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## **It's a zoo out here in letter land**

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

In response to Ms. Thomas' remarks I must say that her perception of zoos is totally off base. She is repeating the mantra of the supposed "animal rights" movement.

While I do believe that zoos in this country should always be improving their care and conservation efforts for the species they keep, to say that zoos should be "closed down" because they use animals as "spectacle" to "make money" is simply false.

Clearly Ms. Thomas is ignorant of all the fantastic work that zoos do all the time to help conserve animals both in captivity and in the wild. Entire books could and are filled with the accounts of how zoos and private breeders are preserving endangered species from extinction.

What happened at the SF Zoo was very unfortunate. The tiger should have never been able to escape and the drunk and high hoodlums who were taunting the tiger should have been thrown out of the zoo long before this incident happened.

Despite this tragedy, there is no reason to condemn the zoo community or private breeders of exotic animals because something so random and rare happened.

Also, to hold up the hypocritical PAWS "sanctuary" and The Folsom Zoo as examples of proper animal care is plain silly. They do no better and I would contend sometimes do more harm to animals in captivity as a whole than the SF Zoo or any number of other zoos.

Why? Because they are agenda-ridden causes that have in their mind that any animal in captivity is an animal that is suffering.

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