

More on college admissions scandal

Dear Readers: Many of you have strong opinions about the college admissions scandal, and because there were so many thoughtful replies, I am devoting a few columns to reprinting some of the feedback to my proposed solution of fining the parents to pay for scholarships:

Dear Annie: Loved your answer to "Friends in Disagreement." But there was one point that wasn't mentioned by you or "Friends" that I think is very important and not being taught enough. As parents, one of our biggest jobs is to teach our children

that they need to work for, and earn, what they want. Give them that sense of pride, accomplishment and confidence. The message these parents sent to their kids was, "We know you can't make it on your own, so we'll buy it for you." — *Earn What You Get*

Dear Annie: Amen, Sister! I had to write to you as this is one of the first letters that I have read of yours, and there have been hundreds, that I totally agree with. You were spot on. Those parents need to pay extremely huge fines and receive suspended sentences with probation. Also, money to the universities, as you suggested, should be devoted exclusively for those less fortunate. What a great response. — *Just Another Christian*

Dear Annie: You missed the mark. While I completely agree with your statement that the parents in the scandal should pay a hefty fine, perhaps in scholarship funds to the universities, paying said fines is no punishment for these very wealthy individuals and again sends the message that they can buy their way out of a felony. They need to serve jail time. — *Serious About Penalties*

Dear Annie: The parents who bribed and cheated to get their kids admitted to colleges seemed to forget an important point: How will those students ever succeed in college when they weren't qualified to be admitted? I agree with the writer who believes these

parents did a great disservice to their kids. They did not "do what any loving parent would do." Loving parents do not try to set the worst example for their children. And forgiving these parents may be the Christian way, but remember: This wasn't a mistake; these parents knew that what they were doing was wrong but hoped it wouldn't be discovered. — *Know the Difference.*

Dear Annie: I was surprised at your suggested punishment for the celebrities who bought their way into elite universities for their kids. You suggested a fine double the amount of the

bribes. This amounts to bribing the judicial system the same way they bribed the educational system. If anything, it would reinforce the parents' and kids' belief that cheating the system is the way to go. Jail time is the only way to get their attention and to dissuade others from doing the same thing. — *Correcting the Record*

Dear Annie: I agreed with your response to "Friends in Disagreement," but I would like to add a couple of comments. First of all, bribing a college official to get your kid admitted is not a natural thing loving parents would do. Loving parents try to teach their kids to be honest and responsible. Bribing a college official demonstrates neither of those traits. And your child will learn a valuable lesson about the consequences of choices when his or her poor high school grades get a denial from an Ivy League school. Your child still can attend a state university. Loving and responsible parents allow their children to learn from the consequences of their choices.

Secondly, while I think your idea of the parents paying hefty fines for their criminal behavior is excellent, I still think a jail sentence should be imposed. These appear to be people who have spent their lives buying their way out of consequences. — *Learning their lesson*

Dear Readers: Tune in tomorrow for more feedback on this important discussion.

Annual fundraiser set for Gearhart Fire Department

The Astorian

GEARHART — The Gearhart Fire Department is holding its 58th annual fundraiser from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday at the Gearhart Fire Station, 670

Pacific Way.

The event includes live music, featuring The Band 24/7, blackjack tables, dancing and prizes. Beer and wine are available.

All proceeds benefit the Gearhart Fire Department.

Land conservancy awarded \$600,000

The Astorian

A \$600,000 grant awarded recently by the U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Grant Program moves the North Coast Land Conservancy one step closer to conserving 3,500 acres of forest in the mountains above Oswald West State Park.

NCLC is in the third year of a five-year campaign to acquire what it calls the Rainforest Reserve, which will conserve the high peaks and headwaters above Oswald West State Park and create an unbroken conservation corridor stretching from the summits

of Onion, Angora and other peaks to the nearshore ocean, already protected as part of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.

The grant specifically targets protection of the headwater streams that supply drinking water to Cannon Beach and Arch Cape. NCLC's proposal was the only one to receive the maximum allowable funding in this highly competitive nationwide grant program, according to NCLC Executive Director Katie Voelke.

For information about the proposed Rainforest Reserve, go to bit.ly/NCLCrainforest

Neal Maine

The peaks of the Rainforest Reserve are visible from as far north as Longview, and as far south as Tillamook Bay.



Garden club holds fundraiser plant sale

The Astorian

SEASIDE — The Seaside Sou'wester Garden Club holds its 24th annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. Shoppers need to use the new west entrance; the First Street lobby is closed.

Hundreds of reasonably priced plants grown by club members are for sale, as well as unique planters, gifts and garden art, baked items and preserves. Club members are on hand to identify plants and give advice on planting and growing selections. Buyers are encouraged to come early for the best selection.

Credit/debit cards are accepted. Proceeds from the sale are used to give financial and in-kind support to projects including the Downtown Seaside Hanging Flower Basket Project, the Seaside High School Garden and the Butterfield Cottage garden and grounds maintenance.

A raffle and silent auction fund the garden club Grant Project, introduced in 2018. Through an application process, grants from \$100 to \$500 are awarded to worthy projects that benefit the local community and support the club's educational mission.

Three raffle items

include: "Show Stopper" Hydrangea and Hostas, "Victorian Elegance" and "Tranquility." Tickets are available for \$1 each, or six for \$5. The raffle drawing is at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

Two grants have been awarded this year, to Camp Kiwanilong and the Wildlife Center of the North Coast,

for their inaugural one-week summer camp. Grant applications are available from club members; there is no deadline for submission.

The Sou'wester Garden Club meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Bob Chisholm Community Center. For information, call 971-221-4680 or email gardenclub.sw@yahoo.com

RELIGION BRIEFS

Grace Episcopal Church

Sunday is Hunger Awareness Sunday at Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Ave., with an ingathering at the 10 a.m. service for the Hunger Ministries at the church. Both monetary and non-perishable food items are requested. Cans of corn and chili, loaves of bread, can openers and meal helpers are especially needed.

The monthly Community Dinner is served at 4 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Those willing to help should come at 3 p.m. to set up and at 5 p.m. to clean up.

Submissions of artwork for the judged Jean Barney Memorial Art Exhibit, "This Fragile Earth, Our Island Home," are being received from 2 to 4 p.m. May 31 in the Parish Hall. The opening reception is June 9. Guidelines and entry forms are available at the church or in local art galleries.

For information, call the church at 503-325-4691 or go to www.graceastoria.org

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish

Bishop Peter Smith of the Archdiocese of Portland is administering Confirmation on Sunday at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 1465 Grand Ave. Eleven members of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church are joining 11 members of St. Mary's to receive this Sacrament during the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, behind the church on 15th Street, is open from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays. For questions, or to donate, call 503 325-2007.

The parish office is closed on Memorial Day.

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I heard Dr. L in the next room with a family, making the children laugh. He was so gentle and kind that the little ones weren't afraid of him or whatever procedure they were having at all.

What a find!

- Anonymous



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