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Please give a brief explanation of issues discussed and the results achieved. (This space will expand as you type in your comments.)

This series of editorials chronicles the leadership issues and challenges of Lincoln University, a historically black college and university (HBCU).



OPINION

Walter E. Hussman Jr., *Publisher*
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OUR OPINION

Middleton a good choice for LU, but can he calm troubled waters?

We welcome Mike Middleton as the interim president of Lincoln University.

Middleton, who, until recently, served as interim president of the University of Missouri, should be a good fit for LU while it works to get a permanent president.

After four years at Lincoln, LU President Kevin Rome announced in March that he will become president of Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, starting July 1.

Middleton took over as interim head of the four-campus University of Missouri system in November 2015 after Tim Wolfe abruptly resigned amid student-led protests on the Columbia campus, over the administration's handling of racial complaints.

Middleton was the third black graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law in 1971. The attorney worked in various federal positions before returning to MU's Law School as a teacher in 1985. He's gained a reputation as a respected lawyer and academic.

Middleton has blamed MU's highly public incidents of racial strife on a lack of communication and complacency by administrators.

But, a year ago, he told the Columbia Daily Tribune administrators had reason to believe that race relations were good at Mizzou. He pointed to an Inside Higher Education survey that found 84 percent of college presidents surveyed think race relations on their campuses are good or excellent, the paper reported.

Students these days, he said, are less likely to endure disrespect than students in past generations.

"The times have simply changed," Middleton told the Columbia Daily Tribune. "This generation is much less willing to put up with the micro-aggressions, the indignities that people of color experience in this world, than we were in the '60s."

Middleton's temporary jump to LU after a brief retirement doesn't mean he'll escape rough waters. Lincoln has its own troubles, which are exacerbated by recent budget woes. The state is reducing LU's funding for the 2017-18 year by \$3.8 million, and the Rome administration is planning to cut 48 positions and reduce all remaining employees' pay by a half-percent.

Middleton told a news conference Thursday he'll review the proposed changes — but made no promises to change the Rome proposal.

The Faculty Senate, understandably, is upset.

Stephanie Clark, the incoming chair of LU's Faculty Senate, said: "What is even more disappointing (than the state withholding) is that the university's administration is choosing to balance the budget on the backs of the most underpaid faculty and staff in the state and the nation."

She said the Faculty Senate never had a "seat at the table" when the decision was being made, "despite the lip service to shared governance."

Middleton said he'll have an "open door" policy and plans to meet with many different people and groups about Lincoln and its future.

Middleton seems like a logical choice to head an HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) such as LU. We hope he can calm the waters during his brief time at the helm.

News Tribune

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America's highways, bridges aren't exactly 'crumbling'

By Robert Krol
Tribune News Service

Interstate 85 reopened in Atlanta earlier this month, six weeks after a homeless man allegedly set a fire that caused a bridge collapse and shut down the freeway in both directions. It could be easy to misjudge the catastrophe as the latest proof that America's infrastructure is falling apart from coast to coast. In reality, our highways and bridges are in surprisingly good shape — at least compared to what headlines and politicians would have us believe.

President Donald Trump, for example, recently told Congress that our infrastructure is "crumbling" and asked for a major expansion in infrastructure spending. Americans seem to agree: A recent CNN/ORC poll shows that 79 percent support a similar idea. And the American Society of Civil Engineers, which recently gave a D grade to our highways, argued for a 25 cents per gallon federal fuel tax hike to pay for more infrastructure spending.

This approach would cement Washington's role in financing local transportation, when what we really need is a second opinion on the condition of our roads and bridges and a clean break from the outdated way we finance them.

Where exactly do our highways stand? The Department of Transportation provides annual state-level data on highway and road conditions across the country. This data allows for a measurement on those conditions using the objective International Roughness Index.

It turns out things aren't nearly

as bad as Americans tend to think. Only about 8.5 percent of all urban interstates were in poor condition in 2014, along with 2 percent of rural interstates. The higher urban figure reflects higher traffic volume. Figures for the entire highway and road system have changed very little over the last decade.

So U.S. highways are not in perfect condition, but they aren't falling apart, either.

Turning to bridges, the percent in need of attention declined over the

COMMENTARY

last 10 years. In 2014, about 7.5 percent were structurally deficient (requiring reduced carrying loads). A little more than 18 percent were functionally deficient (for example, too narrow). Both types are considered safe but need maintenance to improve performance.

These figures mask wide differences across states. For example, 25 states have improved their urban interstates over the past 10 years. Diverse states like Arizona, Florida, Ohio and Illinois have only about 1 percent of urban interstates in poor shape. Hawaii and California had the highest percentage of poor quality urban interstate highways in 2014, at 22 and 15 percent, respectively. A similar story can be told for rural interstate highways, freeways, arterials and bridges.

Because the condition of highways and bridges varies across states, expanding Washington's traditional funding approach would be a mistake. Our system does a poor job of getting funds to areas of the country most in need of investment.

More than 90 percent of federal transportation money allocated to states is determined by an inflexible, politically driven formula. Under 2015's Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, each state's future share of federal dollars is tied to the share of funds it received in that year. So past fund allocations drive the process rather than the current condition of a state's transportation system.

And since each senator or representative wants their state's "fair" share, it is nearly impossible to reallocate funds away from their districts toward other highways and bridges more in need of work.

It would make more sense to reduce Washington's role by lowering the federal fuel tax and letting states adjust their own fuel taxes to make up the difference. The smaller federal tax should only fund important national projects — for example focusing solely on maintaining the Interstate Highway System.

With a lower federal fuel tax, states would then be in a position to set their fuel taxes at a level to fund the maintenance and construction of non-interstate highways, roads and bridges that affect their own residents. Because states would cover the full cost of these projects, it would result in better decision making and ultimately more productive infrastructure projects at a lower cost to taxpayers.

Robert Krol is a professor of economics at California State University, Northridge, an affiliated faculty scholar at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, and author of the new Mercatus study "America's Infrastructure Isn't Crumbling."

Trump voter fraud commission is dangerous

By Carl P. Leubsdorf
The Dallas Morning News

Washington's preoccupation with Donald Trump's tweets and the multiple probes into his campaign's possible ties to the Russians have diverted attention from an array of problematic administration actions: removing restrictions on coal mining and offshore oil drilling, rolling back worker safety rules, reviewing protection of public lands.

One that poses an especially dangerous long-term impact is his creation of a commission, headed by Vice President Mike Pence, to investigate Trump's unproven claims of widespread voter fraud. It's an unnecessary cure for a nonexistent problem that could encourage moves to limit voting by many Republican-controlled states.

The most obvious warning sign was naming Kris Kobach as its vice-chair. He's the Kansas secretary of state whose persistent fulminating against

fraud has proved to be so much empty rhetoric. So far, only one of nine people snared by his crusade has been an illegal immigrant; most were elderly Republicans who mistakenly voted in two states.

PERSPECTIVE

Trump's action coincided with two events that spotlighted the continuing threat to election outcomes from misguided efforts to curb "fraud."

The one that got the most attention was the Supreme Court's decision not to review an appeals court ruling that negated North Carolina's strict voter identification law. Unfortunately, some liberal groups celebrated but seemed to minimize the fact the court acted on procedural, not substantive, grounds.

Chief Justice John Roberts said the court might deal with the legal issues in a subsequent case, potentially the

one challenging Texas' strict voter ID law.

Far less attention was given to the study by Priorities USA, a progressive advocacy organization, bolstering claims that voter ID laws restrict turnout and hurt the Democrats. Republicans run most of the 20 states that have implemented or tightened such laws in recent years.

The study concluded Wisconsin's strict voter ID law "reduced turnout by 200,000 voters" in a state Trump won by only 22,748 votes. It compared 2016 turnout in states with and without voter ID laws, concluding that turnout increased 1.3 percent over 2012 in states without such laws but dropped 3.3 percent in Wisconsin.

It also said voter confusion over proper identification, such as occurred in Texas in 2016, also reduced turnout, adding that the law had "a disproportionate impact on African-American

Please see Leubsdorf, p. 3

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.
Proverbs 22:6

YOUR OPINION

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Moving forward by erasing the past

Larry Russell Johnson
Jefferson City

Dear Editor:

In many cases Confederate-era monuments have been targeted by left-leaning liberals because they are allegedly symbols of white privilege and racism.

