

THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL represents the view of The Joplin Globe's editorial board. Members of the editorial board are: **Andy Ostmeyer**, editor, aostmeyer@joplinglobe.com; **Emily Younker**, managing editor, eyounker@joplinglobe.com; and **Jerry Willis**, design editor, jwillis@joplinglobe.com.

OUR VIEW

Board corrects itself after ruling

An embarrassing chapter has come to a close as one of Missouri's professional boards dropped an action to discipline a former public official for her official actions. The original complaint seemed intended to punish her and to intimidate future officeholders from acting in the public interest.

The action by the state Board of Accountancy, which oversees accountants in Missouri, was part of a move to sanction former state Auditor Nicole Galloway in response to her audit of former Missouri attorney general Josh Hawley's office. Hawley, a Republican who is now one of Missouri's U.S. senators, argued that Galloway, then the only Democrat serving in statewide elected office, should not publicly release portions of her audit of his office. Those documents were part of a report that showed Hawley may have misused state resources to benefit his successful 2018 campaign against former U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill.

The board dismissed the action after a Cole County judge ruled in a lawsuit that the state board has no oversight over the Missouri auditor's office.

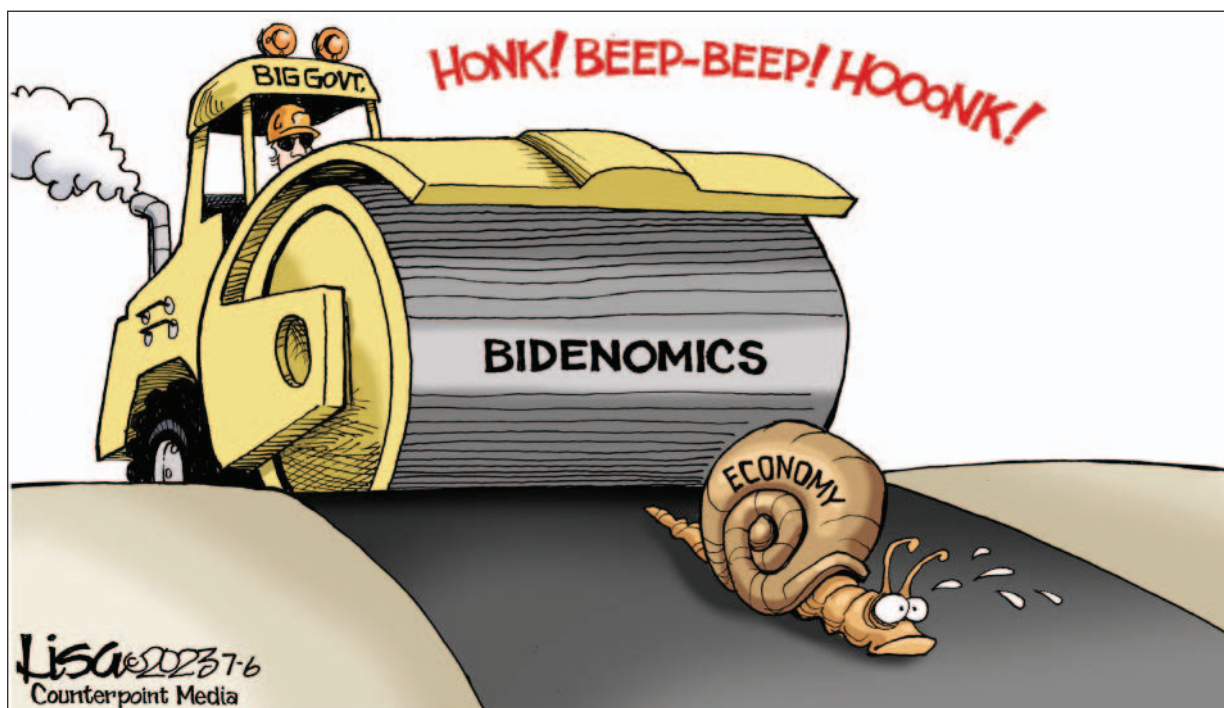
"The court has found that Galloway's audit was carried out lawfully and fully within her constitutional authority," said Galloway attorney Chuck Hatfield after the ruling. "The board has finally come to terms that it greatly overreached and has no authority over the Missouri Auditor."

The Missouri Independent reported that Galloway's audit found that Hawley's office overspent on travel and did not give prior approval to paying employees for relocation expenses. One finding showed Hawley used a state vehicle and a driver for some trips without documenting the purpose of the trip. A driver told the auditor that on Dec. 16, 2017, he drove Hawley and his wife to a Kansas City Chiefs football game.

