

# Opinion

## The Berkshire Eagle

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London Olympics Brings Predictions of Crime Wave and Urban Confusion



### Editorials

## Columnist hits pothole

Judging from Howie Carr's overwrought "Princess and the Potholes" column in Thursday's Boston Herald and the grumbling of a few Republicans, a Big Dig-style project was undertaken in Richmond to pave the way to Governor Deval Patrick's home for First Lady Michelle Obama's visit next month. The inconvenient truth is that a mountain was made of a pothole.

Mr. Carr asserted that "plenty of dough" would be spent to fix the road, but a phone call to the town of Richmond by The Eagle's Tony Dobrowski revealed that the repair work cost less than a hundred dollars and took about 90 minutes to complete. Facts can take the starch out of a righteous rant. The right-wing Herald columnist may still be having trouble accepting that the popular Democratic governor was twice elected

handily and he stretched too far in pursuit of something with which to attack Mr. Patrick.

Mr. Carr went on to express unhappiness that Ms. Obama would be the guest at a \$20,000 a head Richmond fundraiser, as if high-priced soirées are the exclusive province of Democrats. Demonstrating that keen big-city columnist wit, he referred to the first lady as "Mooch-elle" Obama, putting her in her place.

Evidently struggling to fill space, the columnist went on to mock our own Berkshire troubadour, James Taylor, for agreeing to sing at a Colonial Theatre fundraiser preceding Ms. Obama's pothole-free trip to the governor's home. J.T. has survived much worse. We suspect that if Mr. Taylor was singing at a Mitt Romney fundraiser Mr. Carr would be singing a different tune.

Joan Vennoch

## Hostage rescue politics

### Letters to the Editor

#### Mountain lions are no county myth

I must question your July 8 article about the myth of mountain lions in the Berkshires.

Last summer, I sat in my parked car behind a house on Tree Farm Road in Stockbridge waiting for someone. I sat quietly for about 10 minutes. Suddenly, a rather big animal came out of the woods from the direction of the road. I sat in awe and made not a sound. It walked all around the back of the house and then came back down very close to the car.

I wasn't sure what it was. It had a cat face, walked like a cat, was tan all over and weighed about 40 to 50 pounds. I certainly got a good

look at it as it was unaware of my presence. Unfortunately, I didn't have a camera with me. It then went toward the front of the house and walked away out of sight.

When I got home I looked up mountain lions on Google and that is what it was. I believe it was a juvenile as it didn't have the musculature of an adult.

This May, I turned the page of my Audubon calendar and in a photo at the bottom of the page was a mountain lion looking exactly as I remembered it going down the stairs.

That was no myth.

ELAINE STEINERT  
Lenox

#### Circus is wrong way to raise funds

It's ironic that the Dalton Lions Club is ignoring the recommendations of its own headquarters, Lions Club International, which more than a decade ago discouraged individual clubs from holding animal-based circuses as fundraisers due to public safety and animal welfare concerns.

It should be obvious that circus trainers are not going to beat elephants with bullhooks in front of the public. The club's PR spokesman (letter, July 19) made many inaccurate statements about PETA (for example, nearly all of us share our lives with our rescued companion animals), but you don't

have to take PETA's word for it, Kelly Miller Circus has a well-documented history of appalling animal care.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Kelly Miller for failure to provide veterinary care to an elephant for a painful, oozing wound that pierced her ear and did not provide care to an elephant with a long, deep crack in her toenail, even though foot problems are the leading cause for euthanasia in captive elephants. The circus has been cited for keeping a solitary chimpanzee in a 5-foot-by-4-foot-by-6-foot cage with no enrichment in 95 degree weather. When three bears were found emaciated and dehydrated with bloody paws from pacing across fiberglass flooring, their trainer was charged with a felony count of cruelty to animals and four misdemeanors. The list goes on and on.

If the Dalton Lions Club wants to be viewed as an ethical organization, it must recognize that beating animals and hauling them around in tractor trailers to raise money is wrong.

JENNIFER O'CONNOR  
Norfolk, Va.

#### Cantaloupe prices

A recent Eagle article reported how cantaloupe melons had returned to the Denver King Soopers market having been off the market for a year as the result of a food-borne illness. What interested me was the price of 69 cents. The day before the article I had bought a cantaloupe at the North Adams Stop and Shop for \$2.99 after receiving a \$1 discount by using my savings card. That's a difference of \$2.30 or 333 percent.

ROBERT W. HADDEN  
Williamstown

The writer is a staff writer, PETA Foundation.

#### Write to us

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**Guidelines:** The Eagle welcomes letters of 400 words or less. Shorter letters are preferred. Letters must include full name, home address and phone numbers. Only the name and city or town of residence are published. The Eagle reserves the right to edit letters. The Eagle will not publish letters that violate standards of good taste, make libelous accusations or ad-hominem arguments, or endorse commercial products.

#### Pantry leadership

With regard to the Share the Bounty article of July 18, the People's Pantry would like to note that Carol Purcell is president of the Board of Directors and I am executive director. Our Pantry is open Thursday mornings and serves South Berkshire County.

ROSEMARY CARPENITE  
South Egremont

#### Tone was issue, not the opinion

In response to Linda Kaye-Moses' editorial page column July 14 about Jeffrey Borak's review of "Fiddler on the Roof," I agree that everyone is entitled to an opinion spoken openly in our democracy. However, while reading that review, I kept thinking "that's nasty," over and over. It struck me as a personal attack on one actor, rather than a review of a performance, which I attended that same day. I don't recall ever reading a review that used such vitriolic language directed at one performer.

That was my objection to the review, not the fact that he was certainly within his right to voice and professional a personal opinion.

JUDY KESHNER  
Becket