Regarding the June 2015 moment when an angry mob and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a daughter of immigrant parents from India, decided to blame the murder of nine black people at the Emanuel AME Church shooting on the Confederate flag at the South Carolina statehouse and called for its removal from state property because it is allegedly a symbol of hate and a lost cause.

The 10-week Spanish-American War of 1898 marked the first time since prior to the Civil War that brought northerners and southerners together at last. In that war numerous Confederate veterans volunteered and joined their Northern brothers on the battlefield in the common defense of our nation.

In June 1900, in this spirit of national reconciliation, the U.S. Congress authorized that a section of Arlington National Cemetery be set aside for the burial of Confederate dead. Authorized in March 1906, a memorial was unveiled by President Woodrow Wilson on June 4, 1914. Since the memorial's unveiling, the president of the United States has almost always sent a funeral wreath to be laid at the memorial every Memorial Day.

"When African-American Sen. Barack Obama became president in November 2008, he faced a dilemma about continuing the tradition. As Kirk Savage, art historian, put it, "a black president suddenly became in charge of a tradition steeped in white supremacy."

In 2009, several dozen university professors and historians asked President Obama to end the tradition, and the issue received some mass media attention. Confederate heritage groups denounced any attempt to end the presidential wreath tradition, arguing it would be an insult to Southerners. A few days before the 2009 Confederate Memorial Day, Savage argued in a Washington Post editorial that the Southerners were essentially correct. He concluded that to end the tradition would only reinforce racist attitudes in America and do little to promote an understanding of the role of slavery in American history and society. President Obama himself never addressed the issue. Instead, Obama sent a wreath not only to the Confederate Memorial but also instituted a new tradition of sending a presidential wreath to the African-American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C."

Confederate Memorial (Arlington National Cemetery) — Wikipedia

Confederate Memorial (Arlington National Cemetery) — Wikipedia

SNAP benefits should be reduced

Bert Dirschell
Jefferson City

Dear Editor:

The wailing and moaning have started over the SNAP benefit reductions in President Trump's proposed budget. A 40 percent reduction from the 2016 program cost, instead of the proposed 30 percent reduction, seems logical to me. Unemployment is currently equal to, or less than, it was during pre-recession 2007. Why

Please see Letters, p. 11



If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 Peter 4:14

OUR OPINION

Lincoln University: Are you better off today than you were four years ago?

Kevin Rome believes that after serving four years as president of Lincoln University, LU is better now than when he came in 2013.

He said community support has increased, citing two high-profile projects: the new LINC Wellness Center and the Boys & Girls Club's move to the LU campus.

Rome also pointed to improved relations with Lincoln's alumni groups around the country and the increase in students studying abroad as signs Lincoln's reach is being extended.

To a certain extent, Rome hasn't been afraid to shake up the status quo in the first presidency of his career — including canning the LU custodial staff and outsourcing that work to a private company, and reconfiguring student support services like tutoring.

That's led to some discontentment.

As we reported on Sunday, growing faculty disenchantment ultimately led to a September 2016 "no confidence" vote in the work of Said Sewell, the now-former provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, and to the majority of faculty joining the Missouri National Education Association for collective bargaining purposes.

Both of those actions came after Rome's administration last July recommended terminating some music programs and deactivating LU's history degree program, resulting in five teachers losing their jobs at the end of this last semester. A revised history program has been reactivated.

Rome also focused on recruiting efforts in areas that the university hasn't concentrated on previously. But LU's enrollment has slid over the past four years, so we don't see those efforts paying off, at least yet. Some have suggested keeping recruiting efforts closer to home might be a wiser plan, and we tend to agree.

Rome is leaving LU amid state funding cuts, which will be a challenge for the next administration. While Rome has made some cuts, his successor may be forced to make more.

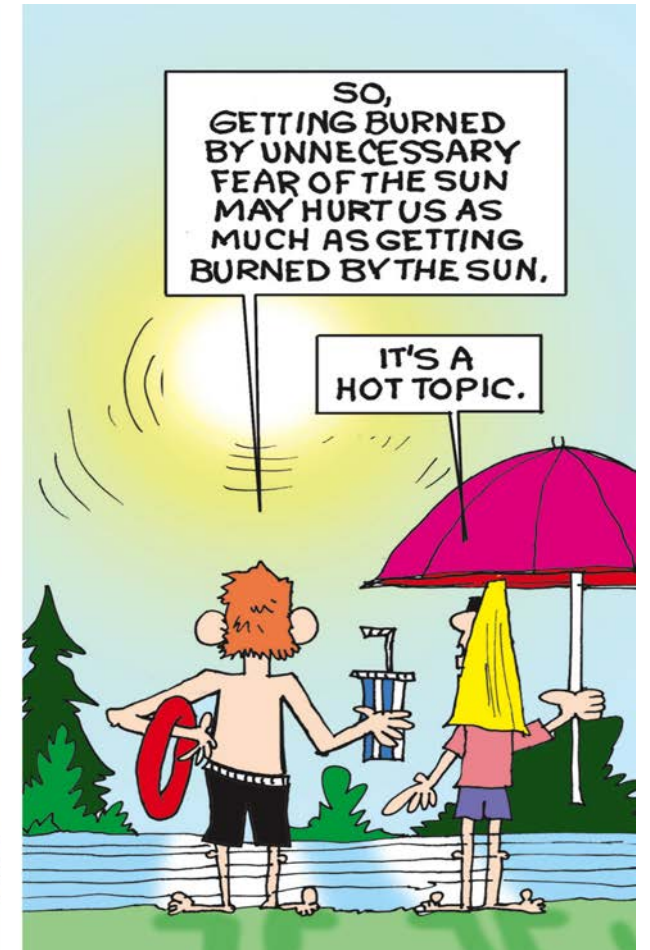
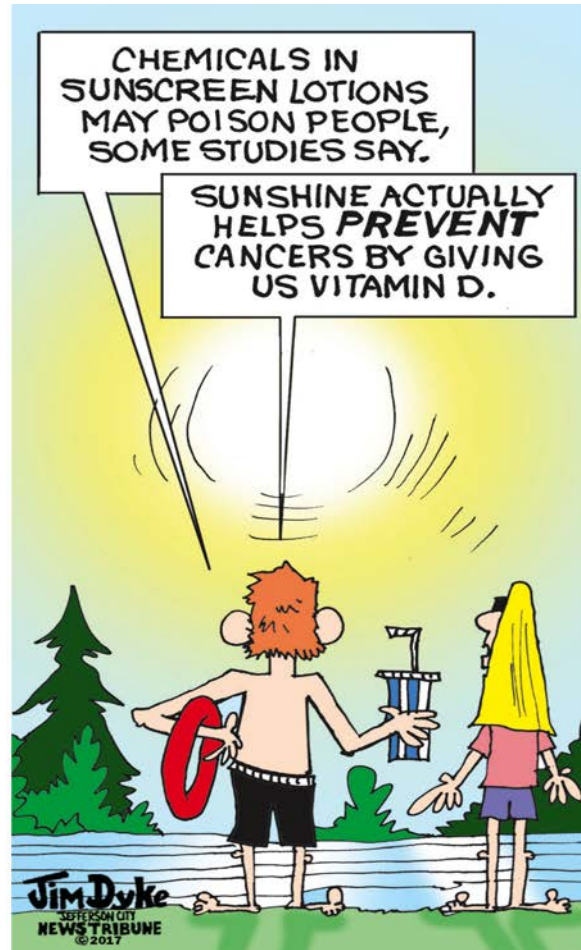
His response to the funding shortfall was to cut teachers and staff, not administrators. Cutting the teaching staff, we believe, will make those recruiting efforts harder, especially when tuition continues to rise.

We concur with his advice to his successor to "focus on faculty relationships coming in," and to "maintain the relationships with the community, because I think that's so critical for the person in this seat to have a great relationship with Jefferson City."

Until one is named, the university will be in the capable hands of Mike Middleton for the interim.

As for Rome, he shook things up, making positive changes amid some misdeeds. But ultimately, enrollment hasn't grown. Has he sowed the seeds for growth? Time will tell, but until then, we'll give him a grade of "incomplete."

News Tribune



Lying liars

"I'll never lie to you." — Jimmy Carter, the 1976 presidential campaign.

