

Supporting Dreamers

I am puzzled by President Donald Trump's desire to rescind Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). It does not make good business sense. From a strictly selfish point of view, the U.S. has already put the time, money and effort into the Dreamers. It seems counterproductive to send them away. We have educated these young people. We have invested in enculturating them to be good Americans. It makes economic sense to benefit from the contributions they can make to our country.

From a strictly personal point of view, I support immigrants. I have no choice, I am third, fourth and fifth generation from Ireland. I must add that the reception some of my Irish immigrant ancestors received was less than cordial. My personal support of the Dreamers comes from that heritage.

I have called my representatives in Congress, and asked them to support DACA from both a business and a personal position. I hope you will, as well.

KATHLEEN ADAMS
Hammond

Saving Baby

OK, folks, I'm going to lighten things up a bit with a huge shout-out to a Warrenton business.

Our cat, Baby, fell ill to the point we knew we were losing her. Our good friend, Stephanie Hellberg, works at Safe Harbor Animal Hospital, and suggested we take Baby in to see Dr. Melanie Haase, which we did. Best move ever.

When we pulled up, we saw "large, manicured and clean." If you're going to judge a book by its cover, so far, so good. We grabbed Baby's carrier, and honestly didn't know if she was coming home with us. When we walked in, Steph was behind the desk, and we were never so glad to see anyone. She's an awesome lady.

The reception area is large, immaculate and tastefully decorated in tones of "calm." You don't have to sit hip-to-hip, and your animals aren't tangled, and in each other's space.

The doctor's assistant took Baby back to be examined, and Baby trusted her. She doesn't trust anyone. When Dr. Haase came in, we were immediately at ease. She's comfortable, compassionate and very professional. Much like having a friend who's a vet. Thank you for that.

And then comes that flinch while they're adding up the bill, and OMG, we can still make the rent. And Baby is recovering. Life is good. Thanks to all of you at Safe Harbor Animal Hospital.

STEPHANIE CARPENTER
Brownsmead

No need to steal

The staff of the Ocean Park (Washington) Food Bank would like to remind the person who broke into our outdoor cooler on Sept. 6 that we are open four days a week,

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and do not deny a generous variety of food to anyone who comes in during our normal business hours.

Since we rely solely on local donations, we cannot afford to have anyone like you take a larger portion of food than we make available to our everyone. You obviously must be desperate for food. Please come in Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and we will be happy to serve you. You can even come in twice a month.

MICHAEL GOLDBERG
President, Ocean Park Food Bank
Ocean Park, Washington

Elderly abuse

We want to thank all who helped get our geese home. They were found in Cullaby Lake, and were stolen from us 2 1/2 months ago. They are family pets, and have been here for over six years. Hopefully, they will get over the trauma they have endured.

We are elderly, and in our 80s. We get so much enjoyment from the geese. Thank you again.

DICK AND DAPHNE SCOTT
Astoria

Watershed thinning

While I agree with some of the points made by Mr. Gary Durheim regarding the recent timber harvest in the Astoria watershed in his letter ("Thinning in watershed," The Daily Astorian, Sept. 1), the issue of harvesting "less than 25 percent of the growth" should be explained.

It does not mean that all timber will be harvested in four or five years. Growth, as it relates to forests, is usually expressed as a percentage of standing volume (forest inventory) in thousand board feet

(MBF). The Astoria watershed is about 3,700 acres in total. Subtracting from this the nonforested acres (roads, impoundments, streams, fields, buildings, etc.) which, conservatively, is 700 acres, that would leave 3,000 acres of forest of differing age groups.

An average volume, again being conservative, of 40 MBF per acre would yield a total standing volume of 120,000 MBF. Using a very low range growth rate of 3 percent, the watershed is growing about 3,600 MBF per year. Twenty-five percent of this growth would equal 900 MBF.

Therefore, Public Works Director Ken Cook's statement that the recent harvest totaled 700 to 800 MBF is somewhat less than 25 percent of growth ("Astoria keeps close eye on timber in Bear Creek watershed," The Daily Astorian, Aug. 29). Stated another way, the Astoria watershed is growing 75 percent more volume than is being harvested.

