

# Ted Here.....

Couple of weeks ago I stated here that I've never been as fearful for the future of our nation as I am right now. But here's an addendum:

The youth of this country hold the key to returning us to that good and right path. How often do we blandly say that children are our future. It's a cliché, over-used and under-meant. Sure, children are going to one day mature into the adults who run things, but do we even really think about that 'day'?

The fact is that it's an evolution. There is never any one turning of a page. Society gains or loses continually based on the character of those who grab the reins.

Tom Brokaw so famously labeled the era of my parents as the Greatest Generation for all they did in defeating evil during WWII, not only in the men who were on the front lines but also in the rest of the population back home which scrimped and saved for an effort much larger than themselves.

That group of Americans -- born between the approximate years of 1900 and 1930 -- came out of that war with a vengeance to live and build, and set the United States on a soaring path that eventually led to putting a man on the moon.

Still, there were ugly wounds in that time period, some of which remain open today. Racism, much as revisionists like to downplay, was terrible in the 1930s and '40s and '50s... and still is with us today, although mostly not as overt as back then when "equal but separate" was considered acceptable even though a side-by-side comparison was far from equal and separate not only sustained that disparity but also flew in the face of the good Christian tenets by which we supposedly lived.

With all the division and acrimony that we see all around us in 2022, why should there be a glimmer of hope? Well, it's very evident, in the eyes and spirit of many of our children. While some -- and these will always be with us -- remain stuck in the mud of resentment and rancor, continuing the unproductive labor of trying to hold back a society, I see more and more enlightenment in the attitudes of the young. My own children have taught me more than they realize by their accepting approach to life around them. I bet most parents can say the same thing about their offspring.

So, as the newest batch of 'kids' -- now young adults -- heads off into the dawn of their next lives, a word or two of advice from someone who did that

too, a hundred years ago.

Be happy. Look around and see who the people are that everyone wants to be with. They are the ones without a constant scowl and negative outlook. Remember your grandfather's old saying that you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, because it's true.

Be healthy. At 18 it's difficult to even think about your body deteriorating and eventually dying... but that is coming to us all. Appreciate... no, worship your healthy self. Make good decisions to prolong that beautiful gift of youth, for one day you will long to have it back. I well remember looking into the tears coming from my father's eyes as he lay in a hospital bed, and his words when I asked him if there was anything I could do for him. "Give me back 40 years," he said.

Be generous. Most likely, you will have more than you need. There are few more satisfying feelings than knowing you have helped someone else. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." -- Matthew 25: 40

Be grateful. 'Thank you' is one of the most beautiful phrases said or heard.

Be inquisitive. Learning doesn't stop at the school house door. It's a big world, with quite a history. Open your eyes and minds to all the amazing details. It's really very interesting and entertaining... and it's great stuff of conversations.