All politicians lie, because they are human and all humans lie. The question before us is this: If President Trump lied to FBI Director James Comey, should that "lie," lead to impeachment? Did he obstruct justice when he allegedly "hoped" that Comey would not pursue an investigation of former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn? Many Democrats think so. Most Republicans do not.

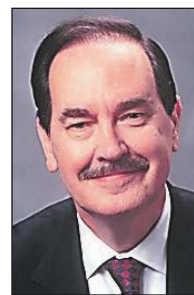
Comedy testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee that President Trump lied about him after his dismissal. The assertion was based on what the president said of him ("a real nut job") and on his belief that Comey misled the public about the alleged lack of support among Comey's FBI colleagues.

Trump's newly hired attorney, Marc Kasowitz, returned fire. Speaking at the National Press Club, Kasowitz effectively accused Comey of lying about his recollection of a private dinner at which, according to Comey, Trump said, "I need loyalty." Kasowitz accused Comey of "leaking" privileged communications to the media, which Comey admitted he did for the purpose of obtaining a special counsel to investigate Russian influence in the 2016 election.

Recordings of the Comey-Trump meetings would clear this up. The president has suggested they may exist and

Comey said he would be happy to have them released. They should be, but even if they corroborate Comey's recollections, House Select Intelligence

Committee Chairman Devin Nunes said recently that he still believes there is no "credible evidence that there was any collusion between the Trump campaign and Russian government." Everyone seems to agree that the Russians "attempted" to interfere, but no one claims that attempted interference affected the outcome. Hillary Clinton lost and so did Democrats — at all levels across the country. They need to get over it and figure out why.



Cal Thomas

The word "hypocrisy" was invented for such moments. The left is suddenly aghast about lying, but was fine with Barack Obama's numerous lies, from "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor," to Benghazi, "Fast and Furious," the "red line" in Syria and the list goes on. Let's not even get started with the Clintons. They're serial liars.

Media reaction swiftly followed Comey's testimony. The New York Times and Washington Post seemed to favor Comey. A Wall Street Journal editorial even said that Comey "should have resigned if he believes what he now says." Charles Hurt, editorial page editor of the conservative Washington Times, summarized his view of Comey's testimony: "The only verified leaker exposed: Jim Comey. The only person we know is not and never was under investigation for ties

to Russia: Donald Trump. The only person exposed for trying to influence an election: (Obama attorney general) Loretta Lynch. The only paper accused of publishing fake news: The New York Times. The only person who attempted to obstruct justice: Loretta Lynch and probably Bill Clinton."

Even the reliably liberal Chris Matthews of MSNBC said: "The assumption of the critics of the president, of his pursuers, you might say, is that somewhere along the line in the last year the president had something to do with colluding with the Russians ... to affect the election in some way. And yet what came apart this morning was that theory."

Do I wish the president would conform just a little to the traditions most Americans expect of a White House occupant? I do. But for me and many other conservatives, policy overcomes department. Last week the president nominated 11 solid conservatives to federal benches. His policies on border security, repealing and replacing Obamacare, cutting taxes and reforming the tax code, strengthening the military, among others, are why he was elected.

Democrats have nothing, other than more of the same failed policies, which have contributed to their recent election losses. They are banking on undermining the president by accusation and insinuation.

The major media — which Trump regards as the mother of all liars — are in bed with his Democratic critics, while dismissing the lies of Democrats past and present. And that's no lie.

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaditors@tribpub.com.



Adam West 1928 - 2017

YOUR OPINION

Issue-oriented letters to the editor are welcome. All letters should be limited to 400 words in length; longer letters may be edited to conform to the specified length. The author's name must appear with the letter, and the name, address and phone number provided for verification. Letters that cannot be verified by telephone will not be published.

TIF: Welfare for the wealthy

Ed Williams

Jefferson City

Dear Editor:

I hope the supporters of fairness and opponents of welfare for the wealthy will attend the TIF meeting and oppose the stealing of \$6 million dollars with no benefit to the citizens. The meeting is at 6 p.m. Wednesday in City Hall. If you are motivated, I hope you speak out against the travesty. The Chamber will have their soldiers marching in lock step to support the giveaway. They will have several speakers, but they will have little substance as there is no good reason for the sales tax.

You could also contact members of the TIF Commission: Larry Benz, Sam Bushman, Larry Linthacum, Jason Hoffman, Betty Hagenoff, Eric Struempfler, Seth Bauman, John Pelzer, Willie Jude, Robert Gammon and William Betts II.

In your Friday's edition, there is an article about the attempt to refurbish the old International shoe factory into apartments for moderate and low income people. Some benefits not involving taxes have been denied the company attempting the project. Since the building has been vacant for probably 40 years, perhaps it could be judged blighted and at least their property taxes abated.

No, moderate- and low-income people do not receive the same status as welfare for the wealthy.

LGBTQ promoting alphabet soup?

Chuck Lahmeyer

Jefferson City

Dear Editor:

Is anyone else tired of seeing alphabet soup as a means to obscure and confuse the meaning of something? Take LGBT. What is that? L is for Lesbian, G for gay, B for bisexual and T for transgender. Just a minute, Lesbians are also gay aren't they? Bisexuals have gay AND heterosexual tendencies, so hetero is also in there also. T must be for transgender but could also be transvestite. And what is that Q that is sometimes added at the end? I guess it can only be queer, right? Now that's offensive. So what is it that the folks in this "community" have in common, if anything? Oh I get it. They are all perverts, right? It's the only reason I can figure out that they should all be lumped together.

Well, they are NOT perverts and they also don't have much in common. So why do we insist on "lumping" them? First of all it is to obscure the real meaning. No one is quite sure what LGBT is and it sounds so much more polite than having to say gay, homosexual or queer. Boy do I feel better having an acronym to hide behind! Second it's to simplify, so we don't have to think about people as individuals. Just lump 'em.

We should have compassion for all persuasions that are different than ours. You want to talk about compassion? See the story done by Jenna

Bush Hager on the Today show (April 13) about the mother of a transgender child. Search "Texas Mom's Faith" on Youtube and be enlightened.

But while we are talking about lumping diverse categories together in a "community," what is with that LGBT group anyhow? Why is it so exclusive? I want IN! So I propose we define a LGBT(Q)H community. Now I can be part of that. Let's see ... lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals and heterosexuals! What a nice ring it has. LGBTQH. Wait a minute, H could also stand for homosexual. It never ends.

Since it is so fashionable to lump people together in "communities," let me propose a group which I might already be included in. Let's see ... PPPRS. Pianists, Painters, Polymaths and Rocket Scientists. I'm in there somewhere. Want to join me in this "community"? Really folks, LGBT is basically gays and transgenders. Let's cut out all the confusion.

Response to Winter

Mark Bruenger

Jefferson City

Dear Editor:

Mr. Winter: (Kathy) Griffin's trashy, insensate, fatuous, mock visual of her holding Trump's bloody supposedly decapitated head and her resulting cowardly bloviating about being a victim is a pathetic case of sheer unmitigated stupidity at best. The supposed comic managed to use her First Amendment rights to humiliate not just herself but anybody who still believes she should be admired. Of course those that admire Griffin don't have enough cognitive capabilities to recognize useless vulgarity is not humor or a heedful political statement.

Your mention of blacklisting is very apropos

considering a gentleman performed the same stunt only using a fake Griffin head; however, his First Amendment rights were squashed in a heartbeat because his video was posted and wiped out on Facebook. The grossly liberal bastion of snowflakes didn't let his take on fairness have a chance of the proverbial snowball in hell.

Let me test your sense of humor. I recently saw a shirt that stated "Be a responsible conservative spay or neuter a liberal." "This message brought to you by (People for) (Ethical sterilization of the) (Totally) (Addled)." The font sizes for capital letters in parentheses were very large and each line was stacked in four lines so the initials looked like PETA sponsored the message. The next sentence was "Only a humane society will accomplish the task." After a row of smiley faces the last sentence stated: Taking a joke, not making one, is what proves you have a sense of humor. Griffin did not make a joke or engage in humor. However; she did exhibit a real mental problem that needs professional psychiatric help but her behavior should not be celebrated. Just an aside but did anybody else other than Hillary think of Bill Clinton when the word 'neuter' was mentioned?

