

LETTERS

launching manned space vehicles to the moon, can we not discover an alternative to oil to heat our homes, fuel our cars and afford us the independence we as Americans so justly deserve?

Finally, taken from one of our most historic documents, and seriously considering the ability of our current politicians, is it truly a *government for the people* after all?

Robert F. McKendrew, St. Petersburg

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Have the Supreme Council of the United Nations get together with the Iraqi government to establish a neutral "Kuwait," governed equally and fairly by the two factions. Have its control, maintenance, expenses and profits shared alike. It's better than a senseless devastating war that will resolve nothing. Outside a guardian force, bring our boys home for Christmas.

Paul Lentzen, St. Petersburg

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In 1981, some planes from the Israeli air force bombed the Iraqi facility that was being built to make atom bombs. The raid was very successful, and for the next few years the Iraqi capacity to make atom bombs was completely ruined. Can you imagine what Saddam Hussein would be doing now, if he had a few atom bombs as weapons at his command?

In 1981, all the so-called civilized nations condemned Israel's attack on the atom bomb making facility. Isn't it time that all of those nations thank Israel for what it did in 1981, and apologize for their earlier condemnation?

Or is the hatred of the Jews so great that a simple "Thank you" cannot be uttered? Why is it that all of the newspaper columnists and editorial writers ignore Israel's contribution?

A. W. Goodman, Tampa

Book review brings comment

In his Feb. 25 review of *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*, Daryl Frazell stated that Ed Walters' UFO photographs "appear to defy debunking." The recent discovery of a model UFO hidden in the attic of Walters' former home has provided further reason to accept the already persuasive "double exposure" explanation, of which Frazell had been unaware.

This time, in his Sept. 30 review of another UFO book being dubiously marketed as "non-fiction," Howard Blum's *Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials*, Frazell perceptively notes that although the author "insists he has verified everything through extensive interviews and research, the reader has nothing to go on but his word." Frazell is obviously unaware, however, that Blum's "word" has been rendered highly suspect by Philip J. Klass, the acclaimed aerospace journalist and author of many skeptical works on UFOs. In his Sept. 2 *Los Angeles Times* book review article, Klass details

how his own research reveals many of Blum's crucial "facts" to be incorrect (some being outright impossible), and two of Blum's main characters to be non-existent.

Frazell correctly points out that "Blum adds bulk to his book" by discussing the real, scientific efforts "to find extraterrestrial life by listening for radio signals from space." But the very fact that this highly-publicized, expensive and exhaustive "SETI" program continues further undermines the premise of Blum's remarkably off-based best-seller which, as Frazell accurately summarizes, "brings the reader no closer to understanding what may or may not be out there."

Gary P. Posner, M.D., Founder,
Tampa Bay Skeptics, St. Petersburg

Highway vigilantes

Re: Bill Adair's *Highway vigilantes are told to back off*, Sept. 23.

I think Bill and about 90 percent of the people driving in the state of Florida need to take a refresher course in driver's ed; basic rule — drive in right lane and pass in left lane.

I, too, was trapped in the right lane behind an old clunker, smoking so badly it choked me, and driving 10-15 mph below the speed limit. A tourist driving a rental Cadillac boxed me in all the way down Ulmerton, so I couldn't pass.

I can see why people get so angry and shoot at these jerks. Bill was lucky — don't want to wish him any bad luck, but he better be more considerate of his fellow drivers and leave the policing to the authorities and stay out of the passing lane.

Bud Hamilough, Clearwater

Anger misdirected

Re: *Scouts lose funds over "God and country" oath*, Sept. 22.

This article described a decision of a small United Way in Genoa, Ill. to stop funding a Boy Scout council in Illinois because the Boy Scout oath of "duty to God and country" discriminates against atheists.

Many citizens have called the Boy Scout office and the United Way office to support the Scout oath and to condemn the United Way. As scout executive for the West Central Florida Council, I appreciate the support for the values we teach in scouting; however, I am concerned that their anger is misdirected.

This was an isolated instance in another state. Our local United Way has been very supportive of our Boy Scout council and is our largest contributor. I personally believe in United Way and intend to increase my support to it this year. Our staff and most of our executive board also give to United Way.

The United Way in Genoa, Ill. stubbed its toe and