# In Our Opinion

## When determining what our communities need, ask our youth

This is the time of year when we put a lot of focus on our youth, and it is well deserved. For those who will graduate, those and others recognized for their accomplishments, and all of them preparing for their next step forward. Recently, I was very fortunate to spend time with students at Holbrook Junior High School and the Joseph City chapter of FFA and was very impressed by these students' awareness of community needs and actions that can be taken for improvements. Concerns included lack of common areas for young people and families to enjoy quality time together, a space where they can learn new skills, exposure to the arts, and a better map for the future. Also included was a need to better address mental health wellness and provide supports for those who experience substance abuse.

**Linda Kor**
Editor

The number one complaint amongst our youth is that they do not feel heard. When I listened, I not only learned of their concerns, but their suggestions for solutions that they are will participate in. When we as adults are looking for partners in planning the future of our communities, we need to include our kids. They have a much broader awareness than we give them credit for and have the optimism and energy necessary to make change happen. We are truly fortunate to have such compassionate and thoughtful young people in our communities.

# Rampell's View

## We can't blame Russia for American unrest anymore. It's homegrown.

**By Catherine Rampell**

NEW YORK - We can't blame the Russian bots. We can't scapegoat Facebook or even a newer, more addictive platform we're trying to delink from China. The problem, at its core, is us. We, regular old Americans, are the ones destroying America's social fabric.

In the past week, U.S. campus conflicts over Israel and broader issues of bigotry and human rights have exploded, scattering shrapnel across the campaign trail and the criminal justice system. And the speed of the escalation has been astounding.

Last fall, of course, there were heated protests and counter-protests, including defaced posters of Jewish hostages around my New York neighborhood and chants about Palestinian genocide in a local park. But tempers cooled, even as hostages languished and deaths in Gaza mounted.

I remember congratulating one university president last December for not having made headlines. Remarkably, the school's quads hadn't appeared in a single viral video. This president said the secret was giving demonstrators on both sides an opportunity to speak and grieve - but, crucially, away from each other. Emotions were raw, the president said. The only way to keep the peace was to keep everyone apart.

This seemed depressing at the time. Had Americans given up on the idea that exposure to opposing views could be constructive? At places dedicated to the free exchange of ideas, no less?

Now, that president's strategy seems wise.

Our adversaries discovered long ago that Americans were becoming so alienated from one another that merely bringing us into the same space was sufficient to ignite conflict. Recall the 2016 election, when Russian operatives were seeding disinformation - the original "fake news" - across social media to sow discord. One of the strategies, a Senate intelligence report found, was siting opposing political rallies in the same place to create fights. For instance, two separate Russian-controlled Facebook groups planned simultaneous "Stop Islamization of Texas" and "Save Islamic Knowledge" rallies on the same block in Houston in 2016.

This election cycle, bots are not orchestrating the dueling rallies. Americans are deliberately showing up at the same places, seeking out their political opponents and spoiling for a fight.

Don't get me wrong, disinformation is still spreading across social media (about Gaza, among other issues) and encouraging public pugilism. And adversaries abroad are still planting or at least amplifying some of the most inflammatory content. But Americans are authoring and sharing it, too, especially when the material plays to their political biases.

Meanwhile, political leaders and pundits have exploited these vulnerabilities. They learned that there's great political (and fundraising) value in selectively quoting the other side or in the humiliating, viral social media "dunk." Not unlike our adversaries abroad, U.S. leaders seek clout by becoming conflict entrepreneurs.

To wit: The recent re-escalation of campus conflict began because Congress called Columbia University President Minouche Shafik to testify about her handling of campus antisemitism.

As a regular target of antisemitism, I agree the subject is worthy of public scrutiny. But lawmakers were out to shed heat, not light. At the hearing, both Republicans and Democrats engineered viral videos by berating Shafik for personnel decisions and the intricacies of the student disciplinary process. Perhaps these politicians should've run for openings on Columbia's board of trustees instead of Congress.

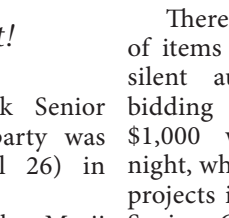
Continued on Page 8

# No, don't rush the Trump J6 case

**By Rich Lowry**

When the Supreme Court said it would hear Donald Trump's immunity claim in the Jan. 6 case brought by Special Counsel Jack Smith, the former president's enemies erupted in anger.

It was delay for delay's sake. It was a rank political favor for an ally. It was utterly gratuitous in legal terms, since it's a slam dunk that a former president doesn't enjoy immunity for acts during his time in office.




MSNBC's Rachel Maddow accused the Court of "doing this as a dilatory tactic to help your political friend." And, she added, "For you to say that this is something that the Court needs to decide because it's something that's unclear in the law is just flagrant, flagrant bullpucky."

This interpretation didn't survive first contact with the oral arguments, which were fascinating and complex and raised all sorts of knotty and consequential issues.

Does the threat of criminal prosecution run the risk of chilling presidents in the performance of their duties, as Trump's lawyer argued? Or does immunity run the risk of creating an incentive for executive lawlessness, as the Special Counsel's representative argued? Would politicized lawsuits against presidents threaten our "stable, democratic society," as Justice Samuel Alito suggested? Or would immunity make the presidency "the seat of criminality," as Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson worried?

