

COMMENT

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Editorial

Casa program on organ donations fills a need for information

It's definitely one of the most personal decisions anyone can make and its a difficult decision, especially in light of recent publicity about the commercialization and increasing corruption in the field of organ donation.

There have been many recent scandals in this field. UCLA, for example, suspended its willed body program last year, after the director of the program was arrested on suspicion of trafficking in body parts.

Tulane University was sued after it transferred bodies to a middleman who then sold them to the

Army for land-mine experiments.

Many people in Green Valley have told us they would like to become an organ donor, but don't know how to go about it and fear that their wishes and the wishes of their family members won't be carried out.

The reasons people want to become organ donors vary, but for many they center on promoting learning, medical training for paramedics and doctors, and medical research, such as studies that will unlock the mystery of cancer; Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, MS,

arthritis and Parkinson's.

Those concerned about organ donation care deeply about leaving a legacy of hope for the next generation and saving the lives of those in desperate need of an organ donation.

To shed light on this complex, controversial subject, Casa de Esperanza has scheduled a program on "Anatomical Donation—The Legacy of a Lifetime" on Thursday, July 27, at 11 a.m. at Casa's Community Center, 780 S. Park Ave. on the La Posada campus in Green Valley. The presentation will be made by

Michele Blevins of LifeLegacy, a federally approved, non-profit research organ and tissue bank which provides no-cost anatomical donations for research. The foundation is based in Tucson.

Blevins will be speaking with interested community members about the advantages that research-designated, anatomical donations provide medical science, donors and their families.

The foundation has been operating with an impeccable record since its inception in 1997 and works with Yale, Johns Hopkins, Duke and Har-

vard universities, as well as major medical centers and institutes throughout the nation.

LifeLegacy Foundation is the first 501 (c) (3) nonprofit research tissue bank in the United States to receive accreditation from the American Association of Tissue Banks.

Its mission is to ensure the continued advancement of scientific research and medical education.

If you wish to learn more about organ donation, come to the meeting on Thursday or call Cynthia Fletcher at 625-2273 for more information.

Letters to the Editor

Stem cell research

Editor:

It is hard to understand, in this age of enlightenment, why some folks balk when it comes to using stem cells for research that could profoundly affect the quality, even the continuation of life itself for suffering millions.

Yet Arizona's Sen. Jon Kyl has long opposed government participation in this important scientific inquiry for reasons that appear to be politically expedient, masking as moral superiority.

Are we still under the spell of the archaic belief that human suffering pays spiritual dividends? Such an ideologically rigid stance can hardly reflect the humanitarian objectives and the majority opinion of a generous and caring American public.

There was an opportunity for Sen. Kyl to correct his past mistakes by supporting HR810, a measure that would change the direction of governmental participation in stem cell research. His failure to do so should move our conscience to replace him with a senator who is willing to remove the barriers to this vital endeavor. His opponent in November's upcoming election, Jim Pederson, has pledged to do just that.

Doris A. Eiland
Green Valley

Can the Dems win?

Editor:

In analyzing the GOP's huge success in 1994, Mark Shields skipped over a key factor in the Democrats' defeat. The disastrous first two years of the Clintons' presidency. From Bill's trying to ram Gays in the Military down Congress' and the Joint Chiefs of Staff's throats, to Hillary's socialized medicine, it was a shaky start for the "Two for the Price of One" duo. Hillary got angry, and is still angry today.

But Bill, ever the astute politician, went with the prevailing winds, and moved quickly to the center; which infuriated the radicals in his camp, but made for a fairly successful six years, driving the Republicans nuts by hijacking their programs.

He still gets credit for welfare reform, which is pretty funny. I do wish Clinton had better heeded the growing Islamic threat, but, other than sending Jimmy Carter off to make symbolic treaties and supervise crooked elections, the Dems aren't expected to do international stuff well.

Well, Bill was good at photo ops and unratified treaties, but internal social issues are his guys' bag. In '94 the Republicans had their

Contract with America and some ideas. The Dems had better get a game plan going if they want to have a 1994.

Scott Anderson
Green Valley

A few other numbers

Editor:

I would like to thank Mr. Meinert for his interest in my letter to the editor of June 25. I was not, however, quoting Mr. Snow and his calused remarks of 2,500 KIA as a "number" or a "benchmark."

Let's discuss a few other numbers this administration is not assuming accountability for:

- the "number" of jobs lost to outsourcing;
- the "number" of Iraqis killed in this conflict;
- the "number" of our national debt;
- the "number" of illegals in our country;
- the "number" of soldiers maimed and crippled;
- the "number" Halliburton has made off this war;
- the "number" of dollars unaccounted for intended for Katrina victims;
- the "number" of U.S. citizens working for wages that put them at poverty levels.