Democrats do not believe in First Amendment rights except for themselves. Go to almost any town hall meeting for a Republican elected official and watch the Democrat-affiliated violent youth who have rejected their adulthood, manners and rational behavior shout down anybody other than themselves to steal from anybody not a Democrat other people's rights. Trying to engage in freedom of speech without being belted by trash and threatened with violence for merely having an objective thought rather than subjective dictatorial beliefs is the hallmark of the Democrat party that needs obedient mindless drones. Rational thought to Democrats is like pork is to Muslims.

Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the plowing season and harvest you must rest.

Exodus 34:21

OUR OPINION

Before selecting president, LU should search inward

As the process begins to find a new Lincoln University president, we agree with Interim President Mike Middleton's assessment that, first and foremost, the next Lincoln president needs to be "someone with visionary leadership."

Whoever is selected will have their work cut out for them. The new leader will come at a time when state funding shortfalls have resulted in cuts in higher education. At the same time, LU has struggled in recent years to keep its student population, much less grow it.

LU has focused on recruitment, but we question whether the university has seen the expected payout.

Before looking outward for a new president, the school needs to look inward. Before starting a nationwide search, it should consider whether anyone on the current payroll has the ability or desire to do the job.

Second, it needs to look inward to determine what it wants to be. Does it want to focus on its original mission as one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities? Or does it want to focus its recruitment efforts nearby, looking to serve a more regional population? Or does it want to try to be both an HBCU and a regional university?

LU has a proud African-American history, being founded by soldiers and officers of the 62nd United States Colored Infantry. They were stationed at Fort McIntosh, Texas, but composed primarily of Missourians.

The school's racial makeup has shifted in recent decades from primarily black students to more white students, including many older students.

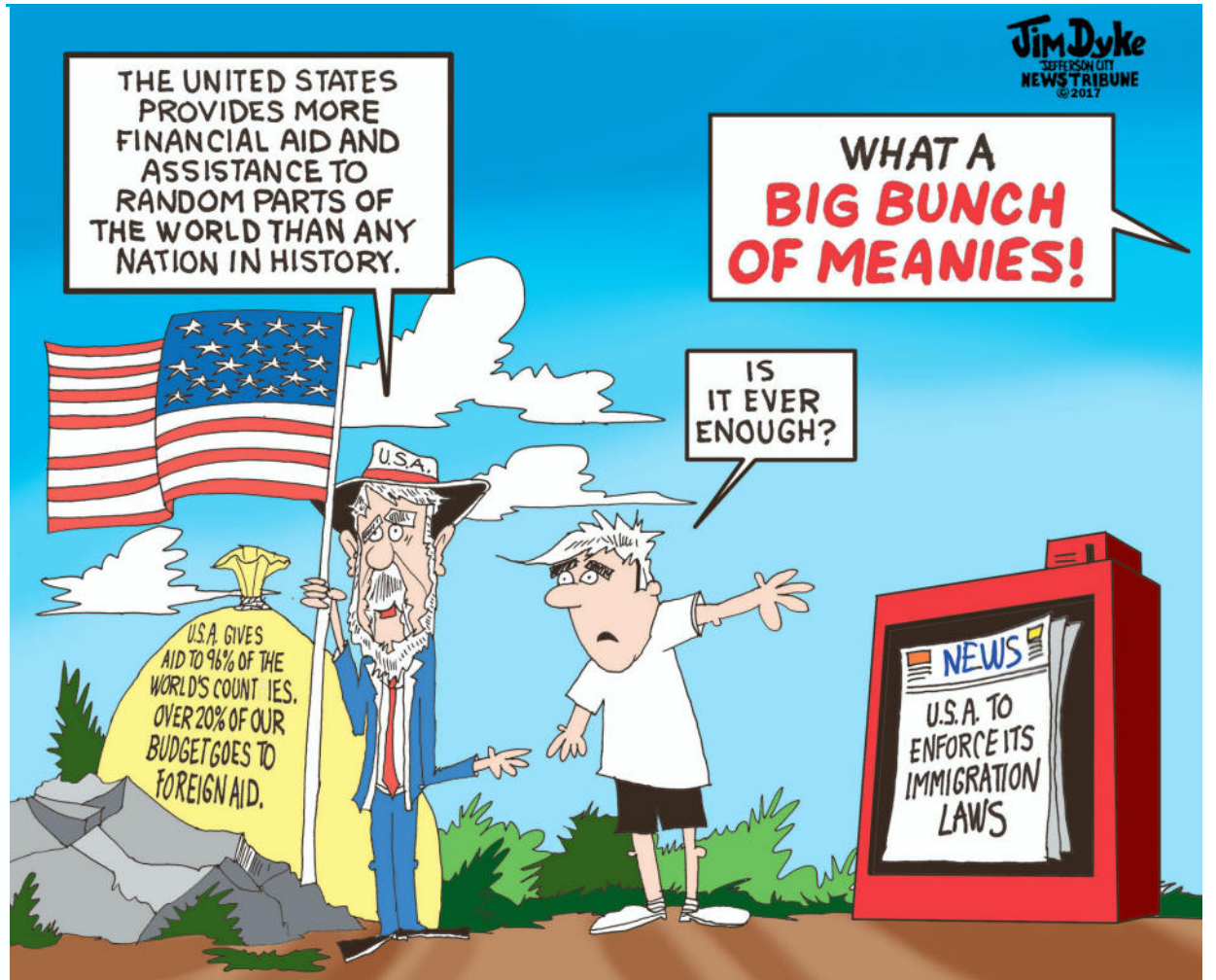
We believe the new president should have an academic background first and a business background second. Both skills are needed, as a good leader will be able to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the current faculty and work with them effectively.

He or she also will have to understand the business of running a university. That includes marketing and being a successful fund-raiser. A good president can convince the Missouri Legislature to appropriate more funds, convince alumni to donate and create beneficial partnerships with the community and others.

Even someone who has these skills might not be able to squeeze blood from a turnip to get legislative funding, which means the job likely will require the new president to find ways to run the operation more efficiently.

Do you have ideas regarding the search for a new president? LU would like to hear them. Email your thoughts to presidentsearch@lincolnu.edu.

News Tribune



YOUR OPINION

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History gives clue to fixing monetary policy

Charles Scheppers
Jefferson City

Dear Editor:
An Aug. 13 review of amendment proponents by Sophie Quinton asked, "Is changing the Constitution the only way to fix DC?" Actually, the monetary policy of DC today results from changes already made to the U.S. Constitution. Think tanks don't study much of the original Constitution to know it provided for honest money, balanced budgets and little ongoing debt.

During the 1787 Constitutional Convention, the proposed Article I Section 8 Clause 2 (Congress shall have power to borrow money and emit bills on the credit of the United States) was discussed; opinions were voiced both for and against giving Congress the power to issue paper money. The vote was nine to two striking out the words, "and emit bills," thus barring Congress from issuing paper money.

Article I Section 8 Clause 5 gave power to Congress to coin money, which Congress did and fixed the dollar at 371.25 grains of pure silver. In Article I Section 10, "No State shall ... make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts." These two sections complement each other, Congress being required to coin money and the states being required to enforce coin usage.

What happened to this? During the Civil War, Lincoln and Congress issued Greenbacks, paper money, to finance the war; this was accomplished under

martial law. After the cessation of hostilities, people demanded debts to be paid in coin and cases went up to the supreme Court; however, Congress and the state legislatures had changed the U.S. Constitution.

Three provisions of the 14th Amendment affect money. Section 1 creates "persons" which are distinct from the legal status of original citizens of the several states. Section 4 says, "The validity of the public debt of the United States ... shall not be questioned." Section 5 says, "Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article," not by the "necessary and proper" clause of the original U.S. Constitution. Section 5 removes judicial review of acts of Congress under this amendment. Together, they mean this new class of persons cannot seek judicial relief from Congress' imposition of public debt.

Think tanks also do not study the far-reaching changes effected by the Reconstruction amendments. If anything needs to be changed to rein in DC, it must be the removal of the changes already made.