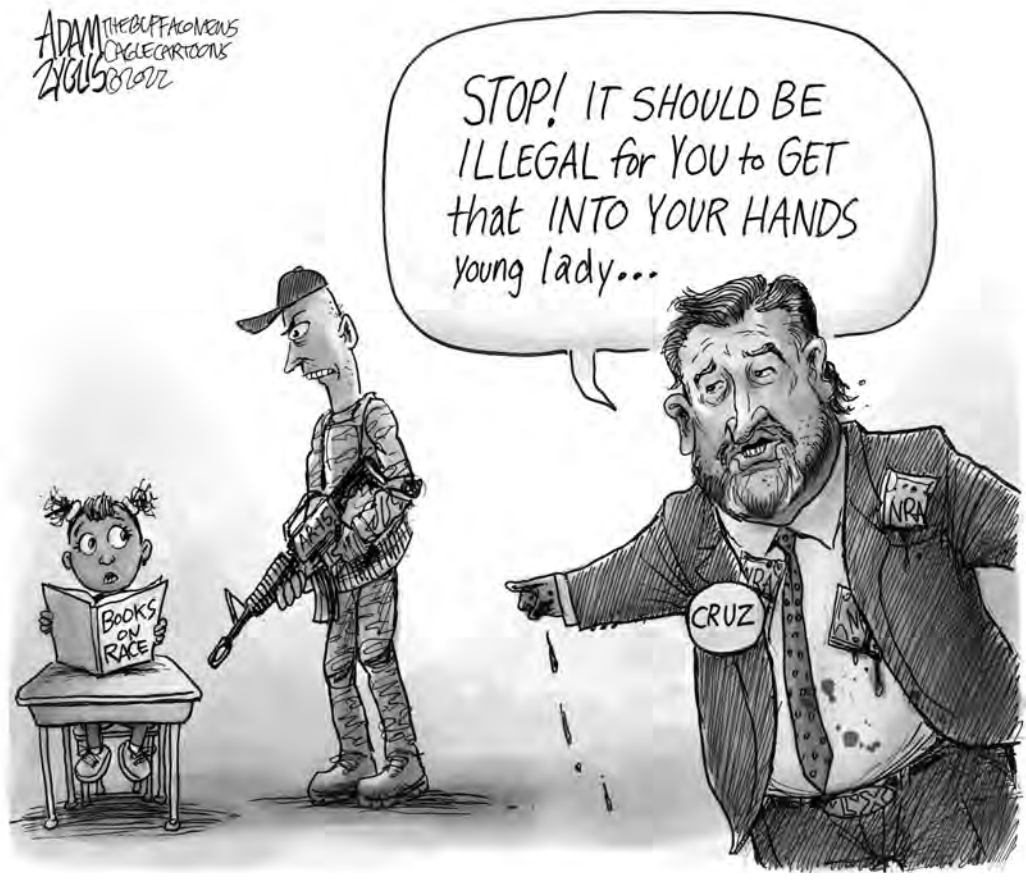
Be productive. Whether you are working at NASA or NAPA, give a full day's effort toward your job. Care about your responsibilities because others are depending on you, and because you are being paid to do your best. And if what you are doing isn't satisfying, seek out something that is. Life is too short to hate your job.

Be understanding. Everyone doesn't act or think like you do, and what a bore that would be if it were so. Accept that we all have a right to be ourselves, and that variety is what makes the world go round.

Be welcoming. Try to remember that first day of kindergarten when you may have felt so alone. Wasn't it just the greatest when your new best friends introduced themselves?

Most of all... Be nice. This is a long list of "Be's" and we could keep adding to this slate of high life qualities. If you remember just one -- Be nice -- well, the rest will likely follow.

Congratulations to the Class of 2022. Now go out and Be.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Keep up your voice of sanity during these crazy times

**To the Editor;**

Thank you for your excellent "opinion" last week (May 25 issue). Too bad the folks you were referring to, the ones who have no respect, or manners, are hateful and want to destroy our country, will never read it.

Since your op-ed, there has been yet another school shooting. Again, the Right has no solution for the problem but to buy more guns and arm teachers.

I heard a comment from someone running for local political office last night. She said, "The Republicans care

more about protecting a fetus than they do about protecting 10-year-olds."

So true on many levels. Please keep up your voice of sanity during these crazy times.

**Lory Bendickson Spicer**

### Very good letter, Carlton

**To the Editor;**

Very good letter, Carlton. You were right on one other thing, a co-op is to provide a

service to its patrons. I'm not so sure this is a service. Also, how much money was actually lost each year keeping Kerkhoven open? Would be

nice to know.

**Doug Anderson Kerkhoven**

## OTHER VOICES

### Let's move to Australia, where they confiscate mass murder weapons

**by Dick Polman**

It's blasphemy in certain circles to state the obvious, which is that America is not exceptional in every way and that Americans are not the peerless masters of the universe. Heck, I'll even dare to say that some countries do some things better than we do.

Consider, for instance, Australia. If I didn't have a job, family, and friends, I'd be tempted to move there. Because the people who live there are far less likely to be mowed down en masse in a food store, or in a movie theater, or at a concert, or in a restaurant, or in a school.

When the Australians suffered a horrible massacre in 1996 -- a gunman killed 35 in a seaside resort -- their elected leaders didn't waste time with worthless prayers. Instead they responded like rational civilized human beings. Twelve days after the shootings, Prime Minister John Howard and his center-right government announced a sweeping bipartisan gun reform deal. In Howard's words, "We have an opportunity in this country not to go down the American path."

