace. If Israel put down her weapons, she would no longer exist.

That is the reality of the situation and the reason that Israel must defend herself at all times.

Sincerely,
Adam Loewy

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