

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Lung-cancer foes cite high-profile cases

Editor — As a result of the deaths of Peter Jennings and Barbara Bel Geddes from lung cancer, and Dana Reeve (widow of Christopher Reeve) making her diagnosis public, much more attention has been given to lung cancer this week than is typical.

Lung cancer kills more women than breast cancer and more men than prostate cancer. Yet lung cancer typically receives less public attention and federal funding than these other forms of cancer.

A person with a diagnosis of lung cancer not only faces the startling mortality rates of this cancer, but also the public perception that he or she is somehow responsible for the disease. The tobacco industry has wheeled its marketing power to help spread the notion that the smoker, not the cigarette, is to blame for the lung cancer — thus keeping the attention off the true culprit and onto a fabricated character flaw.

The truth is that nicotine represents one of the most powerful addictions in the world, one even more powerful than addiction to the most illicit drugs. The reality is that the vast majority of people addicted to cigarettes became addicted at a young age as a result of targeted marketing of tobacco products to children.

There is no cure for lung cancer, only a significantly reduced risk of getting lung cancer by remaining smoke-free or quitting. People ready to quit are encouraged to call the American Lung Association at 1-800-LUNG-USA or visit [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org).

KAREN FULTON  
American Lung Association  
of the East Bay  
Emeryville

## Church pressure on Israel

Editor — Regarding the Presbyterian divestment-from-Israel campaign (“Church pressures 5 firms on Mideast,” Aug. 6): Will the Presbyterians switch to Israel’s side when they realize the Arab world won’t be satisfied with giving the Palestinians Gaza and the West Bank and sharing Jerusalem?

Yasser Arafat, the late Palestinian

leader, wasn’t satisfied with that scenario in 2001. Why doesn’t that bother the Presbyterians?

Before 1967, the conflict was about the annihilation of Israel, and involved several Arab countries. After Israel won the Six Day War of 1967, which the Arabs started, Israel immediately began trying to return the land *for peace*. The first snub came that year from the Arab League in Khartoum, citing the infamous three no’s: no recognition of Israel, no negotiating with Israel, no peace with Israel.

Why didn’t that ever bother the Presbyterians?

The Palestinian charter still calls for the annihilation of Israel. Why doesn’t that bother the Presbyterians?

SHEREE ROTH  
Palo Alto

Editor — Good for the Presbyterians — they put their money where their mouths are. They speak against the Israeli government’s injustice toward the Palestinians. Then they pressure U.S. corporations in which that church has multimillion-dollar investments to stop supporting the Israeli government’s behavior.

The mealy-mouthed Episcopalians and the United Church of Christ speak against that injustice but won’t stop investing in companies doing business in Israel. The Presbyterians show courage and take risks while the other denominations only talk a lot.

ROBERT WARREN CROMEY  
San Francisco

## No Fillmore snow

Editor — I was outraged about the ski-jumping event planned for Aug. 27 on Fillmore Street, and I totally agree with neighbors who oppose the event.

The activity will greatly inconvenience local residents and business owners. In my opinion, it is an improper use of public space.

Why have a big, noisy public event that so many people don’t want?

BEN TULCHIN  
San Francisco