

Opinion

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Views From Around the Globe

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Excerpts from recent editorials in newspapers in the United States and abroad:

Omaha World-Herald on "Swimmer's feat offers lessons"

Diana Nyad's successful effort in swimming across 110 miles of open water to get from Cuba to the Florida Keys says a lot.

It speaks of Nyad's amazing determination — the swim across the Florida Straits requires overcoming wind, waves, sun, currents, stinging jellyfish and more, and all without benefit of a protective shark cage.

It speaks of Nyad's commitment — the swim took nearly 53 hours of near-constant exertion.

It speaks of Nyad's persistence — she first tried this feat in 1978, and success finally came on her fifth attempt.

It speaks, too, of the power of the human spirit. Nyad, after all, is 64 years old and accomplished something she couldn't do at age 28. After reaching Florida, she said the swim showed that "we should never ever give up" and "you're never too old to chase your dreams."

Those are powerful lessons for anyone at any age.

The Korea Herald, Seoul, South Korea, on "Cuts, tax hikes inevitable if growth stays sluggish"

Korea is standing its ground at a time when some Asian countries, such as India and Indonesia, and other emerging economies are taking a drubbing as the United States prepares to phase out quantitative easing. The Korean currency remains stable while stocks are rallying.

No wonder Korea is now touted as one of the most attractive investment markets among the emerging economies. The Korean economy, policymakers say with confidence, will be able to fight back a financial squeeze, should it come as a consequence of cheap financing coming to an end. Their optimism is based on what they call sound fundamentals.

Indeed, foreign exchange reserves have expanded to \$330 billion as Korea has continued to generate consecutive monthly current account surpluses since February 2012. Its short-term foreign debt as a percentage of the total external debt is the lowest since the third quarter of 1999 — at 29.1 percent at the end of June. Growth is recovering, albeit at a snail's pace.

But not all economic fundamentals are sound, as evidenced by an enormous fiscal deficit the Korean government sustained in the first half of this year. The deficit, the largest ever, amounted to 46.2 trillion won.

Policymakers sound smug when they claim that it is not unusual to sustain a huge fiscal deficit in the first half of a year. The reason, they say, is that the government customarily frontloads spending. Maybe so. As they say, more money was allocated for the first half this year.

But here the size matters. ...

Fiscal soundness, if sacrificed to meet a growing demand for welfare, will undermine the nation's creditworthiness. That is why the Park administration will have to strive to balance annual budgets in the near future. Options are few. The administration will have to spend less, collect more taxes, in particular from the wealthy, or both, if growth remains sluggish.

Burns-Belfry – what hopes, dreams can do

Hopes and dreams. That's what has been behind the decade-long renovation of the historic Burns-Belfry church on Jackson Avenue. That's what was going on all the way through Friday and Saturday leading up to the formal dedication of the church now known as the Burns-Belfry Museum & Multicultural Center.

When the stage was set up and chairs put in place in the Belfry parking lot for the Oxford Mass Choir on Friday, it was with full awareness that the weather forecast was for heavy rain through the evening and on into Saturday morning and maybe even into the afternoon. Second Baptist Church was set as the alternate site for the dedication ceremony in case the rain hadn't moved through by the scheduled 5 p.m. start, but the hopes were that it wouldn't be needed.

Then came Saturday morning, with things looking better from a weather standpoint. Now, how many chairs would be needed for those who would be on hand for the event? Local historian and EAGLE columnist Jack Mayfield was one of those

putting out the foldup chairs in rows for the audience. They had about 300 chairs, but put out only about a third of them. Mayfield said he had dreams of needing the others, but didn't want to have a bunch of empty chairs because of the perception that would leave if the turnout wasn't very big.

A perfect day

As the hours before the dedication turned into minutes, it was obvious that the dreams of Mayfield and other organizers would come to fruition. The skies cleared, the temperatures stayed mild, and all of the chairs — and more — were needed. Oxford High School history teacher John Mistilis' students helped set up the rest, which were quickly filled. By the time the choir led the audience in the singing of the national anthem, the standing room only crowd had to be pretty close to



DON WHITTEN

Editor

500.

It was, as the Rev. Chris Diggs so aptly said in his invocation, as if God wanted to share a preview of heaven with those in attendance: a perfect day, a great turnout, and a wonderful mix of black and white, young and old, male and female all there to celebrate.

