

inquirer.com/opinion

EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Inquirer offers news, which strives to present unbiased, factual reporting, and opinion, which showcases viewpoints. Here is what you'll find on these opinion pages.

**EDITORIAL:** An opinion about a matter of public interest or policy researched and written by our Editorial Board, a group of journalists separate from the newsroom who meet frequently to discuss and debate issues. Unlike news stories, which are fact-driven and written by reporters, editorials advocate, champion, argue, critique, and suggest ways to make the region better.

**COLUMN:** Unlike reporters, columnists are allowed to include their opinions and viewpoints when presenting their reporting. Some columnists, like Will Bunch and Trudy Rubin, appear on these pages. Others, like Jenise Armstrong and Helen Ubiñas, appear elsewhere.

**OP-ED:** An essay or other type of article, including cartoons, that presents the opinion or perspective of someone with insight on the news. Many are submitted to us, but we also solicit op-eds from writers on specific topics. For more information: inquirer.com/opinion-guidelines

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR:** A reader's written opinion submitted by mail or email in response to a story in The Inquirer or another issue.

FOR MORE ON HOW WE WORK:

The Editorial Board consists of the managing editor for opinion, the deputy opinion editor, opinion coverage editor, columnists, and writers. The board routinely discusses issues of the day to decide what to editorialize on and, during election campaigns, which candidates or ballot measures to endorse. News reporters and editors do not participate in these discussions. The board's opinions are not a consideration in news coverage.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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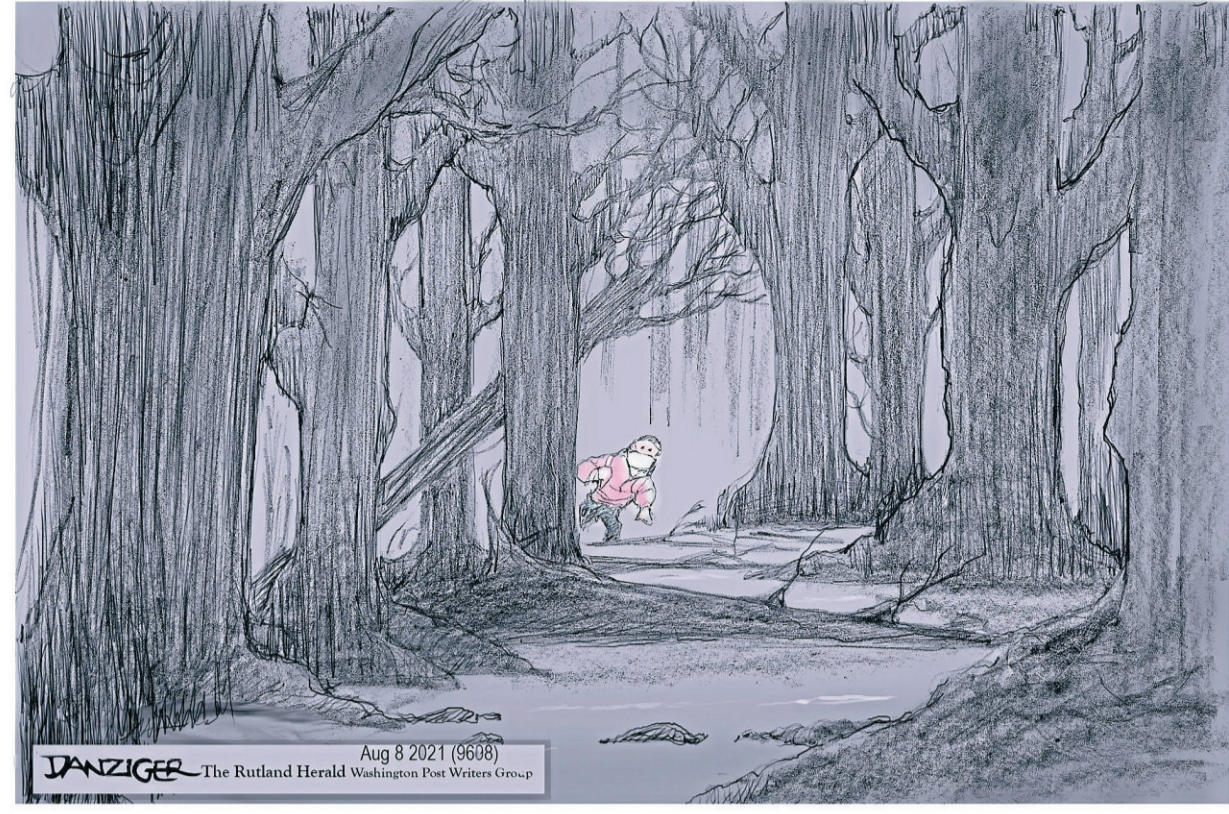
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Back to School



