

LETTERS; Trump's foil: Trump

Los Angeles Times

September 10, 2020 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2020 Los Angeles Times All Rights Reserved

Section: MAIN NEWS; Letters Desk; Part A; Pg. 1

Length: 1351 words

Body

Re "Here's how Trump might win," column, Sept. 6

While the headline for Doyle McManus' column sends icy shivers down my spine, I believe that President Trump cannot win this November.

First, former Vice President Joe Biden is already showing he can express himself more coherently than Trump has on his best day.

Second, the "safety issues" that McManus cites, along with the pandemic and its economic fallout, all became major problems on this president's watch. If he could not manage these issues correctly in his first term, what idiocy makes one think he could manage them in a second?

If Americans can remember these things, and if protesters lower their profile for the next two months, then Trump has no arguments, nothing to exploit, and no chance to win in spite of his and Russia's combined efforts to undermine a fair election.

Barbara Pronin

Placentia

::

McManus ignores two more factors that may sway the election in Trump's favor: his resolve to sabotage our voting system, and his reliance on a foreign autocrat to influence our media and social networks.

The thought of four more years with Trump is absolutely terrifying.

Even assuming a best-case scenario where Trump is defeated in November, I shudder to think about the remaining two months of his term and the chaos he would inflict on the nation by issuing devastating executive orders, padding our federal courts with more politicized and incompetent judges, pardoning criminals and more nasty and vindictive antics before we are finally rid of him.

I am truly afraid for the future of our country.

Ted Carmely

LETTERS; Trump's foil: Trump

Sherman Oaks

--

Salvador Allende is not a hero

Re "Allende won, and I danced in a crowd," Opinion, Sept. 4

Ariel Dorfman may be excused for celebrating Salvador Allende's election as president of Chile in 1970. It is more difficult to make excuses for him now that he still considers that event a good thing.

Allende, who was elected after receiving a plurality of votes (36.6% against his conservative opponent's 35.3%) started his reign by forced redistribution of land and property and by nationalizing the copper mining industry, most large manufacturing companies, banks and large estates.

Predictably, during Allende's presidency, demand outstripped supply, the economy shrank, deficit spending snowballed, new investments and foreign exchange became scarce, shortages appeared, and inflation reached an annual rate of more than 600%. By mid-1973, the economy and the government were paralyzed.

Augusto Pinochet, who deposed Allende in the 1973 coup, was indeed a tyrant who tortured and murdered his opponents. His coup was a backlash, an opposite swing of the pendulum, to the election and reign of Allende. Had Allende not come to power, neither would have Pinochet.

I see no good reason to dance in a crowd to celebrate that dismal chapter in Chilean history.

Barry DuRon

Oxnard

::

Dorfman's deep-rose-colored glasses don't allow him to see that Allende was not elected by a majority of the voters but was appointed by the Chilean Congress after none of the three candidates in the 1970 election achieved a majority.

It is difficult to qualify this as democratically elected.

Budd La Rue

Lompoc

--

Punished for not using a racial slur

Re "Uproar at USC over use of word," Sept. 5

The N-word in the English language has a history in this country connected to racism, slavery, cruelty and violence. Those who use the word do so with a specific intent to denigrate, hate and harm.

However, in the case the Mandarin word meaning "that," whose first syllable is pronounced "nay" or "nah" and not "nih," not a single one of those facts applies. The Mandarin word is not a racial slur, nor do its speakers use it with hateful intent. It just means "that."

There is no defensible reason why USC professor Greg Patton, who used a word with a wholly different history and language in a lecture on communication in international business, should be removed from teaching his course.

Linda Williamson

LETTERS; Trump's foil: Trump

Granada Hills

::

I am a Black man who has lived in China. I have never even thought about the Mandarin word "nei ge" or "na ge" sounding like the N-word -- until now.

When Greg Patton, a communication specialist who is not a native Mandarin speaker, says the word, it sounds more like the N-word than it does when I hear people in China say it.

I understand how it is possible that the Black students in Patton's class might have wanted to know more about the word, but I think the Marshall School of Business at USC went too far in removing him from teaching the course. An opportunity to enhance communication has been lost.

Roland Nicholson Jr.

New York

::

Is there evidence that Patton used a Chinese filler word to insult his Black students on purpose? If not, he should not be punished for citing a good example in his communication class just because some students did not like it.

Otherwise, as a Chinese American, I would be afraid of speaking my native language from now on because I might offend someone unintentionally.

The school can acknowledge hurt feelings as an unintended consequence, but I believe the students should also learn that accusing someone of racism is not the way to deal with feelings or solve issues in life. Blatant discrimination should not be tolerated, but we do not need to see everything through the lens of race.

Delicia Hsu

Irvine

::

In 2003 I was sent to work at a truck factory in rural China as part of an effort to integrate accounting systems in a new joint venture. For more than two hours I presented our plans, translated into Mandarin, to the dozens of assembled factory accountants and managers.

At the end of my presentation I asked if anyone had questions. I vividly remember the first gentleman standing up and repeatedly saying what sounded to me like the N-word. I was stunned.

Later, I learned that this was their version of "um" -- nothing more, nothing less.

So in reading about Patton, I believe his error was not warning the students ahead of time that the equivalent of "um" in China sounds extremely unpleasant to us.

Denis Cagna

Los Angeles

--

First in line for a vaccine

Re "President's rush to OK a vaccine should scare you," column, Sept. 6

LETTERS; Trump's foil: Trump

If the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves a COVID-19 vaccine prematurely because of political pressure before it's proven safe and effective, the name of the FDA should change to the Fake News and Disinformation Agency.

The only way a premature vaccine could achieve any credibility would be for the president, vice president, FDA commissioner and their families to roll up their sleeves and take the vaccine at the time of the announcement.

Otherwise, I will not be rolling up my sleeve anytime soon.

Arthur L. Wisot, MD

Rolling Hills Estates

::

I have read the letter from Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to state governments about COVID-19 vaccine distribution. I have difficulty reading into it that the Trump administration is plainly counting on a vaccine being approved by Nov. 3 or any other date.

It very clearly states that the potential waivers that may be requested are for the warehouse and distribution facilities, which will be needed. The waivers will not compromise the safety or integrity of the product itself.

It would be foolish to have a vaccine and not be able to distribute it. If that were to happen, it would be appropriate to criticize the CDC.

Until then, why don't we all get behind the effort and stop booing from the sidelines?

Kevin Minihan

Los Angeles

::

I am surprised that the CDC director and others are falling for the promise of a vaccine for COVID-19 before Nov. 3.

Have they forgotten about thalidomide, the sedative that was later found to be responsible for severe birth defects and deformities after many women had been prescribed the drug during pregnancy? This happened only 60 years ago, and the sedative had taken years to develop.

Do these experts know what the long-term effects of the COVID-19 vaccine could be? Already they are promising that millions of doses will be ready to distribute as soon as the FDA gives its approval.

This is absolutely insane.

Charles Blankson

Fontana

Graphic

PHOTO: PRESIDENT TRUMP tours an area of Kenosha, Wis., damaged during protests on Sept. 1.
PHOTOGRAPHER:Evan Vucci Associated Press

LETTERS; Trump's foil: Trump

Load-Date: September 10, 2020

End of Document