

KeizerOpinion

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Do no harm

To the Class of 2017:
The easy part is over. People will say that if you can get through high school, you're set. Except for college. Except for a job and a career. Graduates in every generation say the same thing: "I'm glad high school is over." Yet, many people say they remember their high school days fondly—the structure, the friends, the sports, the activities. All of that without thinking much about how it is all paid for.

If you paid attention to your studies you have exited high school with a solid base of education that will serve you well as you enter your college days. For those foregoing further education in favor of the military or directly into the job market, your education will serve you well, also.

One of the key lessons you learned through the past 12 years of schooling is how to treat people, how to socialize with others. That's important because the world is full of people. You will meet people at college, at work, in the military, on a mission.

How you deal with other people will have a huge impact on your success. The Golden Rule may sound trite but it has always been true: when you treat others well, you will be treated well in return. Be polite. Don't be nasty. Be helpful. Don't be selfish. You know the rules, practice them out in the real world—the payoff will be amazing.

editorial

The world you entered at birth is so much different than the world you enter out of school. Everything seemed to be so innocent back when you were a baby. Ask your parents and grandparents—they'll agree.

You are a generation that lives in a world in which terrorist attacks are common occurrences. Terrorism can hit home (as the attack on Portland's MAX train last month attests), but for most of you terrorism is an item in the news—if you pay attention to the news.

You are joining millions of others who are taking their first steps into a post-primary education life. That life will include making good decisions for yourself and others. Too many bad decisions are fueled by alcohol and the mob mentality. Just this week Harvard University rescinded the acceptance of 10 incoming freshman for exchanging obscene and racist Facebook posts.

There is nothing so promising as a high school graduating class that enters the world. Everything is possible, there are rules and boundaries to test and stretch. The same ol' doesn't have to continue to be the same ol'. It is within your power to control the destiny of the planet you will inherit.

And even if you are not going into medical school take a lesson from Hippocrates: Do no harm.

—LAZ

A razor and an iron

By LYNDON ZAITZ

I come from a customer service background, primarily in food and beverage. Restaurant companies are serious when it comes to not only the cleanliness of their shops but also a clean, presentable staff.

Companies in the 1970s and 1980s had dress and grooming guidelines. If you wanted a job you wore the uniform or you cut your hair or you covered your tattoos. A number of high profile court cases put the scotch on such rules. And it shows these days.

Far from a crotchedy ol' man, I find myself railing (in my mind) against the standards so many businesses seem to have adopted these days when it comes to how they allow their employees to appear.

Back in the 1960s parents and older people wanted to chase after and cut the 'hippie' hair of kids. Meh...hair styles come and go. I find I want to chase after employees with a razor. I think to myself: commit to a beard fully or drop the whole thing and

shave. The employee with a quarter inch, spotty beard, is a not a paragon of fashion or hipness in my book. Not every person who can grow some hair on their face should have a beard; mostly it just looks unkempt and sends a message that they don't much care about personal grooming.

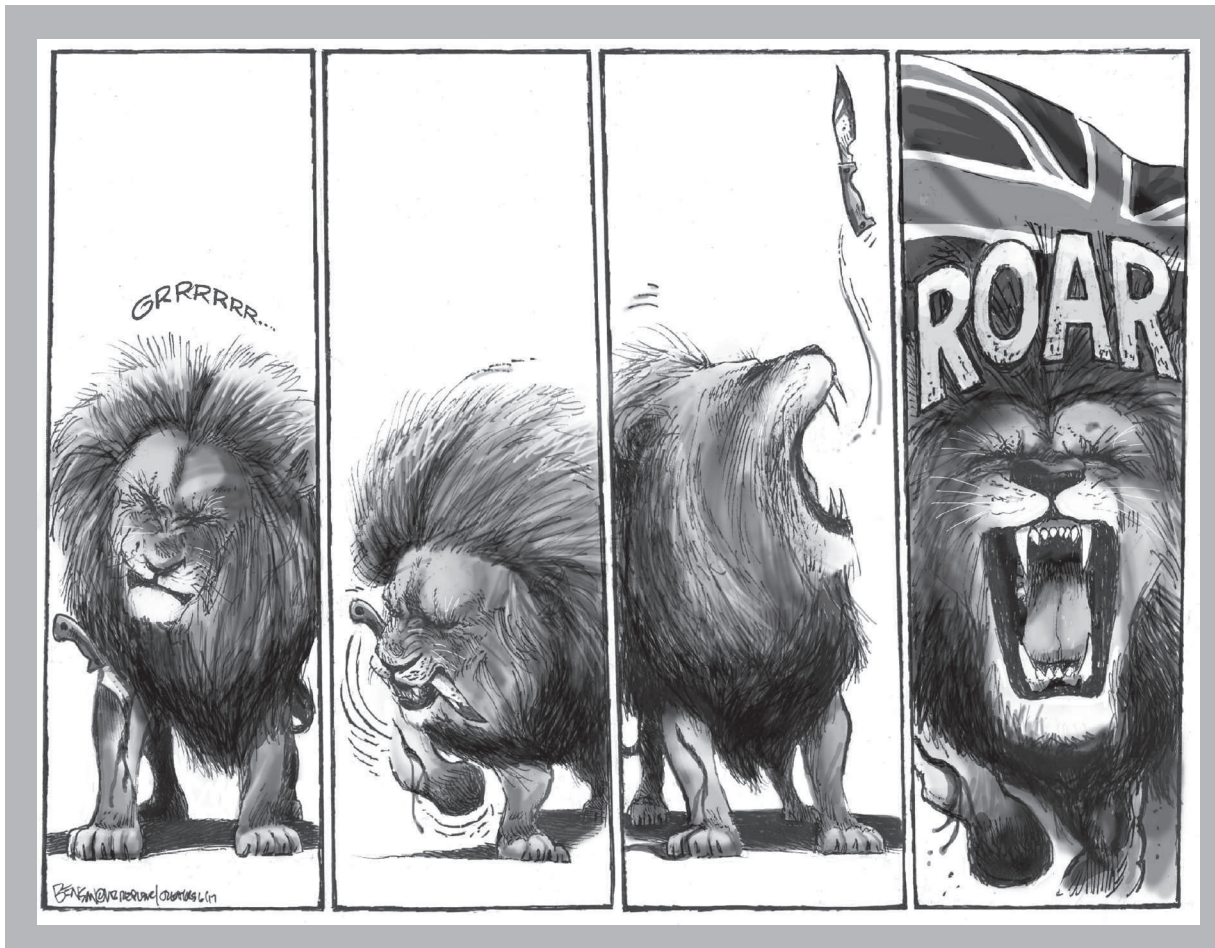
I also find myself wanting to chase after some of the employees I see working in customer service with a good steam iron. Wrinkles equal carelessness.

