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## Letters to the editor: 01-03-18

### By Contributed Content

Posted Jan 2, 2018 at 10:04 AM

Updated Jan 2, 2018 at 5:05 PM

### **Pavlovian whistling**

We've heard this story before, of the Republican Party and its attempt to influence Southern electoral politics, of their implementation of the Southern Strategy and of their purported inheritance of the old Southern Democratic segregationists — adding to that, that the GOP would henceforth be tainted by a racist stain. In reality this was a woeful disaffection, an embarrassment laid upon the doorstep of Democrats by the conscience of their own progressive brethren. It's been a popular story to tell. Yet in all of this Pavlovian dog whistling, their tale of partisan malady is but a historical lie.

Since post Civil War reconstruction the South has been transformed by the thawing of the Industrial Revolution. Spreading throughout these once backward regions, revolution gave rise to new economic engines and a new wealthy suburban class. This new class not surprisingly, began to vote the party that had their best economic interests in mind — the G.O.P.

In "The End of Southern Exceptionalism," authors/researchers Richard Johnston of the University of Pennsylvania and Byron Shafer of the University of Wisconsin argue that working class whites, even those amid large black populations, remained loyal to the Democratic Party. Johnston and Shafer based their claims on extensive surveys of election returns. In the 1950s low-income whites were voting 43 percent for Republican candidates in presidential elections, 53 percent among higher-income voters. By the '90s these figures were 51 percent and 77 percent, respectively. The wealthy shifted to Republicans in droves, the poorer ones did not.

The South's newfound wealth was an undeniable catalyst of the conservative lurch. This makes better sense. Truly, if Southern politics has more to do with class and not racism, than Democrats need to divorce themselves from dividing Americans before they have another shot at getting the Southern vote back.

**Bryan Cook, Phelan**

**Brady recall**

Re: "Citizens look to recall VVC Trustee Joseph Brady after alleged racial slur," Monday, Jan. 1, Daily Press ... This has nothing to do with some comment about President Obama. That was settled by the VVC Board, which looked into it. Next the people spoke loud and clear!

"Joe Brady Job Well Done At VVC." He was re-elected by many votes. What this is about is the (teachers) union trying to bust him. They don't care about America or our community. They want to rake in every dollar they can and bankrupt and wreck our college, just like state workers and liberal labor laws have done to our state.

If they do get a recall, Mr. Brady will win by a landslide!

**Bill Tuck Jr., Phelan**

### **Christmas memories**

Re: "Christmas memories," Daily Press, 12/28/2017 ... What a wonderful letter. When slavery ended the whites who depended on it for their living were determined not to lose their advantageous situation. They found sharecropping and rigorous Jim Crow laws to be the next best thing to slavery, and they worked diligently at it to keep free men and women as close to actual slavery as possible. As the labor shortage became more and more problematic during the decades long Great Migration from the South to the North and West, their use of the whip, rope, and burning torches continued to escalate in their frantic attempt to keep them subjugated.

In this letter we hear from a woman who saw a portion of that with her own eyes while she grew up as a young girl in the South. And what does she talk about? We hear pride in Christmas being meager in material things but so rich in family, traditions, and love. We hear about her love of reading, love of the mighty river, love of singing and the sense of self worth it gave her.

She is a living treasure, and we are honored to be in the same community with her. When she speaks, we should listen well; there is much to learn from her.

Happy New Year.

**Gabriel Portillo, Hesperia**

### **The kettle calling the pot black**

The author of “Not too ashamed to Lie” wound up lying himself. Either that or he needs to use a Fact Checker before he makes such rash statements as the many made in his letter of Jan. 1, 2018. Yes, it is an opinion page but when a statement is made under the guise of fact, I take exception.

He makes the statement that “History will record presidents like Johnson, Carter, Clinton, and Obama as the best leaders our nation ever had.” So wrong! All he had to do was check cbsnews.com and the recent C-SPAN Presidential Historians survey that lists the 43 Presidents in order based on 10 qualities of presidential leadership. The writer’s choices didn’t even make the top 25 percent:

Carter was 26th because of his “low.. crisis leadership.”

Clinton was 21st because although he was rated for his “public persuasion” (not leadership ), he faced impeachment. Then moved up to 15th last year. He was the first Democrat president to be re-elected since FDR.

Obama was 12th only because it is too soon and only known for his “public persuasion” (not leadership) but “weaker marks for his dealings with Congress and international relations.” Definitely not a leader of nations!

Johnson was the highest one of those named at number 10 because of his attempts to make a Great Society and “managed” the passage of the Civil Rights Act as a tribute to JFK’s promise to Martin Luther King, “topping the charts in pursuing equal justice for all Americans.”

Interesting that the top 10 Presidents were evenly split between Democrats and Republicans.

None of the writer’s named Presidents are among those listed as excelling in leadership nor are they among the top 10 except LBJ. Next time make statements in keeping with the facts.

**Irvin Kettler, Victorville**



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