

LETTERS

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Body

Inexcusable violence

Re: "KPCC reporter arrested amid hospital protest,"

Sept. 14

Arresting a KPCC reporter is a symptom of a broader malady in America that deals with consent of the governed and policing. The arrest surely resulted from reactions by sheriff's personnel to the ambush shooting of two comrades that very day. I can sympathize with their feelings of anger, fear, hurt and so much more. But I cannot justify or excuse it.

I can also imagine that the ugly criminal who did the shooting had emotions that they thought justified the ambush. That cannot be excused or justified either. The shooter must be brought to justice. But more importantly we all must stand down and de-escalate.

We the people delegate armed authority to our police agencies to ensure our safety. That places a tremendous responsibility and trust on the police agencies. A fundamental reimagining needs to take place. It needs to start today.

The Sheriff's Department can truly address excess force and the way in which they go about providing public safety and law enforcement. The community needs to hold the department to those challenges and it needs to give change a chance and reason to happen. If we fail to make such fundamental changes, the future is easy to predict. Law enforcement officers are already outgunned and outnumbered. They need to swiftly earn moral authority to enforce the law, for their own sake and for civilians' sake.

Stephen Galvin

Simi Valley

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The senseless "protesters" outside St. Francis Medical Center on Saturday night should be condemned by every right-thinking human being. Chanting "we hope they die" while two deputies fight for their lives and their anguished loved ones can do nothing but wait and pray is inhuman and unforgivable.

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They had a right to express their opinions, but lacked the intelligence and common sense to realize that they were wrong on every level. The Black Lives Matter movement will only achieve the reforms we need with widespread, diverse community support. This kind of hateful display will not allow that to develop. Those people were not protesters, they were agitators bent on creating more violence and destruction. Community, political, religious and civic leaders must strongly condemn these heartless individuals.

Terry Walker

Sylmar

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There is no excuse for handling a member of the press in this manner for doing her job. Trust, support and respect for officers will not come from such misapplied force. I am sorry that a person shot and gravely wounded the deputies. I do hope they recover fully and return whole to their families. I also hope Ms. Huang recovers fully from her injuries from this unprovoked attack.

Jo Ann Dawson

Northridge

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The problem with Prop. 16

Re: "Vote yes on Proposition 16," endorsement, Sept. 14

Your editorial in favor of Proposition 16 argues that because "the U.S. isn't a meritocracy" California should abandon its race-neutral law. Let's see if that makes sense to readers.

The U.S. isn't a meritocracy, therefore the state bar exam should be junked and admission based on "fair" racial quotas. The U.S. isn't a meritocracy, therefore the L.A. Philharmonic should stop using blind auditions when it fills openings and instead choose musicians so that all groups will be fairly represented.

Would The Times' editors like those results? Maybe the U.S. isn't a perfect meritocracy, but it doesn't follow that we should move in the opposite direction, as will be the case if the state abandons the racial neutrality of Prop. 209.

George Leef

Raleigh, N.C.

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Proposition 16 would reinstate affirmative action programs in public institutions for California. In your editorial you advocate a "yes" vote on Proposition 16. Quoting your editorial: "We believe that everyone benefits from a society in which institutions that train future leaders in business, law and the sciences are racially diverse."

I disagree: Not everyone benefits. Under affirmative action, candidates who are more qualified for the job, award or college acceptance are unfairly disqualified. They do not benefit.

As a lifelong Democrat, I believe in the holistic attempt to promote racial, age and gender diversity. And if I could count on affirmative action being implemented only as a tie-breaker, I would support it. But allowing weaker, less-qualified candidates to leapfrog over more qualified candidates is simply unfair.

Fairness must be preferred over any social aim -- even the most laudable.

Wesley S. White

LETTERS

Whittier

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No changing Trump's mind

Re: "High-stakes clash over climate," Sept 15

Did Gov. Newsom really think he was going to change our president's mind about climate change?

Come on now. Instead of wasting time trying to convince Trump of what is evident, the exchange should have gone something like this: "Mr. President, why are you here? Is to help or just take up our time?"

David Dale

Sonoma Valley, Calif.

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Trump deliberately downplayed and misled Americans by denying the lethality of the COVID pandemic -- knowingly endangering the lives of millions.

He has also denied and has downplayed the danger of global warming and climate change. The result of this will lead to more death and destruction worldwide than the pandemic has caused thus far. Droughts, melting ice caps, hurricanes and tornadoes, floods and rising seas will ultimately cause mass migration, starvation and wars. Trump continues to call it a hoax and questions the scientific validity.

Sounds familiar.

Richard Armendariz

Huntington Beach

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We are bundling up in blankets. Dang, it's chilly. Smoke has blocked out the sun. Thank you, President Messiah. You are indeed the wise one.

Sue Flint

Cottage Grove, Ore.

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Let me give you some help if you're an undecided voter. Do we care if our children go to school and can't play outside because the air is foul for four months out of the year? How will that affect outdoor sports for children and professional athletes? How many will flee and then deflate property values?

Climate change is no longer in the future. It is human nature to procrastinate when you think you have more time. But, my friends, we just ran out of time.

Sue Nevens

Encino

--

Fight climate change like a war

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Re: "California's climate apocalypse," Sept. 13

Finally! The Times places the climate emergency on the front page and above the fold, where it belongs.

Science proves that the intensity, size and duration of today's fires are indisputably linked to higher temperatures caused by climate change. Contributing factors abound: fire suppression policies in forest management and increased development in the wildland/urban interface. But climate change is the force multiplier, as the U.S. military concludes.

We need a world war-type effort to transition to a fossil-fuel-free economy, which will help us exit this COVID-19 recession. We need a price on carbon as the foundation. HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, would put a price on carbon. It would then return the revenue to the populace -- growing the economy, driving down fossil fuel use and saving lives through reduced pollution.

Judith Trumbo

La Canada Flintridge

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Thanks for calling our current situation what it is: a climate apocalypse. The sad thing is we could have avoided this. We know how to get electricity from the sun and wind and other renewable sources. We just need to do it. Every state in the union must turn to 100% renewable electricity.

We can't wait any longer. If we had started to transition away from fossil fuels back in 1988, when James Hansen testified to Congress that climate change was happening, we would be there now.

Murray Zichlinsky

Long Beach

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The Times did a commendable job linking fossil-fuel-induced global heating to record-breaking temperatures and the fires raging in California, but left out was Gov. Newsom's reprehensible role in accelerating the climate crisis. His administration has ramped up oil and gas permits, quietly ending a moratorium on fracking permits in April. And he has so far failed to close disaster-prone storage facilities like Aliso Canyon. Small wonder that he received over \$29,000 from fossil fuel giant Semptra Energy for his gubernatorial run. How about more coverage by The Times of Newsom's and other California politicians' roles in fanning the flames?

David Klein

Northridge

Graphic

PHOTO: SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES surround the hospital where two of their own recover from gunshots.
PHOTOGRAPHER: Jason Armond Los Angeles Times

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