

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Bemused by article on sculptor, statue

How, in heaven's name, can you possibly justify your front-page centerpiece Aug. 17, about the Sarasota artist who sculpted a Confederate statue ("Forwarding the flag")?

You should have your collective heads examined. All I could come up with was, you're trolling the community to see what kind of uproar you create.

Craig Harris, Sarasota

Michelle Obama healing voice in wilderness

In reference to Michelle Obama's speech at the Democratic Convention: Finally, a voice is heard in the wilderness of our political discontent that speaks truth instead of falsehood; healing instead of wounding; mindfulness instead of thoughtlessness; and mutual understanding instead of divisiveness.

Like the former first lady, I have no love for politics. Both of our major political parties are essentially religious organizations without a theocracy. And, like most cult-like organizations, they ultimately devolve into the adversarial duality of fundamentalism.

However, as Ms. Obama astutely points out, we must work with what we have, and what we now have is no longer acceptable. After nearly four years of uninterrupted dysfunction and deceit, Americans must do with their vote what politicians have not been able to do because of their unending self-referential political concerns.

Tim Cronley, Bradenton

How would Democrats unite with Trump fans?

To progressives, liberals and Democrats: Your only "fuel" for almost four years has been pure, unrelenting, unbridled hatred toward our duly elected president.

You've tried to destroy him and those loyal to him. That includes the 63 million of us that voted for him and continue to strongly believe in him.

In spite of your vitriolic poison, we had a tremendous economy, until the pandemic hit.

My question to you: If you succeed to the point where you control the agenda, what is your plan to continue this "Make America Great Again" theme?

If your program of raw destruction works, what will your clear message be for 63 million of us who truly understand how all of you tried to disenfranchise us?

Hope you're preparing a really good action plan and script. Your greatest challenge then will be "uniting" with 63 million of us. You do talk about uniting America, right?

A very sincere good luck!

Al E. Bavry, Sarasota

Rethink development, country's values

I've never seen two more eloquently written columns on one page of a paper than I read on Page A6 of the Aug. 19 Herald-Tribune.

In "Our View," the Herald-Tribune Editorial Board captured the sentiment so many of us feel as Floridians — native or recent transplants — about halting uncontrolled growth in its tracks and taking time to rethink, as you say, "what we want our part of the state and its communities to be when they grow up" ("Questions on growth need fresh answers").

The editorial is a tribute to longtime, caring, passionate environmental advocate Becky Ayeck and the effort of her group in east Sarasota County that the Herald-Tribune is suggesting it's time to revisit where we are as a community on this important question.

And that second column on A6? Frank Bruni nailed it in "Michelle Obama put into words what America needs." Just as it is time to halt the degradation of our beautiful countryside and waterways, it is time to halt the degradation of all that we thought we stood for as a nation. It is time for Democrats, Republicans and independents to come together and get this country back on track. The soul of our nation depends on it.

Bob Clark, Venice

Exercise your right to vote at polls

We Americans have a precious sacred right to vote for our leaders.

The best way to vote is to go to the polling place and vote in person. It's an honor. And if we have to stand in line for a few minutes, that's even better.

We should proudly exercise our franchise in person, as our parents and grandparents did.

Absentee ballots were meant for people who are physically unable to go to the polls, but it's still better to be there in person. In some countries, people stand in line all day just to vote.

Let's remember that people fought and died so we could vote.

Robert Rosenbluth, Sarasota

No problems with voting from home

Absolutely amazing. I received an absentee ballot for the Aug. 18 election in Sarasota County.

I filled it out, put it in the enclosed envelope, applied correct postage and put in my mailbox.

There was an email address given to track my ballot. It worked. It gave the date the absentee ballot was mailed to me and the date the elections office received my return ballot.

I'm impressed!

Carol Sparker, Sarasota