Common sense will be the death of US

Charlotte Schnieders
Jefferson City

Dear Editor:
Responding to a Sept. 3 letter:
The death of common sense will be the death of America. Voters in 2016 saw our military decimated by sequestration, foreign policy disasters — ISIS in 35 countries, Assad killing 500,000+ Syrians, Russians taking the Ukraine (Obama denied approved missile defense systems in Czech and Poland) China's increased military, the Middle East disaster — the slaughter and displacement of millions of Christians, giving Iran (the largest sponsor of terrorism) \$1.4 billion in the middle of the night and attacking Libya without congressional approval.

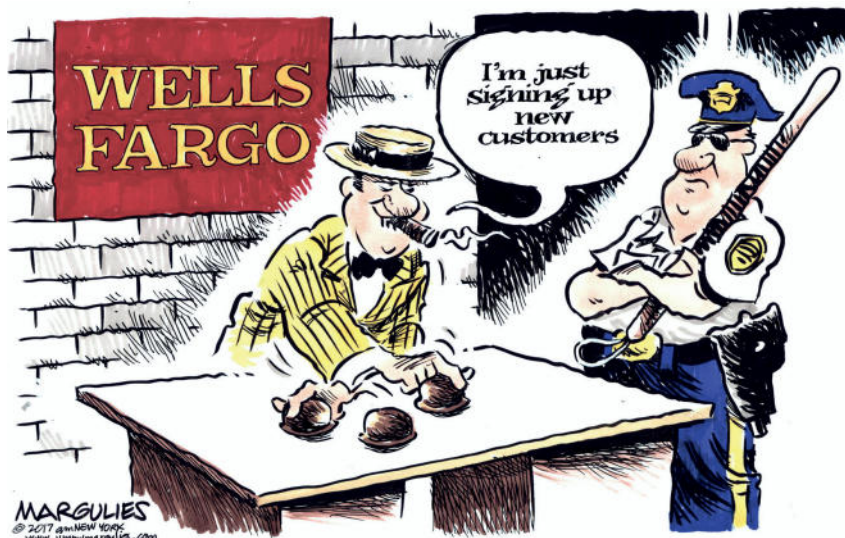
The release of Gitmo prisoners with high recidivism rates and the pardon/special treatment of traitors.

Domestically, open borders allowed tremendous amounts of illegals and drugs in, causing more crimes, deaths, job issues, but sanctuary cities were formed for protection. Housing, food, health care (now unaffordable to most Americans), education and lawyers for illegals — falling on taxpayers and welfare guidelines loosened. Prisoners released with police being the new target and citizens criticized for wanting to deny illegals voting rights. Jobs lost due to Dodd/Frank, Obamacare, and numerous irrational treaties. Divisive groups like BLM, Antifa, white supremacy, neo-Nazi gaining memberships and attention. Common Core allowing Islam into our schools.

Scandals of Black Panther voter intimidation, Fast & Furious, surveillance/targeting of conservative Americans using the IRS and seizing phone records of reporters, Benghazi, selling arms to enemies, illegal and unprotected private servers, highly questionable tarmac meetings, the VA denying vets care, denying Keystone pipeline and sweepers for Deep Water Horizon, claiming millions of acres Parkland so resources couldn't be developed, the \$500 billion Solyndra debacle, the redistribution hoax of global warming, Russia getting 20 percent of US uranium, the housing crisis bailout still occurring, leaked campaign emails, Schultz's hiring of Pakistan family trying to escape America that oversaw top secret info, Comey exonerating Hillary in document before she and 17 critical people were interrogated and leaked private presidential conversations! Who was responsible — the Democrats!

No special prosecutor called, take the Fifth, bleach-bit emails, hammer hard-drives, take executive privilege, lie and deny everything and bogged the new administration with continual lawsuits.

The non-politician, Trump created a million jobs, record high stock markets, lowered unemployment and would have Healthcare and tax reform except for a do-nothing Congress and the fake news media.



A plague on both houses

By Bradley R. Gitz

Political polarization leads to political violence because once you muster up enough hate, the use of violence against what you hate becomes permissible, perhaps even necessary.

Just as the political right is being tested by the emergence of the "alt-right," the leftist maxim that "there are no enemies on the left" is being tested by the emergence of the violent Marxist/anarchist "Anti-fa" (Anti-fascist) movement.

Those images of neo-Nazi and black-masked Antifa thugs clubbing each other should remind us of nothing so much as the street fights in German cities under Weimar, in which Hitler's stormtroopers and Stalin's minions in the German Communist Party (KPD) provided an ideological preview of what would occur a few years later in more organized fashion in Spain and then on a more titanic scale on the eastern front during World War II.

Such radicals fed off each other, as the alt-right and Antifa do now, with each using the other as the rationale for their own existence and resort to violence. Let us forget, the "Axis" was formally called the "Anti-Comintern Pact."

The ideological arc ultimately tends to bend back and come full circle, as Nazis and communists have always had far more in common with each other than either has had with liberal Democrats, most conspicuously in their mutual rejection of liberal democracy and shared embrace of unlimited state power, out of which the concept of totalitarianism was born. Indeed, Hitler borrowed many elements of his totalitarian order from the one Stalin had constructed earlier in the USSR.

The Nazis might have hated Jews and the communists the "bourgeoisie," but the targets of the hate mattered far less than its intensity

and its role as a motive for mass murder. The actual content of a given radical ideology is ultimately less important than the way they inevitably attract violent, fanatical personality types to the cause.

As Jonah Goldberg perceptively notes, "There's a natural tendency to think that when people, or movements, hate each other, it must be because they're opposites. This assumption overlooks the fact that many — indeed, most — of the great conflicts and hatreds in human history are derived from what Sigmund Freud called the 'narcissism of minor differences.'"

In the end, each side wants to believe that their radicals (fascists or communists) aren't quite as bad as the other side's, but to say that something isn't

quite as bad as the Nazis is to damn with faint praise. Just because someone fights against evil doesn't mean that they aren't — no one killed more Nazis than Stalin, and no one killed more communists than Hitler, but such facts don't make either any less morally repulsive.

Liberal journalists like the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg and CNN's Chris Cuomo who have fawningly compared Antifa to American soldiers hitting the beaches at Normandy slander both those brave soldiers and historical memory. Such sentiments are just as toxic to the body politic as those expressed by the human slime that slithered through the streets of Charlottesville.

The broader lesson in all this is that there is an inevitable linkage between radicalism on the one hand and political violence and totalitarianism on the other, with the ideological labels largely insignificant. The ideological continuum ceases to matter, or even be a continuum, once you reach its furthest ends.

It might not have been the most politically astute way to put it, but an obscure American senator from Missouri at least got the moral

implications right when, after the 1941 Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, he said "if we see that Germany is winning we ought to help Russia, and if Russia is winning we ought to help Germany, and that way let them kill as many as possible" (although accuracy requires noting that Harry Truman also said that he "didn't want to see Hitler victorious under any circumstances").

Far more useful and parsimonious, then, than the distinction between "left" and "right" in understanding the menace of radicalism is a simple classification system in which we distinguish between those who accept individual rights under self-government and those who do not.

Within this context, we should never forget that the struggle between contemporary American liberals and conservatives represents — properly understood, and however intense at times — merely a factional dispute within a broader liberal democratic tradition which fascists and communists (and Islamists) stand apart from and seek to destroy.

Given this, the worst thing we can do is abandon cherished principles like freedom of speech and assembly, and thus do the work of our enemies for them.

We should also remember in all this that violence is never a form of "speech," even when committed against neo-Nazis. And speech is never violence, even when coming from neo-Nazis.

The headline of a San Francisco Chronicle story from Aug. 27 said "Masked anarchists violently rout right-wing demonstrators in Berkeley."

Forget for a moment which side was which and think only about the words "violently," "demonstrators" and especially the word "rout," a term perhaps more appropriate for describing the outcome of an Alabama-Florida International football game.

So is this Germany circa 1930 or America? Or doesn't it matter, so long as your side won the scrum?

Freelance columnist Bradley R. Gitz, who lives and teaches in Batesville, received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Illinois.

OUR OPINION

Competing for students: A tale of two schools

Lincoln University needs to attract "every student we can get." State Technical College of Missouri needs 250 more students to avoid cuts.

It might not be the worst of times for these two schools, but it certainly isn't the best of times, either. Missouri's public colleges in general are hurting.

They're hurting for students and for operating funds.

Missouri isn't alone. The New York Times reports that in recent years, taxpayer support for public colleges has decreased. In 1987, states kicked in about three quarters of what public colleges spent on education; as of three years ago, they contributed about half. Most of the remainder has to come from tuition.

