

OPINION

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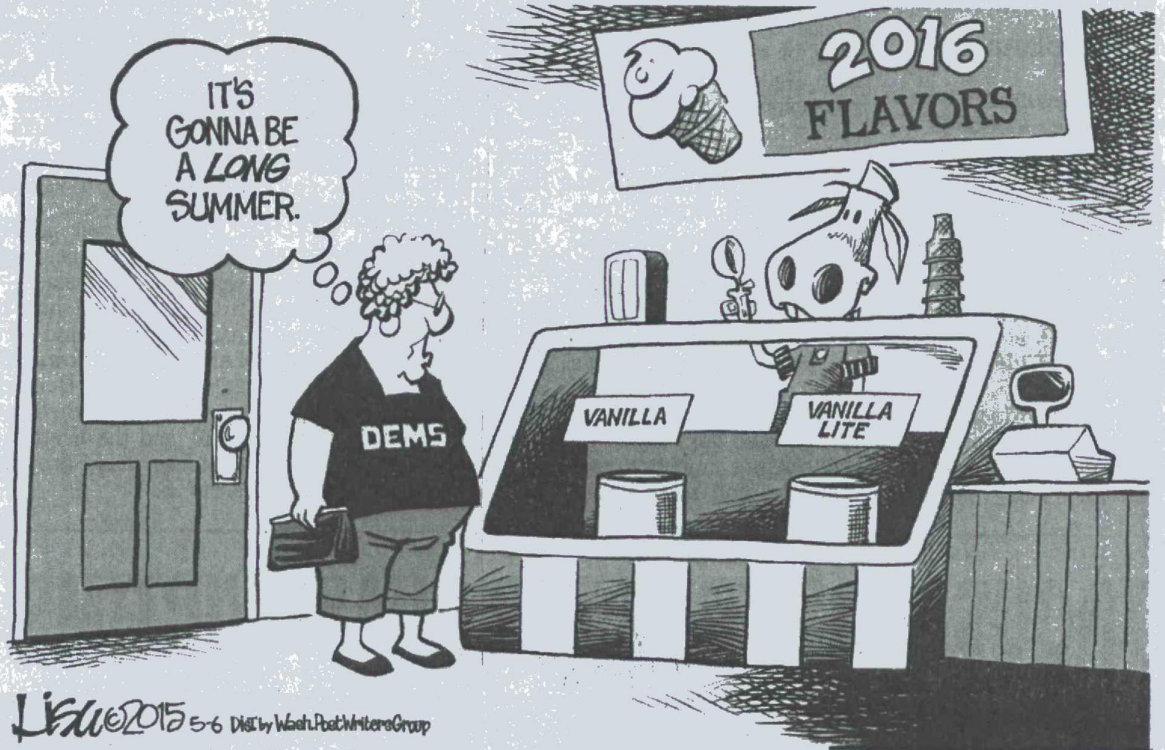
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Herbert J. Campbell,
 1882-1941

Don P. Campbell,
 1923-1998

Jack R. Campbell,
 1929-1978

In Our View



Our Readers' Views

a three-week executive in-residence program this summer. Sadly, even after this taxpayer-funded (a \$12,400 increase in the budget) boondoggle was brought to light, the RTC board approved this expenditure.

John Ley
 CAMAS

Teachers willingly walk in 180 days

If you ask teachers why they do what they do, many will respond that they love children and learning. Unfortunately, these positive, deeply personal motives are often manipulated as evident in the May 1 editorial, "Students come first."

It is frustrating to read inaccurate, shaming comments. Their list of grievances also include... a lack of increases in benefits (although they receive copious vacation time)," which obscures the real issues of education. Most teachers in the state of Washington are contracted to work about 180 days (plus three or four days). Students are required to attend 180 days. Summers and vacations are unpaid days. But this is not the point of the walkout that teachers in our county are considering.

Every day, teachers willingly walk in to classrooms with more children than their spaces can accommodate. Teachers willingly walk in early and stay late to provide additional time to support our students. When teachers support initiatives that demand that the state fulfill its responsibility, we are not walking out on our students and their families; we are modeling that there are some things worth standing up for — their education.

Kim Abegglen
 VANCOUVER

Balance GMA to include landowners

Clark County Citizens United commends county councilors for addressing concerns of rural and resource landowners with Alternative 4. They recognized a need for property rights, inclusiveness, lifestyles, businesses, and economic vitality. The Growth Management Act doesn't say stop rural growth, it says plan for growth.

A small special interest group, Friends of Clark County, demands unchanging rural landscapes over actual use of low-density housing, small farms, woodlots, and occasional businesses. They want

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage readers to express their views about public issues. Letters to the editor are subject to editing for brevity and clarity. Limit letters to 200 words — 100 words when endorsing or opposing political candidates — and allow 30 days between submissions.

Include name, address and daytime phone number for verification; only the name and hometown will be published. Email is preferred.

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to keep rural lands frozen in large zones. Lost is a mix of 13 GMA goals of property rights, economics and affordable housing. Missing is humanity, rural character, and hard work to buy, maintain and pay taxes on land.

At the request of county planners, Attorney John Karpinski wrote the "Green Alternative." Almost all of those items went into the 1994 Plan, resulting in a majority of nonconforming lots. In 1997 and 1999, CCCU supported property rights in Superior Court and the Court of Appeals and won against Clark County and Karpinski. The Poyfair Remand states, "The result is a plan that gives little regard for the realities of existing rural development in direct contradiction of the terms of the GMA." The councilors and Alternative 4 gives rural citizens a voice in their futures. They are steps to consider an inclusive, common-sense policy that balances GMA goals.

Carol Levanen
 BATTLE GROUND

Violence contradicts Islam

I learned that so-called Muslims carried out terror attacks on a gathering in a suburb outside Dallas, Texas. As a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, I condemn this terrorism and consider these attacks to be in complete contradiction to the teachings of Islam.

Islam never has and never will be spread through violence and bloodshed. I believe that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right and should be carefully exercised.

Imran Ghumman
 REDMOND