What followed was a celebration indeed, complete with singing and clapping to the music program put together by the Rev. Tom Barrett and Damien Wash, with thanks from and for all of those involved, with an inspirational message from the Rev. Dr. LeRoy Wadlington, with the ribbon cutting by Maralyn Bullion and the Rev. Arthur Herod, and then with a tour of the museum and a long line for tasty treats.

So many to thank

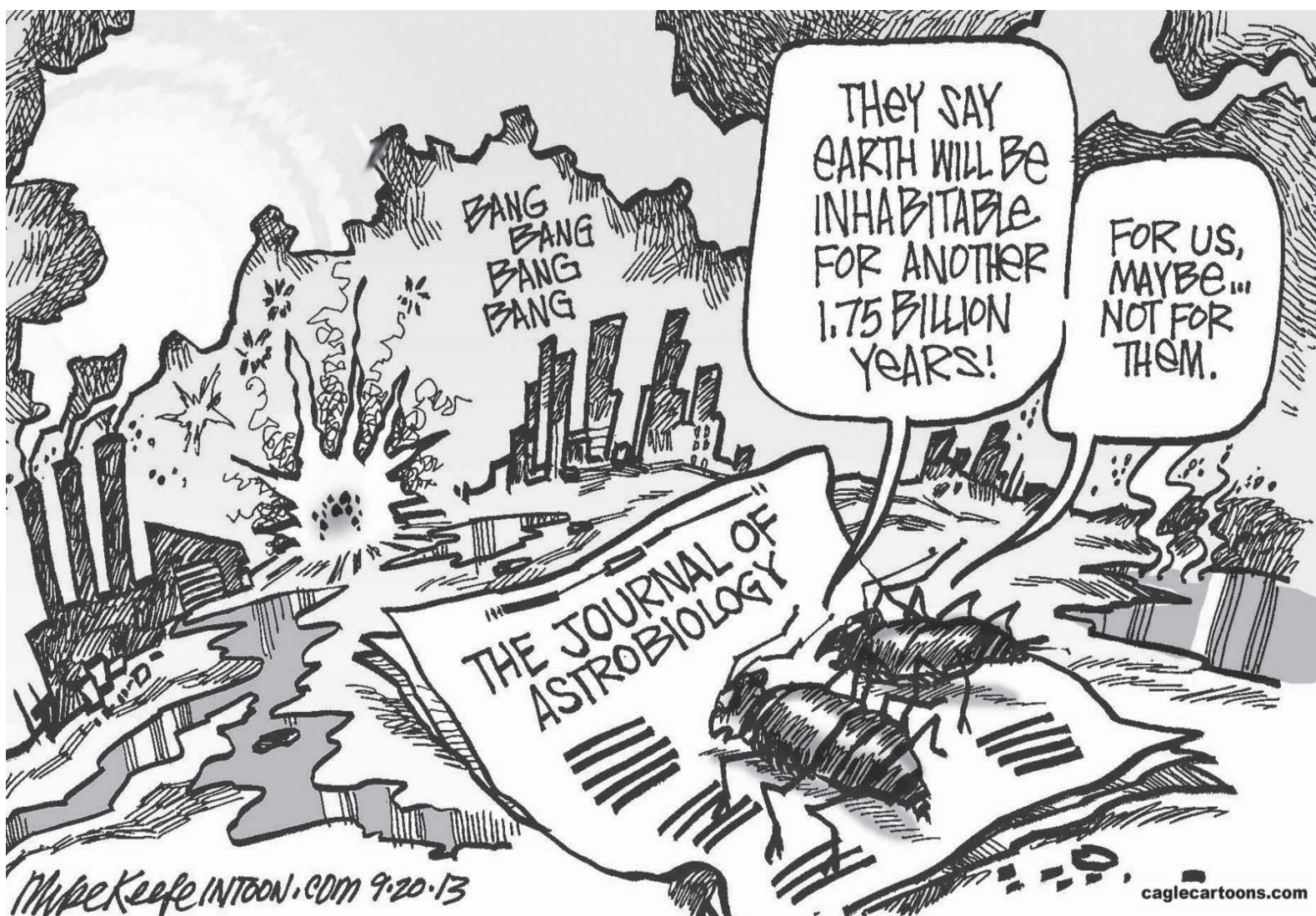
It's clear the Burns-Belfry project has been a labor of love for so many in the Lafayette-Oxford-University community. Saturday's turnout is a credit to people like Jim Pryor, Cynthia Parham, Ray Nielsen, Bullion, Patricia Young, Gerald Walton, Preston Taylor, Elsie Pugh, Susie Marshall, Mayfield,

John Grisham and others who dreamed up the idea and did what they could to make that dream come true.

