

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crab feast

I thank everyone at *The Capital* for the continued coverage of the Annapolis Rotary Club's crab feast. Your recent front-page story (April 19) made some nice points about our annual event. Unfortunately, it appeared to be based on some old news releases.

Not only did we eat more bushels of crabs last year — 478 — but we also raised more money — over \$60,000. While we are all aware of the rising costs of crabs, gas and food, the Annapolis Rotary Club is committed to hosting the best darn crab feast in the area.

We are also committed to serving our community. Our ticket price is going up this year, but at \$55 for general admission, it will still be a bargain. Buy your tickets early, as we will have only 2,500 general admission tickets and 500 reserved dining seats. E-mail bea@carson-consultants.com for more information.

Join us Friday, Aug. 1, at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Tickets will be available beginning June 1. Go to www.annapolisrotary.com to order or get information on where you can go to pick up your tickets.

And sorry, but we don't serve cole slaw!

LISA KNOLL
Chairman

Annapolis Rotary Crab Feast

Illegal immigrants

Regarding Patrick D. Weadon's guest column championing illegal immigrants (*The Sunday Capital*, April 20):

Let's give Mr. Weadon some credit. He didn't claim most illegal immigrants pay income taxes. They don't. He didn't dispute that many illegal immigrants get free community services. They do.

What he did claim is that most illegal immigrants are hardworking. But most Ameri-

cans are hardworking and, as citizens, they pay income taxes and contribute to our national culture.

Mr. Weadon conceded that illegal immigrants who commit felonies or criminal acts should not be tolerated. But tax evasion and identity theft, which many illegal immigrants engage in, are such criminal acts. This is why they should not be welcomed.

Mr. Weadon attempted to analogize past discrimination against African Americans with today's issue of illegal immigration. A better comparison: Why discriminate against legal immigrants and in favor of illegal immigrants?

Legal immigrants take citizenship tests, stand in line, and really try to assimilate into American society. We should not discriminate against them by throwing scarce resources into helping illegal immigrants who simply walk across the border in their own self-interest.

EDWIN R. SOEFFING
Severna Park

School form

On April 17 I received a pre-recorded telephone message from the Anne Arundel County public schools advising me that my children would be coming home the next day with a form ("Race and Ethnicity") that I was required to complete and return.

I was also directed to the county Web site for an explanation of the county's policy on this form.

The Web site and the attachment to the form explain that it must be completed. There is a space on the form in which a parent may refuse to participate. But if that option is chosen the student will be observed, and the "observer" will then complete the race or ethnicity information required by the form.

Imagine how a child would feel after being called to an of-

fice to be "observed" and classified. And so much for a parent refusing to participate in this policy!

Parents are advised there is another avenue: If they don't return the form by a certain date, the "current information will be converted to the new classifications described on the form."

Absent from both the pre-recorded phone message and the explanatory attachment is any attempt to explain the why for collecting this data. There is no explanation of how this policy is connected to teaching and educating of our children.

That is certainly not surprising, because it could not be shown that this policy has any connection with a child's education or that our children derive any benefit from the data collection.

I wish the county schools would simply not participate in this policy and instead use the tax dollars to educate our children. Absent that courage, I encourage all parents to simply not return these forms.

ANDREW H. METZ
Deale

Raps McCain

The feckless campaign suggestion of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., to stop paying the gasoline tax until Labor Day smacks of the old Roman method of throwing a pittance to the populace but avoiding the major problems.

If he is serious about our financial problems, he should vote to end the ill-conceived and horribly managed Iraq conflict. It is costing us billions of dollars, and about 50 percent of that is being stolen.

I would rather Mr. McCain address the reasoning behind his vote against the bill to banish waterboarding as torture, and his vote against the children's health care bill.

A.J. WAGNER
Severna Park