

Facts Matter

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“Our aim:  
To fear God,  
tell the truth  
and make money.”

H.C. Paddock

1852-1935

# Views From Elsewhere

Most days, we reserve this space for the Daily Herald's thoughts on issues of the day. Today, we step aside to offer excerpts from recent editorials by some papers around the state and the nation. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Daily Herald Editorial Board.

## Games in Springfield

**CHAMPAIGN NEWS-GAZETTE**  
The time-honored tactic of legislating by surprise was on display again last week in Springfield when the ruling party passed legislation in the House designed to maintain its majority status.  
House Democrats passed a measure ... aimed at reducing competition in the general election by barring political parties from appointing a general-election candidate if no member of that party filed nominating petitions for the primary.  
House Democrats also decided to try to goose November election turnout by putting three advisory referendums on the ballot related to in vitro fertilization, election interference and raising taxes on the rich.  
On Thursday, the Senate approved the ban on candidate slating and sent it to the governor for signing.  
With their supermajority in control of both the House and Senate, why do Democrats persist in proposing and then

passing legislative measures out of the blue?...  
As for the bill's substance, this is clearly an effort to limit voter choice, which already suffers because of the lack of electoral competition in legislative races. State Rep. Jay Hoffman, of Belleville, defended the bill, saying it is necessary to ensure that all candidates collect signatures and go through the primary process.  
It's clear how the ban on post-primary slating benefits incumbents. But how does the public benefit from having its choices restricted in general elections? Clearly, it does not. But this is strictly about politics in Springfield, not policy aimed at achieving a greater good.  
The good news is that previous candidates who were slated after primaries mostly filled a symbolic role of filling a ballot slot. So, in terms of electoral substance, it's not a big setback.  
But it demonstrates once again how politicians are constantly searching for ways to game the system at the public's expense.

## Let there be debate

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**  
Is President Biden going to debate Donald Trump as the November election nears? "I am. Somewhere. I don't know when," Mr. Biden said Friday in an interview with Howard Stern. "I'm happy to debate him." Nice to hear, though we'll believe it when we see it.  
If the 81-year-old President wants to skip the stage this fall, Mr. Trump's refusal to debate his GOP primary opponents has handed Mr. Biden an easy excuse. Now Mr. Trump, who for the record is 77, is demanding to debate early and often, because he wants to suggest that Mr. Biden isn't up to taking hard questions.  
Well, is he? Since Mr. Biden took office, according to Politico, he has given interviews to only two print reporters. He speaks only to friendly venues like Mr. Stern's radio show. (We're available for an interview on foreign or economic policy, sir.) Meanwhile, Axios reported ... that Mr. Biden no longer walks solo to

Marine One on the White House lawn. Instead he's surrounded by a phalanx of aides because advisers worry that "videos of Biden walking and shuffling alone—especially across the grass—have highlighted his age." ...  
The White House insists that despite his age Mr. Biden is as vigorous and capable as ever. When the New York Post asked why Mr. Biden has taken to wearing tennis shoes with his suits, this was the comment from deputy press secretary Andrew Bates: "I know y'all aren't partial to presidents who exercise, but don't worry—you'll get used to it." More likely they're afraid the President will fall.  
Mr. Trump is ready to debate "ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, ANYPLACE," he wrote on the internet. ... "I suggest Monday Evening, Tuesday Evening, or Wednesday Evening."  
Mr. Biden won't take that bait, but if he truly wants to debate, he should formally agree to somewhere, sometime, someplace.  
Otherwise voters might decide Mr. Trump is right about him.

## Ways to address student protesters

I believe the solution to student protests is not police arrests or tent city removals. These actions will only result in First Amendment appeals ad infinitum. The peaceful solutions are already readily available to universities and state and federal agencies.  
First, if there is a professor brave enough, schedule a pop exam and then an automatic F for missing class on the day of the exam. Isn't this already the case? It certainly was when I was a student.  
Second, universities, foundations and state agencies can revoke financial aid and scholarship. Silly me, but isn't there a contract between student and granter that says we will give you a free or subsidized ride so that you can attend classes and learn your subjects without having to worry about tuition? You want to spend your days protesting instead of in the library? Then pay full boat tuition.  
And finally, federal agencies can revoke student visas for non-U.S. citizens who presumably were welcomed into America for the express purpose of studying (I repeat, studying.) for a degree.  
Larry Schneider  
Lincolnshire