What we have with the Burns-Belfry is what Saturday's speakers and other project leaders dreamed about and hoped for: a catalyst for conversation and action; a unifying project for a community that has worked hard through the years to move from the past to the present and with an eye toward the future; a repository for those things which will help us to remember and learn more about the history of the local African American community; and yet another drawing card for a community that's among the best of the best in when it comes to literature, music, food, the arts and culture.

The Burns-Belfry Museum & Multicultural Center is a site full of, literally and figuratively, hopes and dreams. For those who helped turn those hopes and dreams into reality, for those who will help with and push toward completion of the project, thank you from an appreciative community.

—dwhitten@oxfordeagle.com



The impossibility of gun control

The Navy Yard massacre won't revive the gun debate in Congress for a simple reason: There is no gun-control agenda this side of a total ban and confiscation that would have stopped Aaron Alexis.

The Toomey-Manchin bill could have passed Congress unanimously. The assault-weapons ban could still be in place. Gun-controllers could have achieved their long-ago goal of barring the private purchase of handguns. And every step of his mayhem at the Washington Navy Yard would have been unimpeded.

The media rushed, based on erroneous reports from law enforcement, to place in his hands an AR-15, the popular rifle that has been used in mass shootings before and that an assault-weapons ban would prohibit.

The front page of the New York Daily News blared "Same gun, different slay." The newspaper's columnist Mike Lupica worked himself into lathers of dudgeon over the offending gun. "They call semiautomatics like this sports rifles," he fumed. "You bet. Mostly for the sport of killing innocent people, and killing

them fast."

Lupica's screed would have been absurd if an AR-15 had been the murder weapon — hundreds of thousands of them are bought annually, by people with no interest in killing innocent people — but it wasn't. When the Newseum has a special exhibit on the journalistic history of going off half-cocked, Mike Lupica should be an honored guest.

According to law enforcement, Alexis used a shotgun in his rampage. That is a weapon, as it happens, that has been endorsed and promoted by the vice president of the United States. Joe Biden sounded like a pitchman for Remington at a Facebook town hall earlier in the year when he urged a mother concerned about safety: "Buy a shotgun, buy a shotgun."

Almost any gun will do

This may be fine advice, but there should be no mistake: Shotguns are dangerous. When it comes to "the sport of killing innocent people," almost any gun will do, especially if it is in a permissive environment where no one else is likely to be armed. This makes a hash of the conceit that the government can ban a

few select guns and make shooting rampages less likely.

Other common panaceas would have had no effect, either. Alexis bought his shotgun from a duly-licensed dealer, not at a gun show. He passed a federal background check with no problem. He didn't have a high-capacity magazine. He reportedly got the handgun or handguns he may also have used in the attack after shooting a security officer.

So the Navy Yard rampage demonstrates the essential sterility of the gun-control debate. It is true that James Holmes and Adam Lanza used AR-15s. But Seung-Hui Cho and Jared Loughner used 9 mm semiautomatic pistols. And Aaron Alexis used a shotgun.

The common theme is that they were all deeply disturbed young men whose acts of murder had a sickening aspect of utter senselessness. The Daily News got it backward. Its headline



RICH LOWRY

Syndicated Columnist

about the Navy Yard should have read "Different gun, same slay."

Maybe this time we can have a real debate about mental illness. To this point, we've had a simplistically instrumental focus. It's like seeing a madman wearing a tinfoil hat to protect himself from radio waves and thinking, "If only we could ban tinfoil ..."

When Aaron Alexis called the Rhode Island police a month ago to tell them that enemies were harassing him with a microwave machine, it was clear that he was suffering paranoid delusions and needed help. But the authorities let him go his merry way, evidently to sink deeper into the madness he mistook for reality.

If we had the same callous disregard masquerading as compassionate nonjudgmentalism for people suffering from Alzheimer's, they would be sleeping in our streets and rotting in our jails. It needs to be easier to compel treatment for the mentally ill. There will be another Aaron Alexis. If we can't predict what gun he'll use, we already know his mental state.

(Rich Lowry can be reached via email at comments.lowry@nationalreview.com.)