

Marin Independent Journal

Marin IJ Readers' Forum for Feb. 27, 2022

February 26, 2022 at 11:46 a.m.

Tree work should wait until after nesting season

On behalf of spotted owls, nesting birds, clean air and heart, I urge Pacific Gas and Electric Co. officials to suspend tree work until after nesting season.

The local spotted owls that I can hear from my house have just marked their nesting territory. The birds, including finches, should be at my feeder, but they are nearly nonexistent. There is so much open space between trees and butchered trunks that I wonder if all this extensive thinning and cutting isn't making it possible for more heat buildup in the summer.

It's time to take a break — no more tree work until after nesting season.

— *Grace Rogers, Nicasio*

Vote no on proposed tax extension for Measure A

Voting no on the proposed extension of the Measure A tax is a respectful, positive call for reprioritizing our public spending. It would force leaders to focus more on doing the critical stuff first.

We enjoy a plethora of well-protected parks, open space and agricultural lands already. We don't need supplemental taxes too heavily loaded on the poorer of us.

Supporting Measure A is doing merely the politically possible, not what is critical and essential. West Marin cows are not threatened by reduced public funding. We already protect ag lands via A-60 zoning rules and the Williamson Act. Far too much of original taxpayer dollars collected from Measure A went for mountain-bike trails on our open spaces rather than for the greater need for wildfire preparedness and protection.

A miserly 15% of the proposed Measure A extension is earmarked for local parks. That should have been doubled or tripled to improve recreational resources closer to users.

I suggest that we respectfully and positively vote no on the renewal of Measure A.

— *Randall Knox, San Rafael*

O'Rourke's commentary will definitely be missed

The recent passing of noted humorist, satirist and libertarian pundit P.J. O'Rourke, the pride of Toledo, at age 74, is an incalculable loss at a time when he was needed most by Americans in need of a laugh at ourselves.^[P]_[SEP]Those close to his age recall him as a National Lampoon star writer who went on to fame writing books and pieces for the Atlantic Monthly, the American Spectator and the Weekly Standard, then on to National Public Radio's "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me," the Daily Beast and his Mencken fellowship with the Cato Institute.

Though his politics drifted right as he aged, he never let his beliefs get in the way of his piercing clarity or brilliant wit. He savaged Republicans, Democrats and everybody in between. He appeared to hate dogma and love people.

He said that he held his nose to vote for Hillary Clinton in 2016, as so many of us did, because he couldn't cross the line into degenerate imbecility. He did the same for Joe Biden in 2020, although there could be no two different people in the world than O'Rourke and the president. He cared too much about his country, and his three children, to do otherwise.

His generation, the Baby Boomers, have let the world down in spectacular fashion, something that O'Rourke openly admitted, and it gave him trouble. His deep troubles with, and unconditional affection for, our country were on full display at all times.

There was rigorous honesty with the biting humor. Both are all but vanquished.

— *Craig J. Corsini, San Rafael*

U.S. not world police, but it must defend democracy

I am writing in regard to the recently published letter to the editor by Tim Peterson about Russia's invasion of Ukraine. I agree that we need to examine our next steps in light of the disasters in Vietnam and Afghanistan. As the saying goes "those who ignore history are bound to repeat it."

We should also look to World War II, when our involvement stopped a regime dedicated to genocide, oppression and world domination to make the United States the world's hero.

Former President Ronald Reagan spoke of a democratic "city on a hill" for all to see. I fear that the isolationist tendencies expressed by Peterson will further reduce that shining beacon to a small flashlight with weak batteries. I do not want America to be the standalone policeman of the world, but I also do not want to see us sit back and silently watch the elimination of democracy in our world, as so many on the right seem willing to do.

The trick is how to balance both of those interests.

— *Jeff Moss, San Rafael*