I understand an employee guidebook that allows beards, but I don't understand where—in any employee manual—that it is perfectly acceptable to look like a slob. Wearing casual clothes when one works at Google or Uber is fine, wearing wrinkled clothes while serving fast food or working in a deli is quite another.

Can the managers of the world tighten up their grooming standards? Please?

(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the Keizertimes.)

on my mind



Backlash builds against Griffin

By DEBRA SAUNDERS

By mid-week last week, comedian Kathy Griffin had apologized for posing for a photo with what looked like the blood-soaked decapitated head of President Donald Trump.

"I went too far," she said in a contrite follow-up video. "I sincerely apologize."

But it was too late. Squatty Potty CEO Bobby Edwards announced that it was suspending an ad campaign featuring Griffin as the Utah-based bathroom-stool company saw the stunt as "deeply inappropriate" and "contrary to the core values our company stands for."

CNN also announced it was terminating Griffin's appearance on its New Year's show, after earlier criticizing the photos as "disgusting and offensive."

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., still planned to appear with Griffin on a tour to promote his new book, *Al Franken: Giant of the Senate*. Franken called the photo shoot "a horrible mistake," but said "she did the right thing asking for forgiveness."

The question is: What ever made Griffin and photographer Tyler Shields think that it was acceptable, or even funny, for Griffin to pose as an Islamic State terrorist would, holding what looked to be the hacked-off head of a U.S. president?

It is clear that the photo—posted earlier on TMZ—was not a spontaneous gaffe. Griffin and Shields produced a video about the production in which Griffin joked, "We have to go to Mexico. Because we're going to prison, federal prison."

Radio talk show host Rush Lim-

other views

baugh likened the video to "the political assassination of Donald Trump."

Tweeting Wednesday morning, Trump said Griffin "should be ashamed of herself" for the photo. "My children, especially my 11-year-old son, Barron, are having a hard time with this. Sick!"

And first lady Melania Trump issued a statement in which she said, "As a mother, a wife, and a human being, that photo is very disturbing. When you consider some of the atrocities happening in the world today, a photo opportunity like this is simply wrong and makes you wonder about the mental health of the person who did it."

Many conservatives believe left-leaning Hollywood has two standards one for Democrats who always are victims, and another for conservatives who get what's coming to them.

"Clearly there is a history of the Hollywood left feeling emboldened to make outrageous statements about conservatives," former GOP strategist Alice Stewart observed.

Stewart said she believes in free speech, but she also believes in consequences. She applauded Griffin for apologizing and "my employer CNN for canceling her contract for New Year's Eve."

When British filmmaker Gabriel Range made a movie about the assassination of George W. Bush during a 2007 trip to Chicago, he won an award. Then the fantasy of assassinating a president was art, as Griffin described her photo shoot.

But when Republicans target

Democrats in less direct fashion, they can be accused of inciting violence. Griffin herself assailed former GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin for releasing a map with targeted congressional districts in crosshairs. When a madman shot and critically wounded Rep. Gabby Giffords, D-Ariz., whose district was in the map, Griffin tweeted, "Happy now Sarah?"

Democratic strategist Maria Cardona saw no need to condemn Griffin. "Frankly I don't think she matters," the CNN contributor wrote in an email. "I think Trump made a mistake in responding to her because it elevated her and her disgusting antic to a level she doesn't deserve. And sure, hypocrisy abounds on both sides. Ted Nugent threatened President Obama's life and Nugent was invited by Trump to the White House."

