

Liberals' petty sniping at hero

Some of the left-wing Hollywood crowd, like Michael Moore and Seth Rogan, are shooting down the movie "American Sniper" and claiming Chris Kyle is a coward. Their petty sniping at an American hero is dramatically off the mark and has backfired. Americans have rejected liberal elites like Moore and have voted with their feet by going to the movies in record numbers to see this authentic, freedom-fighting hero.

I believe that Moore's cheap shots toward American servicemen like Kyle have proven beyond a doubt that Michael Moore is a perfect shot when it comes to shooting himself in the foot.

Dan Jones

Rancho Santa Margarita

MOVIE TOO 'HOLLYWOOD'?

I am very disturbed at the manner in which true events of Chris Kyle's life are being completely ignored by both "American Sniper" and the media. Both seem to have trouble differentiating between the actual person and the more likable character that Bradley Cooper plays.

In his biography, Kyle relays a story of traveling to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina with a fellow sniper, climbing to the top of the Superdome and shooting and killing people they saw looting. Looting is a crime, but it certainly is not punishable by death. If the story is true, Chris Kyle was a murderer. If the story is false, you have to ask yourself what kind of sick mind it takes to fabricate such a tale in order to maintain a persona.

Kyle also lied about comments allegedly made by former Governor Jesse Ventura as well as an alleged fist fight between the two. Ventura successfully sued Kyle for defamation.

American Sniper, with its cleaned up version of Chris Kyle, is dangerous in a country already so gripped by paranoia and fear of terrorism and Muslims. I encourage people to search comments made about the movie on social media. You will be mortified. Countless young people have made comments about their interest in "taking out a few 'ragheads'" themselves. Others praise Kyle for making sure there are fewer Muslims in the world. The general reactions to the movie on social media are violent hate mongering, which is something this world can do without - now, more than ever.



CAMERON CARDOW, CAGLE CARTOONS

If Clint Eastwood wanted to make a film about Chris Kyle and say that it's based partly on his book, he has to show who the man truly was, warts and all. Otherwise all you create are young people who idolize a cleaned-up Hollywood version of a complex, and some would argue disturbed, man.

Jackie M.

Trabuco Canyon

OBAMA FORGETS OUR REAL FRIENDS

When former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher passed away, President Obama couldn't find the time to attend her funeral to pay tribute to one of America's staunchest allies in fighting and winning the Cold War, ending nearly 80 years of communist aggression and oppression. Now it appears he can't find the time to meet with our other strong ally, Israel, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visits Washington to address Congress this coming March.

Yet amazingly, Mr. Obama has found the time to cut short his visit to India so he can pay his respects to the deceased king of Saudi Arabia, also an American "ally" which happens to regularly behead people, amputate limbs of thieves and throw women in jail for driving automobiles. He also found time this week in his busy schedule to be interviewed by several Internet yahoos, seriously degrading the dignity and decorum of the presidency all in the name of being "cool."

And don't forget that Yemen, which Mr. Obama cited last year as a model of his successful anti-terrorism strategy, is now in a state of collapse and utter chaos, soon to become the next training ground for even more Islamic terrorism.

How is that fundamental transformation of America working out?

Tim Streit

Coto de Caza

OBAMA DIDN'T SNUB NETANYAHU

Re: "Congress bypasses Obama" [Letters, Jan. 27]: Sometimes, the simplest of answers is the correct one. It has been a long-standing policy of the U.S. not to meet with current or potential leaders so close to an election, as to not portray any favoritism. Simple common sense. Or maybe it was over-looked and buried in the news - like "Deficit to shrink to lowest level of Obama presidency" [News, Jan. 27]. The deficit is down to \$468 billion; it was over a trillion dollars when Obama took office.

More disturbing, the Koch brothers are spending \$889 million to attempt to buy the 2016 election. I know all politicians take money from special interests, but are we really for sale? The Koch brothers expect something in return, and it's not something that is in our best interests, but better for their company and, most of all, their pocketbooks.

J. Gwinn

Irvine

Immunization a community issue for Orange County

The number of kindergarteners who have not been vaccinated against preventable childhood illnesses has increased by 40 percent over the past decade, according to data from the state Department of Public Health. In addition, vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles and pertussis, are increasing in California. This year, 61 cases of measles and 8,278 cases of pertussis, or whooping cough, have been reported statewide. And according to the Orange County Health Care Agency, our county had 22 confirmed cases of measles this year. As of September 2014, 368 local cases of whooping cough have been reported.

Over the past 10 years in Orange County, the number of children who aren't completely vaccinated has increased more than 50 percent. About 11 percent of kindergarteners in 2013-14 weren't fully immunized. Parents choosing to opt out of vaccinations by signing a personal belief exemption accounted for 3.6 percent of children - three times the proportion in 2003.

The safety and benefits of our national childhood vaccine program have been well documented. The vast majority of reported adverse events attributable to vaccines are minor. Serious adverse events can occur, but they are exceedingly rare. Yet conflicting information from a range of sources (both reliable and unreliable) has contributed to increased parental hesitancy and refusal.

California recently addressed this trend with Assembly Bill 2109. It requires a parent or guardian seeking a personal belief exemption from school-required immunizations to first obtain a document signed by a licensed health care practitioner that verifies the practitioner has informed the parent or guardian of the benefits and risks of immunization.

Research shows that vaccination is one of the most cost-effective and successful public health interventions. According to the American Journal of Preventative Medicine, vaccinations have decreased most vaccine-preventable childhood diseases by more than 95 percent in the U.S. Outbreaks of diseases that were once lethal to many Americans are at record



TOM STIGLICH, CREATORS.COM

low levels. However, cause for concern and diligence remains because vaccine-preventable diseases still exist. To maintain the public health benefits that have been achieved through immunization, vaccination rates must remain high enough to prevent outbreaks. Vaccination rates in several O.C. school districts have fallen far below this protective threshold.

Lower immunization rates directly affect schools. Children who are not fully immunized against communicable diseases are at higher risk of infection. They can increase the risk of infection for others, including infants and those with medical conditions who don't have the option to receive vaccines. State law provides that public health officials may require unvaccinated students to stay home during outbreaks. When students aren't at school, their ability to learn is impacted.

In order to ensure the health and safety of our children and families, we must maintain and increase childhood vaccination coverage in O.C. Vaccines have the capacity to dramatically protect and improve public health, and individuals who delay or opt out of immunizations should be informed of the potential risks and serious consequences of their decision - for their children and their communities.

Al Mijares, Ph.D.

O.C. Superintendent of Schools

Marc Lerner, MD

O.C. Department of Education, medical officer

IMMIGRANTS TO BLAME?

In this country's recent history, medical advances completely eradicated diseases because of immunizations required by law. In the 1980s and '90s, parents decided to take a stand against immunizations for their children.

Fast forward 20 years and allow millions of illegal immigrants who have not immunized to come into your country and voila: America's chickens have come home to roost.

Andy Allaire

Laguna Woods

INSURANCE SHOULD COVER VACCINES

Re: "Adults urged to get measles shot as outbreak spreads" [Front page, Jan. 22]: We checked with our health professionals, and this was, in fact, a good recommendation. We called our pharmacy and they had the vaccine ordered and in their store the next morning, but our health insurance company would not cover the cost of the shot, which was \$108.

Our health insurance recently increased to \$2,100 per month for two adults. How are people going to get vaccinated if the shot is this expensive, or did we pay an extraordinary amount to subsidize the people on Obamacare? Either way, an epidemic of a once obsolete disease is on the rise, along with insurance corruption and socialism.

Peggy V. Palmer

Newport Beach

HOW TO SEND US A LETTER

Letters to the Editor reflect all points of view and are selected for clarity, substance and brevity (150 words). The sentiments expressed on any single issue are published in proportion to what is received, which changes daily. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number for verification. Letters may be edited and used in print or digital form. All letters become property of the Register. **E-mail:** letters@ocregister.com. **Mail:** Letters, The Register, P.O. Box 11626, Santa Ana, Calif. 92711-1626.

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Shop classes or community college?

Our education system is obviously leaving many of our young people behind. Just look at the high drop-out rates. These young people are not interested in European history or English literature. Wood shop, automotive shop, welding, plumbing, computer repair and other career education leading to middle-class jobs could keep them interested in school and provide a path to meaningful employment. Ideally, coupled with a work/study program or apprenticeship, students now left behind could find schooling meaningful and stay to graduate.

The current focus on college education is costly both financially and in lives wasted. Not everyone wants or needs to go to college. Everyone, however, needs to have a way to make a decent living. Lets give our kids that opportunity.

Rita Bennett

San Clemente

I support President Obama's proposal for free community college. From 1961 to 1995, I took a variety classes at Santa Ana Community College that provided a path to jobs that paid for family health care, a house and retirement. Based on having completed two semesters of drafting at Santa Ana Community College, I reported to work at Anaheim's Autonetics, a division of the legendary North American Aviation. I joined 12-15 young men, most of whom were products of Southern California junior colleges.

After the Cold War ended, I was laid off. I was a 53-year-old with obsolete job skills, so I returned to Santa Ana College, taking a collection of law classes while working minimum wage jobs at computer stores. My law class work helped me qualify for the 1999 Orange County Grand Jury and a job with the Orange County Sheriff's Department serving court orders for judgment debtors in 2001. That job took me to a November 2011 retirement.

Wayne King

Orange

KEEP HISTORY IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE

"For many Indians, Father Serra is no saint" [News, Jan. 25] is a bit disingenuous. I am not a member of a Native American tribe nor a Catholic. I am a museum curator and a reader, researcher and writer of local history. Serra was born in 1713. To reflect on his attitudes from a 2015 perspective is unfair and unrealistic. For his time, Serra was an enlightened man. Before becoming a missionary, he was a university professor, which gave him the advantage of being in the real world rather than just the cloistered world of his fellow clerics. He was extremely well-read and was considered one of the most intelligent of the Franciscan clergy.

After spending 20 years in Mexico and Baja, California, Serra was put in charge of the mission system for Alta California.

The Indians were never forcibly baptized, but once baptized, they were expected to remain at the missions. Twice, Serra returned to Mexico City to complain about the treatment of the Indians by the military and encouraged the viceroy to put the missionaries in charge. This was finally accepted by the crown, and Serra was credited with the Bill of Rights for the Indians, a very far-sighted event for the time. This was before the United States Bill of Rights was written.

Before Serra came to California, there were over 100 Native tribes and bands. When he died and, later, when the Mission Period ended, there were still over 100 tribes and bands. When California became a state, there were over 100 tribes and bands. To blame Serra for the woes that befell the native population in California is not true or fair.

When judging a person's place in history, one must keep in mind the period in which that person lived. The Mayans and the Aztecs had a great culture, but they did things that would not be considered admirable in today's world. That does not make their culture any less important. The same is true for Serra. As an 18th century man, he was way ahead of his time and deserves to be canonized.

Jan Siegel

San Juan Capistrano

WORLD STILL STUCK IN 1986?

Jan. 28 was the 29th anniversary of the space shuttle Challenger disaster. I came across the original Orange County Register edition from that date the other day. Interestingly enough, much of the news from 29 years ago was similar to the news of 2015. The Soviets were in Afghanistan, losing Soviet-Afghan troops to "guerillas" (what we called them back then) instead of terrorists. Reagan's "Star Wars" program was one of the top military priorities. The U.S. Hispanic population was 16.9 million and growing fast. The Reagan administration asked Congress to increase foreign aid.

So there you have it. Other than the Challenger explosion, not much is new. My intent wasn't so much about the news, but to remember this tragic event; however, the presence of similar stories was too great to not mention. Let us respectfully remember those lost on the Challenger shuttle and, hopefully, in the future, we can learn from our mistakes.

Cathy Chrislip Gronau

San Clemente