

LETTERS | TO THE EDITOR

An artistic clash at Versailles

As illustrated in the article "King of kitsch rules Versailles" (Sept. 11) concerning the Jeff Koons' retrospective, the current fashion in many museums and historic settings is to have contemporary artists create a "dialogue" with the art of the past, propping up this cliché with an irrelevant artist's statement.

What does that mean? The works have nothing in common. Maybe Simon Vouet's "Justice," "Temperance," "Force" and "Prudence" talk late into the night with Koons' lobster in the Mars Salon? If there is any "dialogue," it is cacophony.

Koons' work in Versailles is jarring and unpleasant, distracting and detracting from the historical setting and fine art. Too bad. A Koons retrospective in the Pompidou Center would have been appropriate, amusing and a huge success.

Ann James Massey, Paris

economy. Though the Chinese government could blame the world economic slowdown, these problems are Beijing's fault. With foreign funds pulling out of China one by one, it looks like the dragon is suffering a slow death.

Ling Toh Woon, Selangor, Malaysia

Corporate taxes and tax

Referring to "Tax and Spending" by Robert Wassman (Letters, Sept. 15), the writer must know that taxing corporations and taxing individuals produce different results for the economy. Wassman writes as if the two types of taxes are one and the same, which they are not. While taxing corporations would raise the price the public pays for many things, taxing the rich has no such effect.

Obama has not proposed raising corporate taxes, but has indicated he will not make permanent the Bush tax cuts for the rich, which favor the rich.

Making the Bush tax cuts permanent would cost trillions of dollars over the