

Letters to the editor, Nov. 19

Friday, November 19, 2010

Start: deliver us from

nuclear annihilation Thank you for the clear, urgent editorial ("Don't delay START," Nov. 18) about the need to have the U.S. Senate pass the new START treaty.

With Russia and the United States holding 90 percent of all nuclear warheads, there is a critical moral necessity for our two countries to have on-the-ground mutual inspections and to minimize the annihilation possibilities posed by our bloated arsenals.

Any step that moves us away from massive destruction of God's created order is a right step.

Nuclear weapons tempt politicians to posture as gods, because they allow them to decide the fate of so many.

The new START treaty would be a welcome new start in showing reverence for all life and its creator.

The Right Rev. William E. Swing San Francisco

Tax me to support s.f.?

Re: "Drivers in S.F. may be hit with a variety of tolls," Nov. 11 I have been a member of and contributor to the de Young Museum, the Legion of Honor and SFMOMA for 30-plus years and the Opera and Symphony also.

Why does the Board of Supervisors want to charge me more to support these civic treasures? I also support restaurants and plays downtown from time to time.

I am no longer able to use BART and so must drive. This is truly an outrage.

What do the Fine Arts Museums and Opera and Symphony companies think of this? I visit the museums and Symphony midweek and the Opera on weekends. What can the board be thinking?

Betty Baham, Foster City

Welcome, porpoises

Kudos for the coverage of the return of harbor porpoises to the bay ("Porpoises back in bay," Nov. 8).

It is well documented that porpoises respond to wave propagation across the entire radio spectrum. I believe it is no coincidence that the plucky porpoises' return and [the Giants](#) world championship were

virtually simultaneous.

John Coakley, Novato

A day of good news

An early [Thanksgiving](#) to editors for a front page (Nov. 16) that has *no* deaths or violence to hit our spirits and eyes, and another bit of praise for the Tuesday news section headed Nation and World. News of interest, well written, good stories - no local murders or mayhem. Thank you.

Maya Elmer, Berkeley

Save the last swan

The last surviving swan at the Palace of Fine Arts is a sitting duck ("Vandals sought in 'senseless' killing of swan," Nov. 14). Please move him to a safe place where he can have some company.

Leslie Ballan, Albany

Pay for infrastructure

The article "Pipeline safety checks lagging" (Nov. 14) highlights a larger problem in our society: So much of our infrastructure was built decades ago, when people were still willing to tax themselves to pay for it. Now that it is getting old enough to start falling apart, not only are we not willing to pay to fix it, we can't even pay for enough inspectors to find the safety problems. Welcome to the future, everyone!

Avilee Goodwin, Richmond

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/11/19/EDIS1GDMTL.DTL>

This article appeared on page **A - 17** of the San Francisco Chronicle

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