Should a president have immunity for official presidential acts and not private acts, and where do we draw the line? Do the criminal statutes that Trump is accused of violating in the J6 case even apply to him? What role does a series of court precedents play in this case?

All of this and more are featured in the oral arguments. They were so interesting and fraught because the court is grappling with fresh questions raised by an unprecedented circumstance, namely, the prosecution of a former president.

As for the sweeping, unanimous decision of the D.C. Circuit that denied Trump's claim of immunity and Trump's critics considered dispositive, Chief Justice John Roberts, who is not a MAGA extremist, made it clear that he thinks it's desperately flawed.

Trump's critics are putting partisan considerations (the belief that a trial in and of itself and, even more so, a conviction will hurt Trump politically) and their hatred of Trump and his post-election conduct before everything else in their demand for the fastest possible ruling most damaging to Trump.

This is a very bad impulse when asking the Court to create a precedent that will affect all presidents going forward. As Justice Brett Kavanaugh said, "I'm not as concerned about the here and now. I'm more concerned about the future." Usually, we value such long-term thinking, but it's extremely inconvenient to Jack Smith and his cheerleaders.

A rush is understandable from their point of view. There is about a 50% chance that Trump will win an election again and, if he's not tried before November, he'll shut down the prosecutions of him.

But the idea that a complicated case relying on novel use of federal statutes and involving a former president should, or could, be slammed through the courts like a case about an overdue parking ticket was always ridiculous.

If timing was such a worry (and Trump's criminality so obvious), the Justice Department could have appointed Jack Smith much sooner and Smith could have indicted Trump much faster. Hoping to short-circuit careful judicial review of all the weighty legal issues raised by the case just to meet the inherently political deadline of getting to trial before the election is foolish and short-sighted.

As it is, it seems the Court will almost certainly reject Trump's extravagant claims of immunity, while quite possibly blessing a more limited version. The Court also may ask the judge in the J6 case to determine which of Trump's acts were official and which private. That would take time and be hateful to Trump's enemies, who can't bear the thought that the judiciary might be judicious in its handling of a truly momentous court case.

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*Rich Lowry is editor of the* National Review.

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# Letter To The Editor

## *Thank you for all the support!*

Editor:

The Holbrook Senior Center Bunco party was successful (April 26) in spite of the rain!

Kathy Wauneka, Marji Shreeve and Sue Hudgens led the way helping the Senior Citizen Board prepare for the event. Bill Jeffers, the "Voice of Holbrook," served as our auctioneer!

There was a variety of items collected for the silent auction and the bidding auction. Over $1,000 was raised that night, which will aid to the projects in progress at the Senior Center, including Meals on Wheels.

The following businesses were generous again. We thank them sincerely:

Caroline Young of Mesa Italiana Restaurant, China Buffet, Circle K, El Cupidos in Snowflake, Bella Vida Beauty Salon, Hatch's Quick Stop, Harriet Mann, Holli Turley, Little Caesars, Maverick, O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Roxy Theater, and Super 8 Motel.

Thank you all for kindness and caring about our special community! Keep moving forward.

Holbrook Senior Citizen Board

# Contemplating Life

*"I have always believed that God never gives a cross to bear larger than we can carry. No matter what, he wants us to be happy, not sad. Birds sing after a storm. Why shouldn't we?"*

--Rose Kennedy

Rose Kennedy served as an inspiration to millions as she dealt with tragedy after tragedy in her personal life. She lost her oldest son in World War II, and she lost a daughter in a 1948 plane crash. She lost two sons to the bullets of assassins, and she had many other personal tragedies in her life. Yet she was still able to see the good things in life and experience at least some degree of happiness throughout her life. Not all of us are as strong as Rose Kennedy, but most of us have the capacity to deal with tragedies and still find happiness in life.

**Allen W. Smith**
Columnist

Life is difficult, and most of us will have many small problems and a few major tragedies during our lifetime. It is just not possible to get through life without some negative experiences. It is natural and appropriate to feel sadness, disappointment and even anger during such times. But we must not allow these temporary negative emotions to ruin the rest of our lives. We must guard against becoming bitter toward life itself. And, above all, we must make sure we do not ignore the many positive aspects of our lives no matter how bad things are.

Happiness is a relative concept, and nobody is happy all the time. Many of us have had times in our lives when happiness seemed almost beyond our reach, and other times when we were ecstatically happy. But such extremes are rare in the lives of most people. Most of us can be reasonably happy most of the time if we work at it, but we must work at it. We must focus on the big picture of life, which includes both positive and negative factors. When bad things happen to us, we must remember that not everything about our lives is bad. We must seek out the positive and try to focus on it as much as possible. And we must continually remind ourselves that we will be able to find happiness again after the storm is over.

Those of us who are waiting until we have no problems to be happy will never find happiness because most of us never have a problem-free period in our entire lives. We must learn to be happy in spite of our problems. This doesn't mean that we can be happy no matter how bad things are. At times of great tragedy, it is natural to be unhappy. We must grieve in order to deal with our loss. But after a reasonable period of grieving, it is time to start rebuilding our lives once again. There is nothing to be gained from prolonged periods of grief.

Think about it.

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***"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."***
***-- Psalm 33:12***

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