In 2012, Nugent, a gun-rights activist, said Republicans "should ride into that battlefield and chop (Democrats) heads off in November."

Comedian Will Durst took time off from working on *Durst Case Scenario*, his one-man show about Trump, to comment on the Griffin controversy.

"You know Kathy Griffin is tasteless," said Durst, who nonetheless refused to condemn her. "The guy who she is mocking and scoffing," he said, has "laid a base of attack and bluster and baseless claims, so it's a whole different playing field."

Former first daughter Chelsea Clinton was not as understanding. "I hope we can at least agree that it's never funny to joke about violence toward anyone, and particularly in this politically charged moment, toward our president," she told "The View." (Creators Syndicate)

Exit from Paris climate accord is wrong

Give or take a year or two, the Industrial Revolution began in earnest in Great Britain during the last decade of the 18th century. So, a mere 227 years ago on planet Earth, a relatively small-sized but somewhat unique, rocky world circling a comparatively small star at 4.5 billion years of age, the human species started to add significantly to naturally-occurring air, water and soil contaminants, rendering them often-dangerous to the health, even survival, of many living creatures.

Then, in the waning years of the last century (mainly the 1980s), humankind began to notice that human activity was causing so much pollution in every way that it was calculated as inevitable that, should the waste and wantonness continue, there'd be no certainty the planet would, before long, due to climate change and a multitude of other threatening conditions, allow its "smartest" species to survive, homo sapiens dating back by findings some 200,000 years.

Down close to the present time, there have been fits and starts among the nations of the world to try to bring to a halt, or even, if possible, to reverse, the serious threat to the air, water and soil for plants and animals on the planet. This concern resulted in the Paris climate agreement, co-signed and adopted by 195 nations on December 12, 2015, to mitigate and control greenhouse gasses, scheduled to officially get underway in 2020.

Now, President Trump has announced that the U.S. will withdraw from the agreement, joining Nicaragua and Syria, originally unable to sign. However, the nuts and bolts of the agreement, more accurately the

guest column

money and power behind its rejection here, have most to do with the fact that America's powerful corporations and super wealthy multi-national business interests, who can make or break Trump financially, are those to whom Trump now bows. American billionaires like Carl Icahn and the Koch Brothers can't wait for the Trump administration to gut climate and pollution controls at home and abandon international sanctions abroad so they can get back to drilling wherever they please for crude oil and other fossil fuels currently restrained by some environmental regulations.

Meanwhile, Trump supporters, his "core base" of voters who seem always to agree with him, commonly believe he's pulling out of the climate pact because he believes climate science is a Chinese hoax. These same folks, including coal miners, oil-drilling rough-necks and others in declining blue collar American industries, view him as working in their interest to place them back to their former jobs. What's going on here in employment opportunities, however, now and into the foreseeable future, look to disappoint many of those for whom Trump made prom-

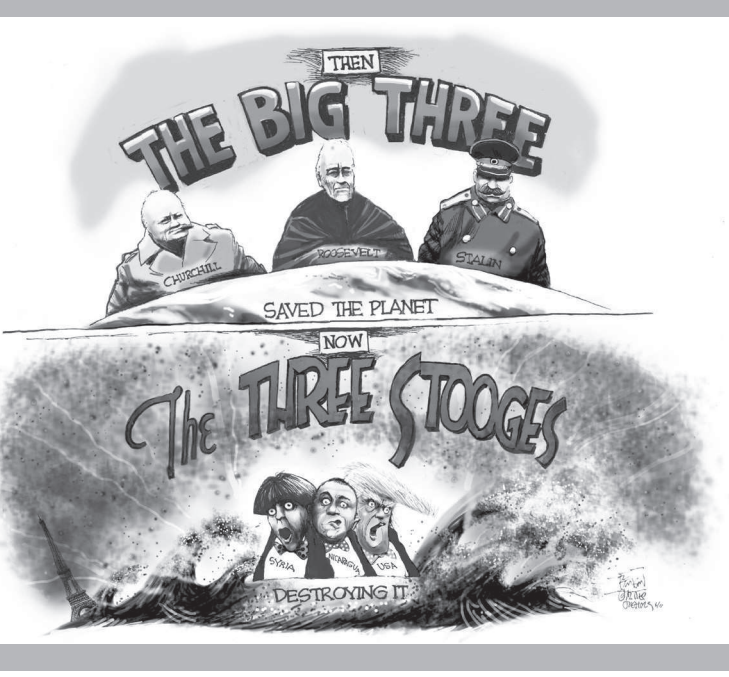
ises. Meanwhile, serious persons seeking real work futures are advised to study U.S. labor market information and thereby seek education and training in career-vocational-technical schools and programs.

The sovereignty and cohesion of America has been threatened multiple times but appear at present under greater strain from within and outside than ever before. Ripping up a global climate agreement fulfills the aspirations and determinations of the corporate interests and wealthy entrepreneurs among us whose apparent need to make more and more money trumps all other considerations. In the mean time, the masses want to protect their loved ones from a planet gone totally-exploited for the sake of big bucks, with no care for the continuation of a livable world.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer.)

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