## The facts on zoo parking plans

With regards to John Patterson's response to my previous letter, I feel obliged to make a couple of corrections. As a former elected official who weighed many easy and difficult decisions throughout my years in public service, I learned there is no place in public discourse for anything other than accurate information.  
First, while the park district voted in November to seek zoning relief from the city for construction of a parking lot, the plan sent to the city for approval is for a 93-space lot, much smaller than the original 250-space lot proposed by park district engineers. The anticipated cost of the smaller lot is estimated to be \$2.1 million, with the entire cost of construction to be paid for by private donor money via the Cosley Foundation. Mr. Patterson is well aware that plans have been considerably downsized from the original design, as he was not only present at the March 12 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting where the plans were reviewed, but he also questioned park district expert witnesses.  
Second, Mr. Patterson's claim that no empirical data exists to support the need for additional parking at Cosley Zoo is not accurate. The FOIA request he references asked for an hourly log of zoo parking for a particular period of time. As a practical matter, the zoo keeps a daily log, which was already provided. Zoo personnel walk the parking lot each day and make an observation: full or not full. The observations are logged and date back almost

## Your Views

### Join the conversation

We welcome your comments (300-word limit). Letters must include your full name, town and phone number. Letters are subject to editing and may be posted online. We do not guarantee publication of every letter.

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eight years. Again, he knows this, as at the same March 12 meeting, the "no data" claim was clearly rebutted by a park district expert witness.  
Finally, I make note of the fact that park district commissioners adjusted the original plans developed by staff and engineers multiple times after taking into account public feedback, but he seems to find fault in that. I commend them for valuing the input from zoo's neighbors and community members. Isn't this type of responsiveness to the public what we want and expect from elected officials?

Michael J. Gresk  
Wheaton

## How to make progress on difficult issues

Problem solved.  
I knew that would get your attention. Can you pick out a current example? I wanted to pick out a couple of examples that seem to be on opposite paths but share the same platform. Let's start with an ongoing problem that has made some progress toward a solution. The prejudice that exists toward mixed-race and same-sex couples. It is still a prevalent issue and honestly one that I have struggled with, but I can see a concerted effort that I think will chip away at this issue. I and I am sure others have clearly noticed that television networks have in many of their productions a cast that portrays these couples in the normal flow of daily living. I resented it at first, but I have realized that the coordination and production of this effort took a complex and long-standing societal problematic union and developed a simple path toward a solution. Progress.  
Now let's look at another long-standing problem that everyone would agree on with no measurable progress toward a solution. Gun violence.  
I was taught to shoot and hunt by my uncle and I cherish those memories. He taught and demonstrated to respect the dangerous potential of the guns and still enjoy their use responsibly. The shared platform here are the network productions that portray reoccurring flow of guns being used in random, embellished and violent fashion. The context of these productions displays power and control, which plays right into a solution for those with low self-esteem and a desperate need for control, influence and revenge.  
Network gun violence has been recognized as an ongoing terrible source of bad influence forever, but it is more

persuasive and prevalent now than ever. Let us pattern a solution that follows the logic of the previous example.  
Bruce Hendricks  
Bartlett

## Protesters seeking peace deserve support

I'm both thrilled and encouraged by the thousands of protesters disrupting the educational process at over a hundred universities and most of President Biden's public events. They may not be in the classroom, but they are learning history firsthand; indeed, may be making history. It would be wonderful if their anti-genocide protests spread to all 6,000 U.S. colleges and universities. That might influence President Biden to pursue peace.  
They bring to mind the legion of mostly young people who engaged in non-violent civil disobedience to end the Vietnam War and Jim Crow segregation 60 years ago. It's easy for me to remember as I was one of them upon entering the University of Chicago in 1963. Unlike many today, I never risked arrest or expulsion from college. The only threat I faced was dodging projectiles hurled at the hundreds of thousands of us in New York City during the antiwar demonstration there April 15, 1967.  
Approaching 80, my physical protest days are long past. But I offer my voice to anyone willing to discuss my views.  
The current Israeli attacks in Gaza, destroying life for 2.3 million Palestinians there, is being funded by the U.S. with tens of billions in weapons of death. President Biden proclaims his "lockstep support" for Israel and complements his weapons with endless vetoes of anti-genocide resolutions in the U.N..  
This is one of, if not the worst moral crime America has engaged in throughout its 248-year existence. That is why we who cannot participate directly must give our fervent moral support to these mostly young folks who will not be deterred by arrest or college expulsion. They are my heroes. They should be heroes to every American. Indeed, they may be the heroes who bring relief to Palestinians and eventually a Palestinian homeland.  
Walt Zlotow, West Suburban  
Peace Coalition  
Glen Ellyn

## Lies threaten democracy

Liar, Liar, pants on fire.  
Trump should be feeling the heat. To those who believe every word that comes out of his mouth, believe this: Donald Trump spews more lies than any Presidential candidate in history. And if you believe his comment that he would be a dictator for one day? Prepare yourself to be ruled by a dictator and his minions and the United States as we know it will be over. His appointees will carry on, even after he is gone. Goodbye democracy.  
Karen Schlabach  
Glen Ellyn