Tuition revenue has been flat or falling in 73 percent of colleges, the Times reported.

In the case of LU and State Tech, their missions are quite different. LU is an open enrollment school, while State Tech needs students who were strong academically in high school.

"(Lincoln students) come from, and through, life experiences that most students at the other four-year colleges in the state have not had," Interim President Mike Middleton said in Sunday's News Tribune.

State Tech President Shawn Strong, on the other hand, said: "If a kid's not coming out of high school with close to a 3.0 GPA, they're probably not going to make it (at State Tech)."

Both schools have some ideas on how to bolster their enrollments/revenue.

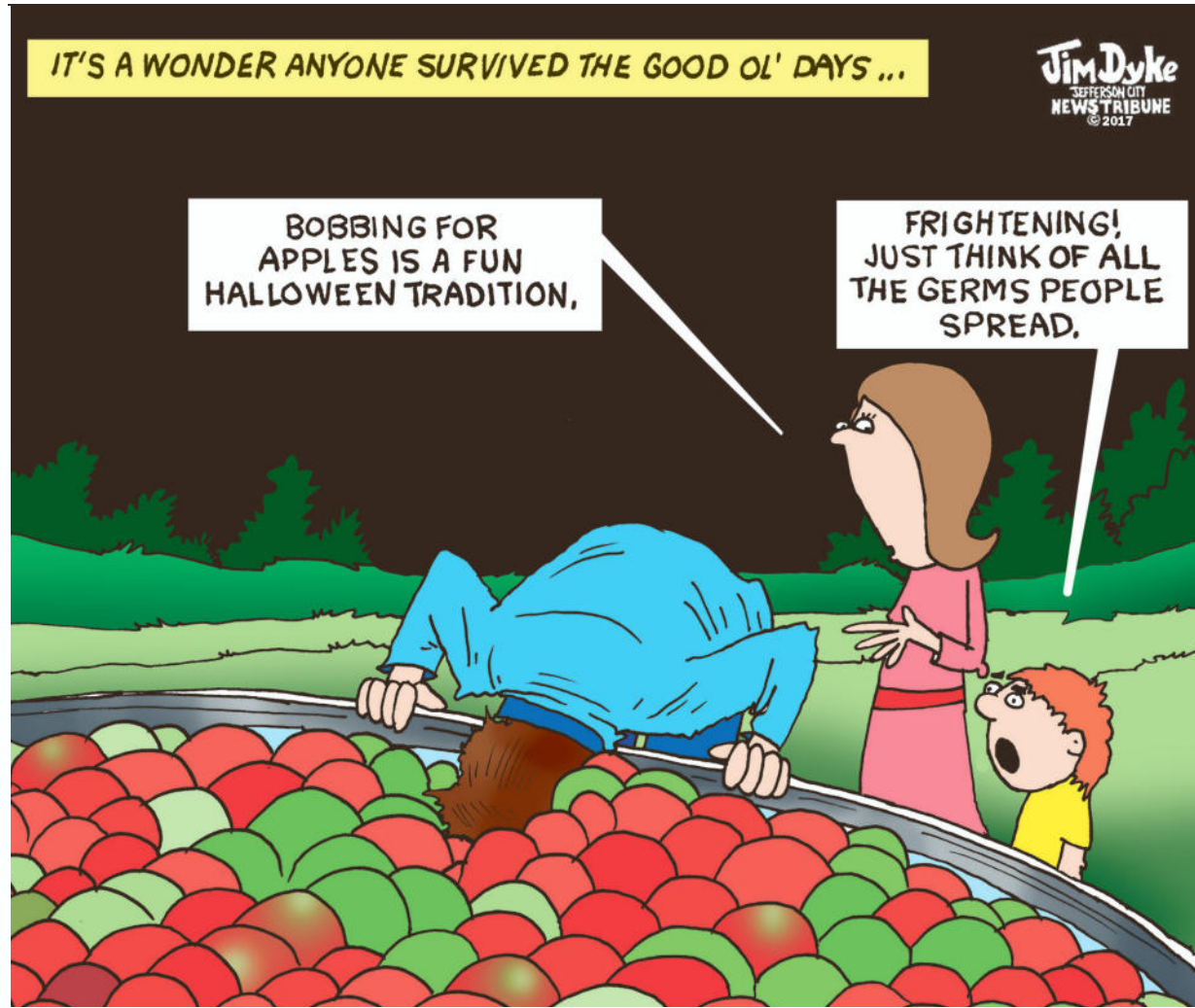
State Tech, facing a shortfall of more than \$1.4 million, needs to convince high school counselors that technical college in general — and State Tech in particular — should be the first choice of many students, not a backup.

Lincoln wants to work on its students' success so that they will stay in school to graduation. Then, as alumni, the school hopes they will donate more than current alumni. "Our endowments from our alums and donors are very, very low," Middleton said.

LU also needs to work on "dysfunctional administrative problems" and boosting the number of black faculty members, Middleton said.

One thing is for sure: There's no windfall coming from state revenue any time soon. Both schools, along with others in the state, may have to find out-of-the-box solutions that find ways to do more with less.

News Tribune



Lessons of predators and enablers from the Weinstein scandal

The following editorial appeared in *Newsday*:

Harvey Weinstein used his dominant role as a Hollywood kingpin to demand sexual favors from young women, a decades-long pattern for him and, until a few days ago, a winning strategy.

Some on Weinstein's payroll and those who wanted to curry his favor enabled his behavior and silenced his victims, allowing Weinstein to abuse even more women.

Weinstein's tactics, his accomplices and the reactions of those he abused provide a chilling but never surprising tale of how those who have power in a workplace can abuse and humiliate those who don't. Reporting in *The New York Times*, and later in *The New Yorker* magazine, contains lurid details of women accusing the famed producer — someone thanked more than anyone else in Academy Award acceptance speeches — of demanding sexual gratification as a prerequisite for doing business. And then using legal settlements and his company's money to buy the silence of his victims.

The downfall of Weinstein, who has been fired by his own company, comes

after similar accusations brought down other media titans such as Fox News founder Roger Ailes and host Bill O'Reilly. The patterns are eerily similar to those of Weinstein.

This is not a story about politics on the left or the right. No ideology has a monopoly on the abuse of power or the hypocrisy that accompanies it. And such abuse is not limited to men misbehaving toward women. Nor is it always about the wealthy mistreating the poor, or famous people abusing unknowns. The dynamic is one of people using power to manipulate the powerless in the most base ways.

Weinstein, wealthy and famous, commands our attention just as Ailes and O'Reilly did. But a restaurant manager who controls the work schedule can exercise the same type of power over a waitress who needs good shifts to feed her kids as a movie magnate can over a young actress who needs a role to fulfill her dreams. So can executives at a prominent technology company where there is a culture of aggression and sexism. Just a few months ago, Uber fired more than 20 employees and ousted its CEO in an

attempt to reform a toxic workplace.

The atmosphere at work is better for female employees now than in the past. Many companies have strict policies to prevent abuses and human resources staffs that make sure those protections are honored. Sordid behavior is no longer accepted as the norm. But Weinstein's casting couch was known well enough in Hollywood to find its way, in joking form, into televised Academy Award presentations and prime-time sitcoms. Stars including Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie are now saying to the cameras what they once whispered to women in those private networks where warnings about abusers were quietly passed along.

Weinstein got away with it for so long because he was powerful and because people feared him or liked him or hoped to use him — and because in the end it was just easier or safer.

So the lesson must be repeated once again: sexual harassment and assault are criminal behavior. Every time a predator is protected and the acts go unpunished, more people are endangered.

Those who failed to stop abuse should be ashamed.

VIEWPOINT

The auto industry has a glamorous past but an opaque future

DETROIT — Bending metal, slapping on chrome and marketing an empowering product and status marker that mesmerized 20th-century America, the automobile industry typified the Old Economy, of which General Motors was emblematic. As was its bankruptcy. Today, GM's CEO Mary Barra is waging that the industry soon will be manufacturing New Economy products. They will incorporate technologies that will entice buyers whose sensibilities and expectations have been shaped by the kind of empowerment delivered by their smartphones, which arrived just 10 years ago.