JANZIGER Aug 8 2021 (9608) The Rutland Herald Washington Post Writers Group

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters to [letters@inquirer.com](mailto:letters@inquirer.com). Limit length to 150 words and include home address and day and evening phone number. Letters run in the Inquirer six days a week on the editorial pages. Letters are not published online.

Cuomo resigns

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has stunned the state and the nation with his announcement that he will resign in the face of multiple allegations of sexual harassment and potential assault, an all-but-certain impending impeachment, and the potential filing of criminal and civil actions against him. I am grateful that he has chosen not to continue to fight as most expected him to, but rather to accept his political downfall, thereby sparing the state the misery of his inevitable removal.

Gov. Cuomo had talent and ability and he accomplished many good things for his state, particularly as he addressed his constituents with decency and empathy throughout the coronavirus crisis in his much-anticipated daily briefings. He was a skillful politician. In the end, he threw away all of his abilities. I am sorry for his elderly mother and his daughters to have to witness this, certainly with great pain.

May New York state now begin the process of healing from the damage the governor inflicted. I am confident that Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul will give New York a good, fresh start, and that we are not going to find her accused at any time of harassing men.

Oren Spiegler, Peters Township

Will on mediocrity

George Will's column (Aug. 9) is a perfect example of conservative intellectual soft-headedness. In his first paragraph, Will asserts that "Progressives are recoiling from the idea that propelled humanity's ascent to modernity: the principle that people are individuals first and primarily, so individual rights should supplant rights attached to group membership." The truth is exactly the opposite. Humankind established itself and rose to such prominence because we learned to put aside our individual concerns and realized that we had to cooperate with each other. Only by working together did we create this civilization.

Will's column goes on to bemoan the fact that progressives reject "meritocracy." Progressives reject a system of ridiculous inequality masquerading as meritocracy.

Michael Walsh, Elkins Park

Mandates for federal employees

I'm delighted that the federal government has issued a mandate that all federal employees must be vaccinated against COVID-19 or else submit to regular testing. Since the outset, the government has paid for vaccinating all Americans. However, wouldn't it be counterproductive to also pay for people not to be vaccinated by picking up the cost of COVID-19 testing?

If you choose not to get vaccinated, please don't make the rest of us pay for it.

L.T. Pottiger, Media



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced his resignation Tuesday amid a barrage of sexual harassment allegations. AP

Developing nations control outcome of global warming

The Inquirer apparently does not understand the big picture regarding global warming. Like it or not, the countries of the developing world fully control our planet's destiny, and the outlook is not good. Recently, the U.N. insisted that all coal projects worldwide must be canceled now if humanity is going to have any chance of keeping the increase in the temperature below 2 degrees C. But China, India, and many other developing nations have no present intention of doing so.

In 2019, CO2 emissions rose while the U.N. asserted that we must reduce CO2 emissions by 7.6% every year. Obviously, so far the world community is only moving backward. It is time to admit that climate change may have to run its course, and there is nothing that the U.S. and the EU can do to halt this result even if they reduce their emissions to zero tomorrow.

