

9/21/11

LETTER OF THE DAY

Mr. Krabs is Republican

So the cartoon SpongeBob is bad for our children ("SpongeBob takes heat," TBO.com, Sept. 12). I'm not surprised. The characters are all Democrats.

SpongeBob has no ambition beyond fry cook. Patrick wears surfer trunks. Squidward is a constant complainer. Sandy Cheeks left Texas for Bikini Bottom (where's the top!?). Only Mr. Krabs is a Republican, obsessed with money to the point of exploiting his workers.

I say we teach our children the right lesson and give Mr. Krabs another tax break.

JACK REED
PALM HARBOR

Scoring political point

As a female physician and researcher, I was shocked when I heard Congresswoman Michele Bachmann make that false comment about the HPV vaccine just to score a political point.

Not only did she have no evidence but also she showed a complete lack of knowledge how HPV kills women.

Even worse, Gov. Rick Perry admitted that his decision in 2007 on HPV vaccination was "a mistake."

Without medical knowledge, these politicians attacked each other, using a life-saving vaccine as their weapon.

Anti-women and anti-public health should not be marks of conservatism. And the use of misinformation should not be staged on a national forum, especially when it comes to public health.

Our leaders should be advocates for preventative health care, not politicians who benefit from "let the uninsured die" mentality.

CHARURUT SOMBOONWIT
TAMPA

Tax and spend less

Let's say I make a million dollars a year. I might pay \$200,000 to the federal government. If I own a million-dollar house (with a 30-year mortgage) in Lutz, I could pay \$15,000 or more in real estate taxes per year — that's \$450,000 over 30 years.

I will also pay \$3 million for the mortgage over its life — money that creates jobs for a lot of people.

If I spend \$100,000 a year for food, clothing, a car and other essentials, I will pay another \$7,000 in taxes.

To belong to a semi-private golf course costs about \$7,000 for golf, food, tips and supplies. That money goes for the employment of about 40 people, so it actually helps create jobs, as

does most of all the other ways I spend my money.

Nearly 50 percent of people pay no income taxes, and another smaller percentage actually get a refund for not paying any income taxes. Meanwhile, the feds give \$550 million to a failed solar panel company, and President Obama thinks I should be taxed more to pay my fair share.

Please. If you tax me more, I will just spend less (say, quit the golf and put those 40 families out of work).

JOHN FERRIS
BROOKSVILLE

A business grows

Taxing the wealthy is in the news lately. Here is my story.

The last 20 years of my working life I worked for two wealthy brothers. When I began working there, we had about 100 employees.

After about eight months of employment, I got to know one of the brothers, slightly, and since I dabbled in the stock market I thought, surely, these wealthy brothers invested heavily.

So one day I asked Ed how he was doing in the stock market. He answered: "Joe, I can't afford the stock market. Every penny I have is invested in this busi-

ness." And so it was.

When I retired, this company had about 550 employees.

JOE FRANK
SUN CITY CENTER

Dr. Oz's endorsements

Regarding "Dr. Oz accused of fear-mongering" (Metro, Sept. 16):

Your Associated Press article mentions near the end that Oz "heads an alternative medicine program" at his hospital.

Unmentioned is that the James Randi Educational Foundation, for years in the forefront of exposing bogus claims, has awarded its annual "Media" booby prize both in 2010 and 2011 to Oz, who, in its words, "has done such a disservice to his TV viewers by promoting quack medical practices that he is now the first person to win [this dubious honor] two years in a row."

The shameful details, including his endorsements of faith-healers and psychic mediums, are spelled out on the JREF website at tinyurl.com/DrOzQuackery.

GARY P. POSNER
PLANT CITY

The writer is a physician and founder of Tampa Bay Skeptics.