I could go on and on, but there are always people who consider these "numbers" as just that: "Just numbers." I am still standing on my feet, Mr. Meinert, and I have no argument with the quotes of Clinton and Kerry. You sure stated your position loud and clear. Seems you jumped like a dog on a porkchop bone to find an excuse to sound off. Hopefully, November is going to be a benchmark with some numbers also.

Trish Rodemeyer
Green Valley

Such vandalism

Editor:

I had a very sad experience today. Coming out of Desert Eye after my exam, I saw this lady walking around her car in total awe. Not knowing if she had a problem I could help with, I stopped and inquired. I gave her my card, although I hadn't seen the act. But having been a victim several years ago, I totally understood her plight.

What I saw was a deplorable action by some crazy person while she was in the building – she had a deep scratch from rear to front on the right side of her upscale Lexus – it was obviously "keyed!"

What mentality does such a thing? And I

have heard of this several times throughout Green Valley in the last few weeks.

Yes, she will "only" have to pay the deductible on her insurance, usually \$200-\$500, but it will cost her insurance company \$1,000 or more to repair the scratch and match the difficult paints of today, which usually requires a re-painting of the whole section(s) affected. But these types of claims go into a pool which raises all of our rates to handle such absolute vandalism!

I hope people caught in the act will be reported to the sheriff.

Jane Horton-Leasman
Green Valley

The anti-American U.N.

Editor:

I refer to the recent report in the John Birch Society Bulletin quoting a report by National Rifle Association Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre warning about a new U.N. treaty that would ban all civilian gun ownership.

The NRA has reported that U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan will preside over a gathering of the world body's delegates to begin work on creating a treaty designed to give the U.N. power to ban civilian ownership of all firearms.

Those in attendance at this meeting, stated LaPierre, will include representatives of "nearly 50 dictatorships, six terrorist states, governments that endorse execution based on religious faith, and a multitude of other nations from around the world."

LaPierre added that the gathering is funded in part by U.S. tax dollars and held on U.S. soil. We should remember also that the founding of our nation, of course, would not have endured if the American people were not armed.

We should go to www.getusout.org or call 1-800-JBS-USA-1 and get the petition to get out of the U.N. NOW, before we descend into the U.N. abyss of no return.

Larry Hamblin
Hesperia, Calif.

West Desert Preserve gaining support

Editor:

On April 20th, we wrote to this newspaper regarding the status of the local homeowner associations supporting the West Desert Preserve. At that time, 16 HOAs supported the initiative to create a 2,000-acre preserve west of

Green Valley for recreational use.

As of July 20, another 19 HOAs have sent letters of support to Pima County authorities bringing the total count to 35 HOAs. These 35 HOAs represent 5,686 homes in Green Valley or 37.3 percent of our community. Thank you to these 35 homeowner associations for their encouragement. We also thank Dick Roberts, president of GVCCC, for requesting support of both county and state representatives for assistance on this project.

The effort to save the West Desert Preserve has been highly effective in gaining attention including that of the state of Arizona. Just last month, no trespassing signs were posted at familiar entrances to this land by the Arizona State Land Department.

Individuals wishing to use the West Desert Preserve now need to pay a one-year permit fee of \$15. Family permits cost \$20 and group event permits cost \$50. The Committee to Save the West Desert Preserve urges all Green Valley residents who seek access to the West Desert Preserve to work with the state and pay for permits until a long-term solution has been achieved.

In less than five months our efforts have brought this project to a head. Our next step is to find a permanent resolution that gives the people of Green Valley what they deserve: their own county park. If walking, running, exercising pets, hiking, bicycling and enjoying nature is part of your everyday life in Green Valley, we need to secure these 2,000 acres for this purpose before all our land is developed.

Please write your elected county officials particularly Ray Carroll, Pima County Board of Supervisors and Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County administrator, asking for their help. Also talk to your own homeowner's association president and ask if he or she has endorsed our project. If you need more information, please contact me at 648-7352, Paul Reiser at 625-4480, or Bill Adamson at 648-6340.

Bud Haynes
Green Valley

Deliberate subterfuge

Editor:

Kyl and his cronies must go! A U.S. senator who engages in deliberate subterfuge aimed at deceiving the Supreme Court must go! A U.S. senator who is deaf and blind to the needs and concerns of the citizens of his home state and who marches in lock-step to the loony tunes of George W. Bush must go! Time for a change. John McCain deserves a thinking fellow senator. I'm voting for Jim Pederson in November.

Norm Koehler
Tucson

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which should not exceed 700 words. Writers of commentaries may submit an accompanying photo and brief biographical information. The News also retains the right to reject any

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