The actions by the board smacked of payback in a political feud, especially given that Hawley called on the board, including a member who is chairman of the Missouri Republican Party, to discipline Galloway. The call by Hawley prompted the lawsuit.

Too often we have seen Hawley show a willingness to ignore the Sunshine Law and to be sly, secretive and to use the levers of power to his advantage in ways that should be deeply suspect. Trying to use a state licensure board to punish an elected official for performing her duty is but one example. Further, no state board or its members should allow themselves to be used in this manner.

We call on Hawley to do better and to apologize to Missourians in general and Galloway in particular.



Changes come to weekend e-papers, but not to Globe weekend coverage

It's no secret that this has been a rough time for newspapers. How rough?

Last year, The New York Times noted that "Over 360 newspapers in the United States have gone out of business since just before the start of the pandemic, according to a new report from Northwestern University's journalism school. ... The closures have perpetuated the problem of so-called news deserts — places with limited access to local news," the report said. Over one-fifth of Americans now live in such a place, or in a place that is at risk of becoming one. Overall, 2,500 newspapers in the United States — a quarter of them — have closed since 2005. The country is set up to lose one-third of its newspapers by 2025. And in many places, the surviving local media outlets have made major cuts to staff and circulation."

Reasons are many, having to do with loss of advertising revenue, primarily, and changing reader habits.

On the revenue side, according to one analysis, between 2002 and 2020 newspaper revenue dropped more than 50% nationwide. Much of that advertising has gone online. But as I tell readers, those online companies are not sending anybody to your city council meetings, or covering Main Street developments, or staffing your high school games or board meetings.

The late John S. Carroll, editor of the Los Angeles Times for five years, said: "Google and Yahoo! aren't those people putting report-



ANDY OSTMEYER

Columnist

ers on the street in any number."

And if you're expecting bloggers to do that, you will be disappointed. Studies show they don't. That's still our role.

With the emergence — and to my mind dangerous overreliance — on social media, reading habits shifted.

Because of the proliferation of social media, communities more than ever need a resource where they can turn for fact-based news.

They also need a community newspaper to remind them of what they have in common — our neighbors, our schools, our streets — and to unite people to address these challenges.

That's us too.

But these and other trends necessitate sometimes tough changes on the ground as newspapers find their path forward with smaller staffs and fewer resources, the Globe included.

That's why we are announcing some changes to our online papers, called our e-papers, beginning this weekend.

In order to reallocate resources in a way that best serves readers, we will be discontinuing the Sunday e-paper effective this weekend, and printing a smaller Monday e-paper, which will allow us to concentrate more resources on news gathering and story coverage.

But don't worry, all of the things

that we always covered on weekends, including events, games and breaking news, will still be online at joplinglobe.com, just not in the e-paper format. In fact, by moving resources from page design and into news coverage, we will be able to provide additional content.

Readers will see no change to their printed papers Tuesday through Saturday.

This spring, the journal "History Today" examined what the loss of newspapers may mean for historians tomorrow. One historian wrote: "The loss of the physical newspaper is significant to the historian because of the local newspaper's physical legacy is that most often accessed by both professional and amateur historians. ... The loss of the printed local newspaper has robbed historians of many crucial opportunities to learn about their communities, the mechanisms of democracy and the changing character of any given locality."

Another study found that as newspapers decline, so does civic engagement — everything from interaction with local officials to joining PTAs and neighborhood watch groups to involvement in community groups such as the American Legion and Lions Club.

We are working hard to keep a smaller newspaper a thriving newspaper, because we believe a thriving community needs a thriving community newspaper, and now more than ever.

ANDY OSTMEYER is editor of The Joplin Globe.

What liberals get wrong about history

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream wants the United States to return the Black Hills to the Lakota.

Which raises the question: Once this transfer takes place, will the Lakota turn around and give the Black Hills back to the tribes they took them from?

It's never a good idea to get history lessons from an ice cream maker with a hippy vibe that sold out to a multinational conglomerate long ago, but the Ben & Jerry's July 4th condemnation of the United States as "founded on stolen Indigenous land" is a common enough hostile interpretation of our past that it's worth dwelling on.

There is no doubt that our dealings with Native Americans were characterized by brutality, land-hunger and duplicity, and constitute one of the nation's foremost sins. The problem with the Ben & Jerry's view, which is considered a truism on the left, is that it is immune to complexity and rests on an ahistorical, ultimately condescending belief in the inherent innocence and peaceableness of Native Americans.

Consider the Lakota. Like many other tribes we encountered on the Plains, they were relative newcomers to the area, getting pushed westward by intertribal warfare and establishing themselves there by force, as well. Counter to the saccharine romance of such depictions is the famous Kevin Costner movie, "Dances with Wolves." Native American society was red in tooth and claw; Native Americans weren't simplistic archetypes



RICH LOWRY

Columnist

but real people prone to all the usual flaws of human nature including hatred, greed and violence.

The Ben & Jerry's July 4 message refers to the Lakota "fighting to keep colonizers off their land," without any mention of the fact that, just a short time before, they were the colonizers.

As Elliott West notes in his new book "Continental Reckoning: The American West in the Age of Expansion," the advent of a horse culture among various Native American tribes made the Great Plains and Southwest a killing field of warfare and disease. "Two great coalitions — Cheyennes, Arapahos, and Lakotas north of the Arkansas River and Comanches and Kiowas south of it — clashed bitterly until making peace in 1840, then both preyed on sedentary peoples on the fringes," West writes.

According to West, one reason so much Mexican land was there for the taking during the Mexican-American War was it had been depopulated by constant Native American raiding.

Is it too much for Ben & Jerry's to spare a thought for the Mexicans killed, captured or possessed by merciless Native American warriors?

As for the Lakota, they didn't take control of territory to the

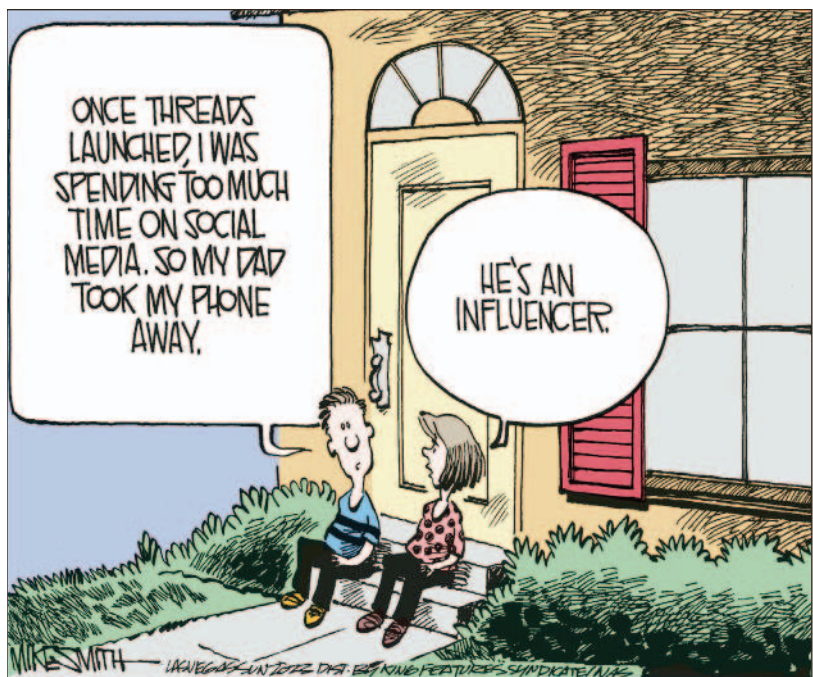
west through gentle persuasion. They gained control of the Black Hills in the late 18th century by expelling the prior occupants. The history here doesn't neatly line up with the Ben & Jerry's call for "dismantling white supremacy and systems of oppression and ensuring that Indigenous people can again govern the land their communities called home for thousands of years."

Which Indigenous people? And which lands?

None of this is to minimize the double-dealing that saw the United States take the Black Hills after the discovery of gold, or the demographic catastrophe that befell Native peoples. Europeans unleashed terrible epidemics when they came to these shores, although that wasn't something they foresaw or intended.

The potted version of the nation's history favored by the likes of Ben & Jerry's is meant to delegitimize the United States as such. Not only does it make the country's expansion a tale of unadulterated malevolence, but it also can't accommodate the reality of Native American peoples who practiced self-interested, ever-shifting diplomacy with one another and Europeans, and who constantly warred with one another and Europeans — for land and hunting grounds, for honor and vengeance, and for captives to add to their numbers.

RICH LOWRY is editor-in-chief of National Review, an American conservative news and opinion magazine.



INFO POLL

Q. Was the U.S. Supreme Court right to block President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan??
Go to JOPLINGLOBE.COM to cast your vote.

Verse

'Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.'

Psalms 37:8-9

Oral health affects physical health, community wealth

Most Americans take trips to the dentist for granted. They have many options close to home. But that's not the case for nearly 15% of Americans today — and by 2025, it could be a problem for every American.

More than 46 million people live in “dental deserts” — areas of the country with no dentists, or where a trip for an exam can take a half hour or much longer, assuming they have access to transportation.

If there are no changes to address access to dental care in the next two years, the consequences will affect not only those dental deserts but could very likely affect communities in all 50 states. Families across the country will be left with an oral health care system in which demand for dentists greatly outstrips the supply.

Consider this perfect storm — the U.S. currently needs 7,000 more dentists to fill the shortages in dental deserts alone. To make matters worse, many practicing dentists are reaching retirement age and there are far fewer dental students in the pipeline to replace them. In fact, it will take another 8,600 new dentists to maintain an



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Columnist

adequate national supply. In 2023, just 6,832 students graduated from the country's dental schools.

The lack of adequate available dental care leads to higher health care costs, higher unemployment, and a greater overall strain on the public safety net, and that can have an impact on every American's quality of life.

Consider these critical facts: Lack of dental care can tax an already overworked health care system. Poor oral health contributes to systemic diseases such as endocarditis, cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, osteoporosis, dementia and some types of cancer. It can also contribute to pneumonia and other diseases, and lead to complications in pregnancy.

Poor dental health can affect one's ability to get hired, which can burden the welfare system and lead to homelessness. A

report by the American Dental Association estimated that 35% of low-income adults feel embarrassed over the condition of their teeth. And 29% of low-income adults and 28% of young adults feel like the appearance of their mouth and teeth affects their ability to interview for a job. To make matters worse, a report by CNBC found that most employers “make instant judgments based on appearance, including someone's smile and teeth.” And one study found that “people with missing front teeth were viewed as less intelligent, less desirable, and less trustworthy than people with a healthy smile.”

Lack of dental care hinders one's ability to maintain a proper diet and sustain overall health. If you can't chew your food properly due to pain or tooth loss, it is more challenging to maintain good nutrition. Conversely, poor nutrition can increase a person's risk of poor oral health. The inability to consume nutritional foods that may protect against some types of cancers, heart disease and other diseases will eventually lead to a greater need for heightened lev-

els of medical intervention.

An important part of the answer to the growing shortage of dental care is to recruit the next generation of dentists and to educate them where they are needed.

The oral health crisis is especially dire in the Four-State Area surrounding our Kansas City University campus in Joplin. In Missouri alone, there is a shortage of over 700 dentists.

In July, Kansas City University will welcome its inaugural class of dental students to the new state-of-the-art College of Dental Medicine on our Joplin campus.

In fact, this first class of 80 students represents a broad range of ages, ethnicities and backgrounds. Nearly half of the class comes from our Four-State Area and many of these dental students aspire to establish practices in the region.

Among the inaugural class, nearly 60% come from rural communities. Additionally, underrepresented minorities make up 25% of the student body.

While dental schools, especially those placed in areas of greatest need, play an important role in

addressing the lack of oral health care access, in our region and in the nation, more action is needed.

All Americans, not just our elected officials, must recognize the need for increasing and maintaining our pool of dentists across the country, and must support better oral health care through investments in community-based dental schools with a clear focus to address regional disparities.

Local, state and federal governments working alongside communities and philanthropic agencies must incentivize dental students to practice in the underserved parts of all 50 states. Society must recognize that oral health directly affects general physical health, which in turn affects the productivity of our citizens.

Direct and indirect support of projects such as Kansas City University's College of Dental Medicine results in the improved health of communities and thereby improves the wealth of communities.

DR. MARC HAHN is president and CEO of Kansas City University, a comprehensive health sciences university with campuses in Kansas City and Joplin.

Reasons to be ambivalent about Supreme Court ruling

WASHINGTON — Americans who are, as the Bible describes Joshua, “well stricken in years” might remember images of events that preceded passage of the “public accommodations” provision of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. There were 1960 photos of a Black students' sit-in at a whites-only lunch counter in a Greensboro, North Carolina, Woolworth's. And a 1965 news clip of restaurant owner (and future Georgia governor) Lester Maddox brandishing an ax handle to dramatize his refusal to desegregate his Atlanta restaurant.

The struggle to embed in law the principle of public accommodation — if you open your doors for business, you must serve all who enter — made civil rights aspirations immediate and vivid. An advocate put the matter pithily: Adults have a right not to be insulted in public in front of their children.

Hence the ambivalence many might feel about a recent Supreme Court ruling. It illustrates the complexity of reasoning about rights when there is friction between two of them.

Lorie Smith, a Colorado creator of websites, disapproves of certain conduct, and wants some potential customers to know that she will not accept them as customers because she thinks doing so would endorse that conduct. But when she decided to start creating custom websites for weddings, she drafted a page to announce that she “will decline any request — no matter who makes it — to create content that contradicts the truths of the Bible, demeans or disparages someone, promotes atheism or gambling, endorses the taking of unborn life, incites violence, or pro-



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notes a concept of marriage that is not solely the union of one man and one woman.”

She did not, however, post the page — it included her belief that God has called her to use her “talents and business” to “publicly proclaim and celebrate” traditional marriage — lest she violate Colorado's anti-discrimination law, which proscribes discrimination based on sexual orientation. The U.S. Supreme Court held, 6-3, that forcing Smith to comply with her state's public accommodation law would violate her First Amendment rights by compelling her to communicate, through her expressive website creations, a message that would, Smith says, “compromise my Christian witness.”

The court's six conservatives supported Smith. The three liberals dissented, arguing that Colorado's public accommodations law regulated Smith's conduct, not her speech.

The public accommodations principle could become porous — statutory Swiss cheese — unless in subsequent cases, of which there might be many, courts make distinctions suggested by Southern Methodist University law professor Dale Carpenter.

He agrees with the court that Colorado's public accommodations statute threatened Smith with unconstitutional speech compulsion. He notes, however, that the decision potentially sweeps broadly, beyond considerations of religion and gay rights.

The court says government cannot compel a

vendor to create products that are both “customized” (produced for a particular customer) and “expressive” (expressing the vendor's artistry) when the vendor objects to the message that would be conveyed by the product. Smith, Carpenter notes, is “not selling grilled cheese sandwiches at a lunch counter.” Her websites envision collaboration with each customer, using Smith's words and designs.

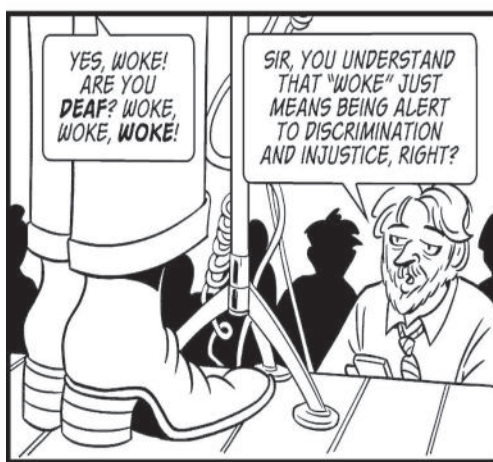
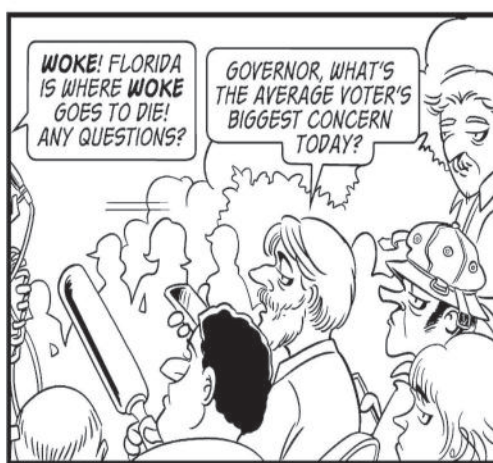
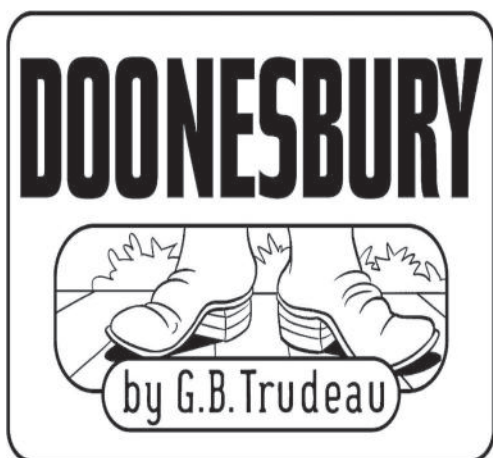
Most businesses, goods and services will pose no challenge to any public accommodations law. And not all customized products are expressive: Putting extra onion on a cheeseburger does not qualify.

Cases like Smith's raise some nonlegal, moral questions about living in America's current climate of contentiousness, beginning with: Would not American life be more congenial if people who believe that some behaviors, although legal, are reprehensible would accept that some people are going to do those things, and that providing a publicly advertised commercial service that facilitates those things does not express the provider's moral endorsement?

Another question: Why would a same-sex couple choose to compel the involvement in their joyous day of a vendor who is hostile to what they are celebrating?

Finally: Would all the conservative justices have so adamantly defended Smith's speech rights against the public accommodations principle if the likelihood of state coercion were not so symptomatic of today's culture of silencing and canceling?

GEORGE F. WILL writes a twice-weekly column on politics and domestic and foreign affairs.



Disagreeing with SCOTUS rulings does not make court illegitimate

For my parents' and older generations, Nov. 22, 1963, is the date that they would live the rest of their lives with the memory of exactly where they were and what they were doing when the news broke that President John F. Kennedy was dead.

Aside from the 9/11 attack, for me the date is Feb. 13, 2016. I'd just finished slicing carrots for a pot of chicken soup when I checked my twitter feed: Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was dead. And just like that, everything changed.

I knew the gaping intellectual hole that the loss of Scalia meant to the court. I also knew that President Barack Obama had already placed two politically left justices on the court and a third would secure his desired “fundamental transformation” of America for decades to come — a progressive rubber stamp Supreme Court that would spell disaster for the First and Second Amendments and embrace the ever-growing power of the executive administrative state.

Yet barely an hour after the announcement of Scalia's death, Sen-



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ate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell issued a statement for the ages: “The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president.”

There was now at least a chance that someone other than an ideological box checker would replace Justice Scalia.

In the political shock of the century, Donald J. Trump entered the Oval Office and for the first time in decades, the Constitution as written and intended rather than Thomas Jefferson's “mere thing of wax in the hands of the Judiciary” now has a majority on the court.

The political left, of course, is apoplectic. Every time a decision goes against it, out comes the “term limits,” “add justices,” and “illegitimate court” etc, etc, etc. And like clock work, The New York

Times, The Washington Post, NPR, CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, and NBC are only happy to play along.

From the Harvard/University of North Carolina race-based admissions case to the Colorado website designer, to President Joe Biden's cynical ploy to use the HEROES act to unilaterally erase hundreds of billions of dollars of student loan debt, the left has launched an all out assault on the court.

And dare you disagree with the outrage machine you're nothing but a racist reactionary filled with bigotry and hate.

Considering the affirmative action case was filed by Asian students, the web designer case upheld the First Amendment against state-mandated speech, and the student loan case protected future generations from out of control executive power grabs, celebration — not denigration — is the appropriate order of the day.

Yet to the left, it's not about constitutionality or separation of powers, its about keeping America divided. And the best way to do that is to dehumanize the opposition and at this point in time there's

no easier target than the Supreme Court. In a nation already filled with tens of millions of voting-age citizens ignorant of the fundamentals behind our founding and the delicate balance of the separation of powers, it's not hard to do.

In their dissent opinion on the website case, the liberal Justices Sonia Sotomayer, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown-Jackson called it “a sad day in American constitutional law and in the lives of LGBTQ people” while ignoring the strengthening of individual speech for all Americans, including LGBTQ people.

In the affirmative action case, Justice Brown-Jackson fueled the fire with, “With let-them-eat-cake obnoxiousness, today, the majority pulls the ripcord and announces ‘colorblindness for all’ by legal fiat. But deeming race irrelevant in law does not make it so in life.” In her zeal to protect one race over another, she completely ignores that it was racial discrimination against Asian Americans that spurred them into filing the lawsuit in the first place.

Biden is doing his part by declar-

ing “This is not a normal court.” and when asked if he had provided “false hope” to millions considering that he himself had doubted his loan forgiveness authority in the past, snapped back at the reporter with, “I didn't give false hope, but the Republicans snatched away the hope that they were given. And it's real, real hope.”

Yet this very same court in recent weeks has also ruled against Texas' and Louisiana's ability to sue on Biden's immigration policies, upheld Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, and rejected the North Carolina Republican Legislature's claim of sole authority over congressional maps.

Every year, there are court rulings I disagree with, but you will not see me joining the “illegitimate” chorus. And to those that are, I simply remind: Careful what you wish for. Because I guarantee, that if you pull the pin on that grenade, it will, most certainly, blow up in your face.

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