Richard W. Burcik, author, Malvern, [rwburcik@gmail.com](mailto:rwburcik@gmail.com)

Tens of thousands need rental assistance

Reading Monday's article "45,000 ask for rent aid in Phila.," I wonder about the disparity between the lack of workers in many industries and the large number of those in need of rent assistance. We now see sign-on bonuses being offered and new pay; these companies need workers. Certainly families who have lost much in the pandemic and cannot fend for themselves need assistance, that's absolutely part of government's role, but I wonder if any of the \$127.5 million that Philadelphia has for rent-

al assistance is going toward helping people help themselves. Remember the old adage about "teach a man to fish and you'll feed him for a lifetime." What happens when the money runs out if the renters haven't found a source of income?

Fred Berg, Philadelphia

'Woke' used as an insult

The Angry Grammarian in "How the right stole 'woke' and turned it into an insult" (Aug. 8) brilliantly turned the history of the word *woke* as it is now used, but completely misses the motivations behind its being "co-opted and reengineered as an insult." When so noble a figure as Winston Churchill is described only as a racist, even though he recanted those views late in life and literally made it possible to save civilization from the Nazis, when Christopher Columbus is defiled similarly without mentioning his considerable contribution to seafaring, navigation, and world knowledge, and *The Odyssey* is joyfully expunged from school curricula instead of teaching it in historical context, it becomes easy to understand why being woke is seen as less than truly awakened.

John Baxter, Flowood, Miss., [jmbaxt@aol.com](mailto:jmbaxt@aol.com)

Are far-right surveys veiled fund-raisers?

As a registered Republican, my friend receives a survey from the RNC, Mike Huckabee, Ron DeSantis, and other far-right political groups. I expect you've seen some of them and may have seen how leading, misleading, and untrue some of the "questions" really are. Other than raising money, what are these far-right groups trying to accomplish with these "surveys"? Is there any real use for "data" from a survey that is obviously designed to solicit specific answers to the questions, or is it just a really effective fund-raising technique?

Jacques Gordon, Devon, [jgordon3663@gmail.com](mailto:jgordon3663@gmail.com)

Toxic 'forever chemicals'

As an industry comprised of scientists, engineers, environmental and safety specialists, we highly value regulatory compliance and transparency. That's why Marcelus operators have for years voluntarily disclosed — prior to being required by law — trace additives used during the development process to independent databases and state regulators.

The Inquirer editorial (Aug. 5) is replete with references to "could" and "might," but offers no evidence of any water supply endangerment from the potential use of additives in the development process, many of which are found in everyday consumer products. Noticeably absent is recognition that Pennsylvania's well construction standards — requiring multiple layers of steel casing and cement — are designed specifically to ensure that no additives come into contact with drinking water.

In fact, there have been more than 11,000 unconventional wells developed in Pennsylvania, and the clear-eyed facts continue to confirm that safe, responsible shale gas development does not adversely impact Pennsylvania's water quality.

David Callahan, president, Marcelus Shale Coalition, Harrisburg

Bryce Harper's stats

Sunday's letter from Larry Blong asserts that Bryce Harper has never had "over 100 RBIs in a season." Harper had 114 in 2019, his first season with the Phillies. Not sure when Mr. Blong wrote his letter, but as of this writing, Harper ranks 13th in batting average in MLB (American and National Leagues combined), up from 72nd. Harper's OPS, which combines on-base percentage and slugging percentage, and is considered a better overall indicator of a hitter's offense than batting average or RBIs, ranks him fifth in all of Major League Baseball. Harper had a slow start to the season but he is on fire lately. Opinions of Harper's worth will vary, of course, but it's probably best not to run ill-informed takes.

Matt Zencey, West Chester



Tenants' rights advocates demonstrate outside the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse in Boston. The CDC issued a new eviction moratorium on Aug. 3. AP, File