

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Americans paying price for voters' ignorance

The United States has survived 234 years because of our liberties and freedoms. Liberty is the right to choose. Freedom is the result of the right choice. The United States has been described as a grand experiment, which is still a work in progress.

Americans have the worst economic system in the world, except for all of the others. Americans have the worst form of government, except for all of the others. It is the responsibility of the people, all of the people, to keep the government in check, or within the constraints of the Constitution. The Constitution limits the power of the government, and the government derives its power from the people.

Five days before the 2008 election, Barack Hussein Obama stood in front of the American people and declared that "we" would fundamentally transform our country. I have to ask, transform it into what? If we live in the best country, with the greatest freedoms and liberties, what could "we" possibly transform this country into?

If the people have done their homework, they would have found a Marxist/socialist in Obama. The information was presented and ignored. Some of us did our homework, most didn't. We are paying a very stiff price for the ignorance of those who voted for Obama.

We have reached this point because the people failed to do their due diligence.

"Educate and inform everyone ... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty." — Thomas Jefferson

KEN SEDLAK
LaGrange Township

Exotic animal deaths are sensationalized

This is in response to "Film screening to honor victim of bear mauling" in The Chronicle-Telegram on Oct. 15.

I have been a private owner of exotic animals for more than 20 years. Scott Shoemaker and I of Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership have a small role in Mike Webber's movie "The Elephant in the Living Room."

We enjoyed working with Webber on this movie, but are getting very tired of how the animal rights groups are once again exploiting the grieving family of the bear attack victim, and using this film to push for more exotic animal bans not only in Ohio, but across the U.S. We also are tired of the media only publishing sensationalized anti-exotic animal material.

One of the two stars of this movie, lion owner Terry Brumfield, recently died in an unfortunate traffic accident, which clearly was not related to exotic animals, and there is barely a mention of it in the news.

Traffic accidents kill up to 45,000 people in the U.S. per year, which is up to 125 per day, so I guess news gets desensitized to the "common" deaths?

However, when a person dies in an extremely rare animal attack, it is sensationalized. The media and animal rights activists call for exotic animal bans, even though since 1990, captive bears in the U.S. killed a total of five people — that is 0.25 person per year.

So is that what matters — *how* you die, not that you are dead?

ZUZANA KUKOL
Pahrump, Nevada

Kukol is the president of Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership.