

# Opinion

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EDITORIALS

## Prejudice

Fanned by Trump

Racists who embrace Trump are doomed to shrink to minority status themselves.

AT AN Oregon high school, some white students jeered at Latino classmates, chanting "Trump, Trump, Trump ... build a wall, build a wall." Hispanic students staged a school walkout in protest.

At a North Carolina grade school, a fifth-grader told a Muslim student that his family supports Donald Trump for president "because he is going to kill all the Muslims," according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

At a different Oregon high school, Hispanic students said Trump supporters jeered: "We are going to deport your ass." School posters against racism were marked with graffiti saying "Trump 2016 ... Go back where you came from."

In March, a white man attacked Muslim and Latino students in Kansas, yelling "brown trash" and "Trump will take our country from you guys."

Republican presidential nominee Trump specializes in insulting Hispanics, Muslims, blacks and other minorities. This endears him to some Tea Party zealots who harbor streaks of racism. It's beginning to erupt in episodes of prejudice — countering generations of U.S. struggle for racial harmony.

"Donald Trump is mainstreaming hate," national columnist Nicholas Kristof wrote, adding:

"Among any nation's most precious possessions is its

social fabric, and that is what Donald Trump is rending with incendiary talk about roughing up protesters and about gun owners solving the problem of Hillary Clinton making judicial nominations.

"Trump only mildly distanced himself when an adviser suggested that Clinton should be executed by firing squad for treason, and his rallies have become toxic brews of hatred with shouts like 'Hang the bitch!' ... Fans at his rallies direct crude slurs not just at Hillary Clinton, but also at blacks, Latinos, Muslims and gay people."

Kristof concluded: "This is a wrenching, divisive, polarizing time in America, and we have a major party nominee who is sowing hatred and perhaps violence."

Here's an irony: Racists who embrace Trump are doomed to shrink to minority status themselves. Steady growth of Hispanics, blacks, Asians, Pacific islanders and other groups in America is outpacing European whites, who will be less than half the population in about 20 years. The whole nation will be composed of minorities.

We can't believe that most in Americans share Trump's bigotry. We think decent people will reject him. Distaste for him is visible in a new Bloomberg Politics poll showing that 49 percent of Americans see the Democratic Party favorably — but only 32 percent see the GOP that way.



## Is this the Olympic spirit?

TO WATCH some of the coverage, you might think that the Olympics proves that the greatest athletes of every country on the globe, plus the refugees, can come together and put aside the various religious, ethnic and historic rivalries that divide us.



SUSAN ESTRICH

Not so fast. There was the incident of the Lebanese delegation not allowing the Israeli athletes.

And there was Saudi judoka Joud Fahmy, who literally forfeited his first-round match in what was seen as an effort to avoid an Israeli opponent. And then on Friday, captured on film, Israeli victor Or Sasson reached out to shake the hand of Egypt's Islam El Shehaby, the man he defeated in judo, and Shehaby refused the handshake. The Egyptian, known for being anti-Israeli, had actually considered withdrawing

from the match rather than face the Israeli.

Is this the Olympic spirit? You don't have to be that old to remember the brutal murder of the Israeli delegation to the Munich Olympics in 1972. And you don't have to be a real student of history to know that Adolf Hitler tried to wrap himself in the Olympic flag in 1936.

Of course politics isn't left behind at the Olympics. But it's hard to not notice the difference between how the North Koreans and South Korean athletes are treating each other (warmly, it seems, snapping group pictures) and how the Israelis are being treated by their neighbors. Athletes or not, they will not give up.

And that should be terrifying to all of us. If the North Koreans and South Koreans can find common ground, why can't the Arab countries show common decency to their Jewish neighbors?

Most of my Jewish friends are convinced that the "liberal media" in fact leans over backward to show no favor-

itism to Israel and, in the process, actually favors Israel's enemies. I think there is a good deal of truth to that: We expect more from Israel than from virtually any other country in the world. I have no doubt that the Egyptian would readily shake hands with athletes from countries where the rule of law is a mockery and the rule of one man, or of the military, is accepted. I am sure he would have shaken hands with those from countries that deny human rights to their own citizens.

But Israel? Why, even in this Olympic season, even between young people who share the same passions, does the fire of hatred seem to burn so deep?

I remember, nearly 30 years ago, visiting Palestinian refugee camps where little children had cartoon coloring books in which the Jews were always the villains and thieves. "What happens to those children when they grow up?" I wondered then.

I fear that we all know the answer. Susan Estrich is a syndicated columnist.

OP/ED and LETTERS

## Greenbrier eyes funds to welcome tourists back

By Kara D. Dense

THROUGHOUT GREENBRIER County, the economy relies heavily on tourism. An industry employing more than 2,300 people and generating a positive economic impact annually is critical to our way of life here.

The disruption of our economy by the June 23 flood, as well as the ongoing negative public perception of the extent of the damage, threatens the livelihood of individuals, families and business throughout Greenbrier County.

To move forward, we must talk about tourism and recovery together. Those areas most devastated by the flooding all have individuals who make their living in the tourism industry. There are no exceptions.

To mitigate the economic impact, the Greenbrier County Convention & Visitors Bureau, representing partners — including hoteliers, downtown business merchants, restaurant owners and other related businesses — requested money from the Greenbrier County Commission to support the newly established Tourism Recovery Marketing Plan.

The source of the money requested is hotel occupancy tax in the county. These are not Greenbrier County taxpayer funds. The revenue is generated by people visiting the county and staying overnight at area hotels.

The hotel occupancy tax was enacted in the county in 2001, in accordance with State Code Chapter 7, Article 18. This 3 percent tax is placed on every county lodging es-

tablishment.

In accordance with the law, "at least" 50 percent is forwarded to the convention and visitor's bureau for the "promotion of conventions and tourism."

The other 50 percent is held in reserve by the county as the Arts and Recreation Fund. This half of the tax proceeds can be spent only on specific permissible expenditures as established in the law. Such expenditures are defined in the code to ensure the quality of the county as a tourism destination so as to attract new industry to this state, retain existing businesses, and most importantly, provide the citizens of the county, and the state, with economic security.

We must follow the lead of other communities devastated by natural disasters (New Jersey with Hurricane Sandy; New Orleans / Gulf Coast with Hurricane Katrina) which have effectively utilized similar funds as a critical part of their recovery efforts.

Together, we must focus on the rebuilding and economic recovery of our county while also effectively combating the negative perceptions.

The flood has created an immediate need for funding to support summer and fall travel — our busiest seasons — and bolster critical tourism outreach. Our strength and perseverance will surely shine as visitors return, explore, shop, dine and stay in our amazing county. Our home.

Kara D. Dense is executive director of the Greenbrier County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

### Morrisey releases take credit for predecessor's work

Editor:

I see that Patrick "out of state" Morrisey is at it again, implying by a press release that "he" was instru-

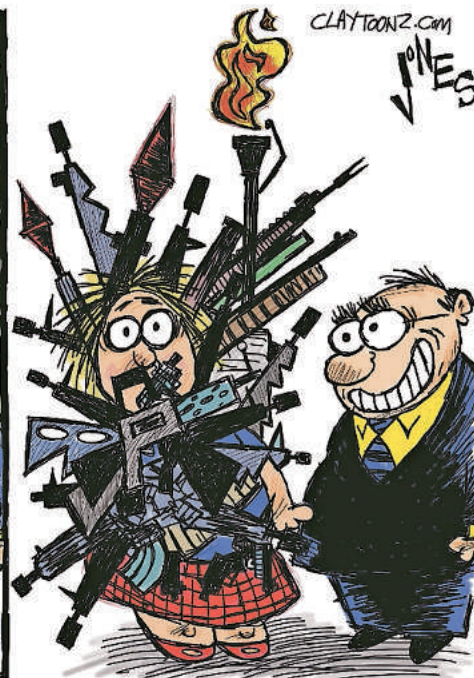


mental in the lawsuit against the out-of-state pill mills that flooded our state with volumes of painkillers and other opioids which has contributed to the drug epidemic in West Virginia. Morrisey has a habit of issuing "press releases" from lawsuits filed by our previous Attorney General Darrell McGraw, then taking credit for the millions won for those victimized by scammers, out of state contractors, the tobacco industry and other fraudulent schemes.

Did you notice where Morrisey "settled" with those companies for mere pennies on the dollar — \$4.2 million from five companies which shipped opioids into West Virginia's poorest counties?

I suspect they may have made billions from their illegal actions. If Patrick Morrisey cared so much and is so concerned about West Virginians, why was it that he abolished the "Consumer Protection Division" that Darrell McGraw had set up to help those victimized by fraud, scams and in this case, inundating West Virginia with an overabundance of painkillers and opioids, knowing that there is a drug epidemic here and that it was also illegal? Wonder how many of those companies that settled for this minuscule amount did Patrick Morrisey lobby for?

It appears these same companies



have been given a "closed file" as to their total involvement and as to who all was involved. We want a press release as to who those individuals are and their involvement and a press release revealing those companies Mr. Morrisey received millions from for lobbying, and how much he has received in political campaign contributions for the upcoming November general election. This is nothing more than a deceptive political ploy by Morrisey, as he is facing a tough re-election in November by Doug Reynolds for the office of Attorney General.

Jerry L. Payne Ripley

### Bill allowing fireworks is insensitive and paradoxical

Editor:

PTSD has haunted me for 22 years, the result of a natural gas explosion on March 23, 1994, in Edison, N.J. Our veterans suffer this debilitating disorder, as do people who experienced disastrous events. Symptoms can be dormant until challenged by fireworks.

Since the passing of HB 2852, neighborhoods are besieged by daily fireworks, lasting until midnight, week after week, long before and after July 4. Anything from sparklers to large fireworks from yards, into streets, near

homes, sparks on cars leaving burn marks on hoods, with loud noises at piercing decibels. On July 9, our neighbors fired the type used for major holidays, with loud booms, shaking houses, sizzling sounds and showering sparks fizzling into yards and near roofs. After the third boom, my PTSD started. Shaking and crying, I asked them to stop, explaining why. They did, but my symptoms didn't.

HB 2852 is a travesty bursting with paradoxes, ironies and insensitivities, including a reckless lack of enforcement. It is open season on humans and domestic and wild animals.

The paradox is giving fireworks proceeds to veterans, those with PTSD, (veteransandptsd.com/PTSD-statistics.html), and to firefighters who fight fires, some caused by fireworks. According to the American Pyrotechnics Association, National Council on Firework Safety, 20,000 house fires happen yearly in the U.S. from fireworks and 9,300 serious fireworks injuries, 40 percent from illegal fireworks and 45 percent are 14 and younger. Fireworks kill an average of 4 people yearly. About 400 lose sight in one or both eyes from sparklers to gigantic displays. The report says, 247,550,000 pounds of fireworks are purchased yearly in the U.S. with a revenue of \$1 billion.

These ironies are impossible to miss. One veteran said, "Even though I knew they were just fireworks on the Fourth of July, to me they still sounded like incoming mortars. It took me right back to my deployment."

This reckless bill passed while others are "pending." Who is responsible for physical, emotional, and property damages? Who is enforcing the terms? This law puts volatile materials into anyone's hands and needs enforcement, just as a driver's license. West Virginia neighborhoods sounded like war zones during July. I've learned that putting power into the hands of insensitive lawmakers is dangerous and wrong.

Linda Toborowsky Charleston

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