The statement that it's "not about the money," when followed up by the statement by a city leader that a new fire truck was purchased with the proceeds from the sale of timber (with some left over) would make a casual observer think that it, at least partially, is about the money.

The article also states that the "thinning" looks like a traditional clearcut, and seedlings will soon be planted. I've been in the forestry business for nearly 50 years and have never seen a thinning that looks like a clearcut.

It is one, or the other. Calling this harvest a thinning is a bit disingenuous, however necessary for removing disease prone or non-native trees.

BUD HENDERSON
Knappa

More drugs, more crime

Once again, the Legislature here in Oregon has proven just how out of touch they are. During this last session, they decided to make heroin and other hard drugs just a misdemeanor, instead of a felony. Gov. Kate Brown jumped for joy, and signed it into law.

Let's take a look at the Netherlands, which made these drugs legal to possess. One of the main proponents of that legislation 20 years ago, now says that was the worst thing his country has done. He stated the crime rate shot up because mafia-style groups now control most of the drugs that are being sold. Are we ready to start building more prisons? Trust me, we will have to do just that.

When I first started working with the Oregon Department of Corrections 28 years ago, the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton had about 400 inmates. Within two years, we housed 1,400 inmates. Within 10 years, we built the Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario, and Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla. Snake River houses 5,000 inmates, and Two Rivers houses 3,500. How many more will we need?

Given the heroin death rate, caused by overdoses, is now the leading cause of death in most counties in Oregon, are we going to help more people find an early grave? Let's take a look at a larger problem of making hard drugs a misdemeanor. More violent drug gangs will be bringing more drugs across the Mexican border. What are we trying to do? Turn our state into a lawless drug haven?

It's time we stand up and teach our elected officials how to become house-broken. They keep making messes on the carpet. We need to rub their noses in the mess they made, just like we do with a new puppy,

and put them outside where they belong.

I remember back in the 1970s, when Portland was the most livable city in the country. Now it's the weirdest city in the country, with a very bad crime rate. Help me make this once great state, great again.

JIM HOFFMAN
Chairman, Clatsop County Republicans
Gearhart

Equine exhaust

I have owned a place in Seaview, Washington, for over 19 years. It has been my policy to pick up my dog's waste after she relieves herself. We walk on the beach in all kinds of weather, and the presence of horses is quite obvious by their exhaust plumes.

Today, as we walked on the beach, near the water's edge, a herd of horses came at us expecting us to move for them. I am unable to walk on the soft sand due to a very bad knee. Because we would not move, the horses surrounded us and one "gentleman" was rude to me because I wouldn't get out of the way. I don't hate horses, I dislike their owners.

The horse owners are using public areas for private, monetary gains, and do nothing to clean up the messes their money machines make. How would you like your kids or grandkids playing in the water as the tide sweeps the equine exhaust and its microbes around your kids? I wouldn't. You see the parades clean up after horses leave a stinking trail of half digested hay — why shouldn't these folks be required to do the same for aesthetic, as well as health reasons?

You make money, clean up your messes.

EDWARD MERRILL
Seaview, Washington

Liberalism and the campus rape tribunals

By ROSS DOUTHAT

New York Times News Service

Last week Betsy DeVos, the secretary of education, announced that the Trump

White House would be revising the Obama administration guidelines for how colleges and universities adjudicate accusations of sexual assault.

There were protests outside her speech and spittle-flecked rants on Twitter, but overall the reaction felt relatively muted, at least by the standards of reactions to anything Trump-related or DeVos-driven.

Perhaps this was because enough people read The Atlantic, which chose last week to run a three-part series by Emily Yoffe on the sexual-assault policies in question. The series demonstrated exhaustively what anyone paying close attention already knew: The legal and administrative response to campus rape over the past five years has been a kind of judicial and bureaucratic madness, a cautionary tale about how swiftly moral outrage and political pressure can lead to kangaroo courts and star chambers, in which bias and bad science create an unshakable presumption of guilt for the accused.

It's also a cautionary tale with specific implications for cultural liberalism, because it demonstrates how easily an ideology founded on

the pursuit of perfect personal freedom can end up generating a new kind of police state, how quickly the rule of pleasure gives way to the rule of secret tribunals and Title IX administrators (of which Harvard, Yoffe notes in passing, now has 55 on staff), and how making libertinism safe for consenting semi-adults requires the evacuation of due process.

Rape and sexual assault are age-old problems. But the particular problem on college campuses these days is a relatively new one. For ideological reasons, the modern liberal campus rejects all the old ways in which a large population of hormonal young people once would have had their impulses channeled and restrained — single-sex dorms, "parietal" rules for male-female contact late at night, a general code emphasizing sexual restraint. Meanwhile for commercial reasons as well as liberationist ones, many colleges compete for students (especially the well-heeled, full-tuition-paying sort) by winkingly promising them not just a lack of adult supervision but also a culture of constant partying, an outright bacchanal.

This combination, the academic gods of sex and money, has given us the twilight (or strobe-lit) scene in which many alleged sexual assaults take place — a world in which both parties are frequently hammered because their entire social scene is organized around drinking your way to the loss of inhibitions required for hooking up. It's a

social world, just as anti-rape activists and feminists have argued, that offers an excellent hunting ground for predators and a realm where far too many straightforward assaults take place. But it's also a zone in which it is very hard for anyone — including the young women and young men involved — to figure out what distinguishes a real assault from a bad or gross or swiftly regretted consensual encounter.

This reality made many colleges shamefully loath to deal with rape accusations at all. But once that reluctance became a public scandal, the political and administrative response was not to rethink the libertinism but to expand the definition of assault, abandon anything resembling due process and build a system all-but-guaranteed to frequently expel and discipline the innocent.

A few years ago the injustice of this approach was defended on various grounds. Anti-rape activists suggested that false accusations of sexual assault were as rare as unicorns, that alleged victims almost never lied or exaggerated or made mistakes of memory and judgment. Reasonable center-left types argued that broadening rape's definitions and weakening men's rights could instill a necessary sort of fear, a kind of balance of terror between male sexual privilege and a female right to accuse and be believed. A few of my fellow social conservatives agreed: If unreasonable rules and unfair proceedings discouraged men from pursuing promiscuity and

treating women badly, so much the better for both the women and the men.

None of these defenses looked persuasive once the new order took hold. False rape accusations are rare in many contexts, yes, but bad systems generate bad cases, and a system designed to assume the guilt of the accused has clearly encouraged dubious charges and clouds of suspicion and pre-emptive penalties unjustly applied.

Meanwhile any balance of terror, as Yoffe points out in the third installment of her series, has turned out to be racial as well as sexual, since it is a not-much-talked-about truth that minority students seem to be accused of rape well out of proportion to their numbers on campus. So setting out to strengthen women's power relative to men has created a cycle of accusation and punishment whose injustices probably fall disproportionately on black men.

As for whether the unjust system might nonetheless have some sort of remoralizing effect on male sexual behavior, I stand by what I argued a few years ago. Offering young men broad sexual license regulated only by a manifestly unfair disciplinary system imbued with the rhetoric of feminism seems more likely to encourage a toxic male persecution complex, a misogynistic masculine reaction, than any renewed moral conservatism or rediscovered chivalry.

Or to put it in the lingo of our time: That's how you get Trump.

Having gotten him, liberals lately have been arguing that any madness or folly or ideological mania on their own side pales in comparison with the extremism at work in Trump-era conservatism. This argument has force: With Trump in the White House the know-nothing side of the right has much more direct political power at the moment than the commissars of liberalism.

But it is also important to recognize that the folly of the campus rape tribunals is not just an extremism isolated in the peculiar hothouse of the liberal academy. The abandonment of due process on campus was encouraged by activists and accepted by administrators, yes, but it was the actual work of the Obama White House — an expression of what a liberalism enthroned in our executive branch and vested with the powers of the federal bureaucracy believed would defend the sexual revolution and serve the common good.

It wasn't a policy from the liberal fringe, in other words. It was liberalism, period, as it actually exists today and governed from the White House until very recently. And any reader of The Atlantic who experiences a certain shock at what has been effectively imposed on college campuses in the name of equality and social justice will also be experiencing a moment of solidarity with all of those Americans who prefer not to be governed by this liberalism, and voted accordingly last fall.