GM's electric self-starter, which replaced hand cranks, was the last century's most transformative innovation. It arrived in 1912. Today, Cadillac offers hands-free driving, with advanced GPS mapping. An eye-tracking cam-

era on the steering column monitors driver alertness, and the car nags the distracted driver back to attentiveness, which makes this technological marvel less of a convenience than the self-starter. Still, Barra is attempting an audacious balance between the demands of present consumers and radically different future demands. Or, more accurately, a future that governments, hostile to consumer sovereignty, intend to dictate.

China has announced, as have Britain and France, plans to ban, at an undetermined date, sales of vehicles powered by fossil fuels in their tanks. (Electric vehicles will be powered mostly by fossil-fuel-generated electricity.) In Shanghai in mid-September, Barra dissented: "I think it works best when, instead of mandating, consumers, not government dictates, should decide

how cars are powered." But governments, and not just dictatorships, like to dictate, and companies must accommodate: GM sells more cars in China than in America (it sold about 1.2 million Buicks last year, about a million of them in China, where elites drove them decades before communism arrived), and China manufactures more cars than

the United States and Japan combined. As GM promises two new electric vehicles in the next 18 months, and a total of 20 by 2023, one of Barra's executives speaks of GM "driving increased usage and acceptance of electric vehicles," but governments are at the wheel. Without subventions from Washington, Tesla's market capitalization never would have even briefly exceeded GM's.

Barra foresees a fast-unfolding future of "zero crashes" (salvation through software: auto-crash fatality rates are rising for the first time in years, and 94 percent of crashes are caused by human error), "zero emissions" (zero from tailpipes, much from smokestacks in an all-electric future) and "zero congestion" (with more ride-hailing services and car-sharing fleets, less individual car ownership and less urban land devoted to parking lots).

Ford, too, is anticipating a future replete with electric, semi-autonomous, driverless and shared cars: Two years ago, it announced a \$4.5 billion investment in electric vehicles. But to pay for this speculation (electrics are 1 percent of U.S. car sales, despite tax incentives to buy what the government prefers), Ford is diverting \$7 billion from cars to vehicles for which there actually is demand — SUVs and trucks (its F-Series pickup has been America's best-selling vehicle

since 1982).

The automobile industry is precariously poised between a glamorous past and a future as opaque as it was when Henry Ford supposedly said that if he had begun by asking customers what they wanted they would have answered "a faster horse." Or when the company he founded produced a car named for his son

COMMENTARY

Edsel. "This is a long-lead-time business," says Barra, as she tries to peer over the horizon to develop products for a public that increasingly can work and shop without leaving home, and that decreasingly vacations as it was exhorted to by the theme song of "The Dinah Shore Chevy Show" (1956-63): "See the USA in your Chevrolet." The torrid romance that was America's car culture has cooled (the percentage of 12th graders with a driver's license has declined from 88 to 73 since 1978), the sedan (Chevrolet's Impala has been around since 1958) is an endangered species, and car companies are preparing for a future in which the crucial metric is not the number of vehicles sold to consumers but the number of miles traveled by consumers.

Barra, 55, whose father was a die-maker for Pontiac for 39 years, remembers when auto dealers covered their showroom windows with paper to build excitement for the first glimpses of new models. She is banking on a more sophisticated kind of excitement for smartcars. They will be designed for customers who in 2006 did not know that soon they would not be able to imagine living without the smartphones that in 2006 they could not imagine.

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

Daniel 7:14

YOUR OPINION

Issue-oriented letters to the editor are welcome. All letters should be limited to 400 words in length; longer letters may be edited to conform to the specified length. The author's name must appear with the letter, and the name, address and phone number provided for verification. Letters that cannot be verified by telephone will not be published.

Market-driven alternatives versus War on Coal

Ruth Wallace
Jefferson City

Dear Editor:

As citizens concerned for our children and grandchildren's future, we need to be inquisitive about the truth and falsehoods of global warming conversations. The public discourse of coal jobs versus coal pollutants is particularly disturbing. Regardless of what is argued, the truth is that coal is a dying 19th century energy technology that is losing out to more profitable natural gas ventures. In addition, our future is geared toward more diverse, ethical and profitable technologies such as wind and solar.

There is no "War on Coal." But, there seems to be a war on coal miners by coal companies who manipulated regulation loopholes to skirt safety and environmental standards. These "profit protection" actions endangered the lives of miners and their families. And, as profits have dropped, coal companies have filed for bankruptcy. The courts have protected the investors and owners which wrecked the miner's pensions and health care. It didn't have to be this way. Coal companies could have reasonably afforded to line their coal ash sludge ponds and put scrubbers on smoke stacks 20 years ago. This would have saved thousands of mining jobs and made rational progress toward pollution control. Turning greed and negligence into a political advantage, coal companies laid blame on the Obama Administration. In doing so, they obscured the long history of industry-related deaths and environmental catastrophes that necessitated regulation. It's easy enough to listen to rhetoric from industry-paid ads and politicians, but it's almost as easy to view a fact-based documentary.

The Missouri River Regional Library will be showing an advanced screening of the documentary "From the Ashes" from 6:30-8 p.m. Oct. 16. The film highlights issues pro and con surrounding the coal industry, its impact on workers and the planet, and its current position in the arena of the American energy business. Whatever one thinks about coal, they will find this film informative.

Dems: Step up your game

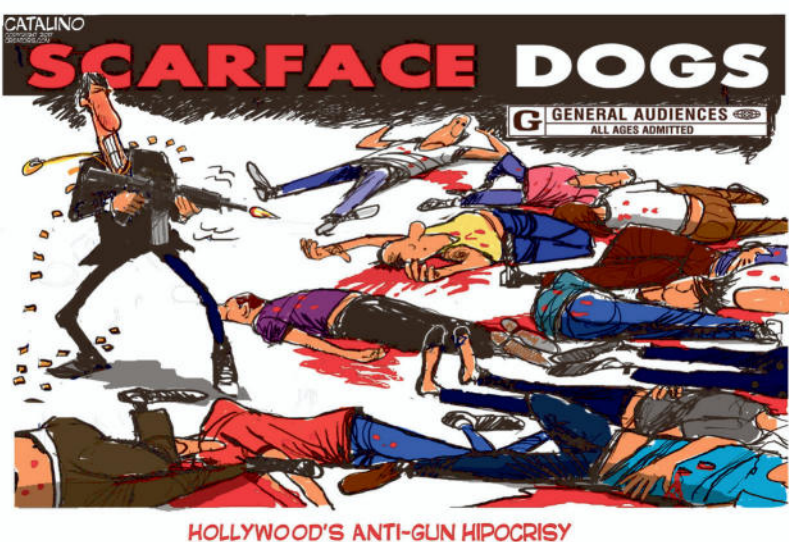
Harry Trickey
Jefferson City

Dear Editor:

To the many democratic candidates who constantly badger me for donations: When you actually get someone running the DNC that defies the status quo I will think about giving you some of my money. I cannot really afford to part with much and want my six pence to count.

For just once Democrats...stand for something and actually do something instead of courting Wall Street and standing in line for the next \$600,000 speaking opportunity! Go down fighting for what President Roosevelt gifted us: the poor and the hourly wage worker. You can't win a fight if you don't throw any punches. You can start out by firing Tom Perez. We need a spiritual leader. Not just a fund raiser.

Ironically the most effective Democrat on the stump is the oldest. Sen. Sanders (who could be president) can excite people by talking passionately about economic justice and opportunity for urban and rural citizens alike. He funded his campaign with money raised from individuals. The Koch brothers and their ilk can wallow in their pig sty all they want.





OPINION

Walter E. Hussman Jr., *Publisher*
Zach Ahrens, *General Manager*
Gerry Tritz, *Opinion Page Editor*
Gary Castor, *Managing Editor*

A family owned and operated independent newspaper

OUR OPINION

As LU looks to hire next president, lawmaker seeks financial help

As Lincoln University works to select the best candidate to lead the historically black institution, a Missouri House member is pushing for improved funding for the university.

We hope both efforts will be fruitful for the school, which was founded as Lincoln Institute in 1866 with a special mission — to help educate freed slaves who had been denied the right to an education by an 1847 state law.

As we reported Thursday, state Rep. Courtney Allen Curtis, D-Ferguson, this past week promoted his proposed law and two resolutions aimed at improving state funding for LU and Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis, the state's other historically black college.