True that. What civilized country would want to emulate us?

In the 1996 law, Australia created a buyback program that took 600,000 semi-automatic rifles and shotguns out of circulation -- roughly 20 percent of all firearms nationwide. They banned private gun sales, instituted thorough national background checks, required that owners register all their remaining weapons, and, perhaps most importantly, they required that gun buyers provide "a justifiable reason" at the time of purchase. Self-

defense was not considered a justifiable reason.

In the decades since the law was enacted, roughly one million semi-automatic weapons have been sold back to the government and destroyed. And Australian hunters can still hunt. In 2016, one hunter told Time magazine: "When (the prime minister) proposed the gun law, I marched like everybody else did in opposition. But I now fully endorse what he did... At the end of the day, it's a small price to pay not to have the nutjobs walking through shopping centers and massacring innocent people."

Granted, such enlightenment can't happen here. We're us and they're them. Australia doesn't have a gun-fetish culture that's tethered to a misinterpreted amendment about a "well-regulated militia" (an amendment that the late Chief Justice Warren Burger, a Republican appointee, called "one of the greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word 'fraud,' on the American public"). Australia doesn't have a deadly cadre of elected leaders who routinely cash in millions from the gun manufacturers' lobby.

What's indisputable is that the Australian reform law has been, in the words of a 2011 Harvard study, "incredibly successful in terms of lives saved." A 2018 study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine found that in the 18 years prior to the seaside resort shootings, Australia weathered 13 mass shootings (defined as incidents in which five or more people died). In all the years since, the country has suffered a grand total of... one. (We've had two in the last two weeks.) And a 2021 study by the RAND Corpora-

tion concluded that the Australian law's benefits have been even broader: "The strongest evidence is consistent with the claim that the (law) caused reductions in firearm suicides, mass shootings, and female homicide victimization."

I know that we Americans hate to be lectured by other countries, but sometimes, like especially when little kids get slaughtered, we clearly deserve it. So let's give the Australians the last word. This is from an editorial in the Sydney Morning Herald:

"It is incomprehensible to us, as Australians, that a country so proud and great can allow itself to be savaged again and again by its own citizens. We cannot understand how the long years of senseless murder... have not proved to Americans that the gun is not a precious symbol of freedom, but a deadly cancer on their society."

"We point over and over to our own success with gun control... and that we are still a free and open society. We have not bought our security at the price of liberty; we have instead consented to a social contract that states lives are precious, and not to be casually ended by lone madmen. But (our) message means nothing to those whose ideology is impervious to evidence... You can't regulate evil. But you can disarm it. Once again we pray that the U.S. will come to its senses and do just that. And once again, we are dreadfully sure it won't."

That editorial was written five years ago.

Dick Polman is a veteran national political columnist based in Philadelphia and a Writer in Residence at the University of Pennsylvania.

## OTHER VOICES

### Stopping future school shootings starts at home

**by Michael Reagan**

lock automatically as it should have.

We also learned that the 18-year-old killer, as is so often the case, was known by his family, the authorities and his schoolmates to be a mentally unstable and scary gun nut, yet no one "red-flagged" him as a potential threat to himself or others.

And how many times have we heard stories about how the parents of future mass murderers continued to let them have access to guns even after it had become obvious to them that their children were dangerously disturbed?

What we've seen over and over again in these mass shootings is that everyone's waiting for someone else to do the right things, but then no one does the right things.

It's not that hard to protect a school from being invaded by a mass murderer -- if we have the will.

Just as we do at airports, rock concerts and Super Bowls, we can use high fences, gates and automatically locking doors (that work).

We can also hire full-time security guards who are well armed, well trained and not afraid to shoot anyone dead who shows up at a school and tries to kill people.

A school guard without a gun is just a spectator at a slaughter -- or another victim.

But Democrats and the liberal media are so mindlessly in favor of stricter and stricter gun control that they'll never understand that the best way to prevent a tragedy like the one

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## MAKE YOUR OPINION KNOWN... WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

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