



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Say no to drugs

I recently had a liver biopsy, and the nurse educator said, "Bring a driver. You will be goofy from the anesthesia."

I said, "I don't want any drugs."

Long story short: I took no drugs and I had no pain. The radiologist gave some local xylocaine (like the dentist) that worked great. So, if you don't trust all the drugs we doctors push, and you don't enjoy having a goofy brain, and you don't want to have IV anesthesia before a liver biopsy, colonoscopy or a port placement, just say no.

Jeff Beckwith, M.D., Springfield

The political will of the

American people

Knee-jerk reactions are hardwired in us humans. The instantly negative reaction to the recent call to "defund the police" is partly related to a longer history of capitalist propaganda that promotes the zero-sum notion that any gain for the dispossessed equals a loss for the rest.

It joins a long list of causes: health care for all, housing as a human right, free education, Green New Deal, living wages, etc. As long as quality of life (all life) is conditioned by the needs of making a profit, around in circles we go.

And even though the question of transforming policing to public safety doesn't directly involve profits, we still struggle with the mindset that justice for all includes fearing loss, in this case loss of white privilege. This is the wealthiest country in the world with more than enough to ensure quality living for everyone.

All it requires is the political will of the American people.

Sarita Lief, Springfield

A second chance, let's not blow it

I was dismayed to see your publication of the cartoon of Joe Biden (Another View, June 18) standing all alone in front of a pile of papers stating "40 years of inaction."

It made me wonder how many people will groan and say, "Well, I'm not going to vote for him."

Truly, for every piece of paper there are thousands of people, people like you and me, who failed to act. We left President Barack Obama to fend for himself after his election in 2008. We let Republicans take over the House of Representatives and the Senate. We thought that voting for a Black president would cleanse us of the sin of slavery and racism.

Just another thing to check off our list. From my view, I see a very brave man, old and frail, but a very brave man who is willing to be our leader. He is a white man who is willing to try to represent all the people of our country, not just his base. We have a second chance with Biden. Let's not blow it.

Margaret Moore, Eugene

Positive feedback loops, negative trends

Pandemics and climate change share the property of being driven by positive feedback loops.

For pandemics, the more people who acquire a disease, the more people who are exposed to the disease, the more people who acquire the disease, and so on.

We can control that by changing behaviors to reduce exposures and by developing a vaccine to block acquisition. Delay in responding to a pandemic increases its impact, as the growth of its prevalence is exponential in nature.

For climate change, there are many such feedback loops. For example, the warmer it is, the more polar ice melts (or more methane is released from permafrost), the warmer it is, and so on.

But there will be no vaccine for climate change. Only significant, permanent changes in our social behavior will allow us to reduce and adapt to the impacts climate change will bring. Ending reliance on carbonbased energy, increasing energy efficiency, adopting local food supplies, changing packaging and generally reducing consumption are among the actions required.

As with COVID-19, we have delayed our response to climate change. This guarantees the impacts, and thus the changes required, will be great. There is no time for further delay.

Art Farley, Eugene