In recent years, the two schools have had the smallest student populations among Missouri's 13 four-year university campuses.

Curtis said his proposed law, House Bill 2464, would provide supplemental funding to Lincoln and Harris-Stowe to ensure they are funded at the same level as the University of Missouri, on a per-student basis.

The additional funding also would compensate the two schools for historical disparities in their funding, he said.

Curtis is pushing a resolution seeking the General Assembly's commitment to ensure Missouri's historically black higher education institutions "are comparable to and competitive with the Columbia campus of the University of Missouri in all facets of their operations and programs, and that such institutions are funded at the same level as the University of Missouri in Columbia, on a per-student basis."

Meanwhile, LU's Board of Curators are down to two candidates to replace former President Kevin Rome.

Those candidates are William E. Hudson Jr., vice president for student affairs at Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, and Jerald Jones Woolfolk, vice president for Student Affairs at the State University of New York, Oswego.

Both have undergone extensive interviews/meetings with curators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and members of the general public.

Both candidates appear highly qualified, and we look forward to the curators' decision and the next president executing his, or her, vision to make LU bigger and better in the future.

News Tribune

COMMENTARY

Stay focused on solutions

A resounding chorus of misinformation adds no validity; it simply adds volume. There's nothing "common sense" about trying to solve gun crime by controlling either the behavior of non-criminals or the guns that are only rarely used in criminal activity.

The first level of control over any firearm starts with the individual, which means criminal gun control must begin with the control of those persons who seek to possess and use guns illegally.



Dana Kelley

Only one fringe faction cares about guns that are never used for criminal violence, and that's the manic anti-gun zealots seeking to impose their dystopian ideology on everyone else. For the majority who truly care about reducing gun crime and its victimization of innocents, inert weapons of any sort are not the problem.

Guns used in crimes are the problem. To the hyperpolitical periphery that views all guns as bad, a gun owner is essentially guilty of a moral crime.

But most Americans fully realize that if guns alone were the issue, the U.S. would have a whole lot more gun crime. As it is, only a minuscule fraction of the nation's guns ever wind up being used in murders and other criminal shootings.

Consider the much-maligned AR-15 series: There are up to 8 million such rifles in American hands, yet few people can name 10 crimes committed with one. If we could

Please see Kelley, p. 11



YOUR OPINION

Issue-oriented letters to the editor are welcome. All letters should be limited to 400 words in length; longer letters may be edited to conform to the specified length. The author's name must appear with the letter, and the name, address and phone number provided for verification. Letters that cannot be verified by telephone will not be published.

What does it mean to be an American?

Dale Reichel
California

Dear Editor:
What does it mean to be American? Does being American mean being white and Christian? Does being American mean being an individual and trying to be as rich as possible and having as many possessions as you can?

Does being an American mean keeping black people down, stepping on Latinos and Muslims? No concern for others, I got mine, the blank with you! Is this the new American? Seems so for many.

What happened to helping others, the common good? In order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty. A little or our Constitution. Did our Founding Fathers mean what they wrote or is it just bunk?

Far left missing the big picture

Larry Russell Johnson
Jefferson City

Dear Editor:
Despite popular belief, handguns account for 21,000 homicides and rifles account for 300 homicides per year. Others contend that mass shootings account for less than 1 percent of the U.S. homicide rate and believe that anyone who is hell-bent to commit to do a homicide, there is very little that can do to stop it.

The far left's argument that AR-15s are assault weapons are false. The AR-15 is a semi-automatic rifle used for hunting or sports shooting. The operational systems are different from the military issue M16A2 rifle which only shoots three-round bursts. I believe they have seen too many episodes of "The Walking Dead."

The far left's argument for more gun control is a shining moment in behavior science. In my opinion we need to ban backpacks in schools; use walk-through metal detectors; do mandatory random pat-searches; use of name tags and hall passes would be mandatory.

Ignorance is slavery. I am not referring to George Orwell's book "1984." I am talking about 1972 after a series of lone-wolf hijackings in America. The use of walk-through metal detectors became mandatory at airports including the implementation of locking mechanisms on

cabin doors. How did the 911 puppet master evade security?

I agree with President Donald Trump's move to ban devices like the rapid-fire bump stocks used in last year's Las Vegas massacre and the Feb. 23 decision on Fox News to strengthen the background check system; ban gun-free zones at schools; and allow teachers with concealed carry permits having background experience in law enforcement or military to harden security at schools much like airports and government buildings.

Hours after the Oregon shooting, President Obama became political and called for more anti-gun laws and failed to understand that the states with the strictest gun laws have the highest number of gun violence.

I agree that America needs to rebuild our mental health system. Prolonged use of alcohol or drugs causes brain deterioration and many forms of mental illness. Dietary deficiencies sometimes disturb the body chemistry and produce unusual psychological effects.

Objects of criticism include the Muslim refugees, refusal to conform and assimilate into the host countries' culture, and the cowardly acts of terrorism motivated by radical Islam.

Broadband internet access not lacking

Bert Dirschell
Centertown

Dear Editor:
Wednesday's News Tribune contained another article on supposed lack of broadband access, "Farmers push for rural broadband internet." This appears to me to be another group of people who want more "free stuff." If you are sincere in your belief that broadband access is unavailable to you I apologize and suggest that you contact HughesNet, a satellite internet provider. (I have no financial interest in HughesNet, it's just that I regularly receive offers of 25/3 satellite internet access from them. There are probably other satellite internet providers that can also provide you with broadband.)

What will be the next item of "free stuff" that will become a necessity that government should force other taxpayers to fund? Perhaps free access to public water supplies should be a "free stuff" item.

My family needs access to water. Why should I have to pay to drill a well just because I live in a rural area? Maybe government should force others to pay for a water line down my road so that I can tap it.

We pay for access to satellite TV but if I want access to cable perhaps government should force others to pay a cable provider to install a trunk down the road where I reside.

Maybe sidewalks along all rural roads should be a "free stuff" item. If I want to take a walk government should provide me a sidewalk to walk on. (If we call it a trail could we get government to force others to fund it?)

The list of "free stuff" being handed out will continue to grow as long as politicians are allowed to continue buying votes by handing it out.

You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.

2 Samuel 22:28

COMMENTARY

Keystone State race could set template for Democrats

MOUNT LEBANON, Pa. — Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District, which ripples over the steep hills of this Pittsburgh suburb and stretches south to the West Virginia border, has not had a competitive congressional election since 2006. The fact that it will have one on March 13 makes this the most important 2018 voting before Nov. 6.



George Will

The seat's most recent occupant, Republican Tim Murphy, 65, a married father, had won it eight times, the last two times unopposed, and by 28 percentage points when last opposed, in 2012. A fervent anti-abortion social conservative, he resigned in 2017 amid some ethical challenges, including allegations that he urged his pregnant girlfriend to get an abortion. The national GOP under its current livewire leader, Stormy Daniels' acquaintance, is decreasingly convincing as a vessel of social conservatism, but at least it still opposes deficit spending and protectionism.

Democrats retain an approximately 70,000 registration advantage in this district, a residue of its past as home to unionized steelworkers (there are 86,000 union households). It was, however, voting Republican in federal elections long before the president discovered that he is a Republican. It has voted Republican in five consecutive presidential elections; in those, George W. Bush (twice), John McCain, Mitt Romney and Donald Trump carried it with 49.7, 53.3, 55.2, 57.9 and 58.1 percent, respectively. There was no surge for Trump, just the continuation of a trend.

The Republican nominee to hold the seat, Rick Saccone, a 60-year-old four-term state legislator, says he was "Trump before Trump was Trump," which is probably true but might not be saying much, the eponymous fellow having recently arrived at his current convictions and party allegiance. Saccone has lived an eventful life: 18 years in the Air Force, a Ph.D. in international relations, author of nine books, two of them on North Korea, where he lived for a year negotiating nuclear policy. His Democratic opponent is Nancy Pelosi.

Actually, it just seems that way. One ad run on his behalf warns that his actual opponent, Conor Lamb, would be — wait for it — "one of Nancy Pelosi's sheep." Lamb immunized himself early on by saying that if Democrats win a House majority, he will not vote for Pelosi as

Please see Will, p. 11

INSTRUCTIONS FOR A NEW TEACHER:

