

## Standard online reader survey



**Q: Do you think it would improve safety to have a metal detector at every school?**

**YES or NO**

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

### Students deserve their say on safety

Order and discipline are essential in our schools, and it is the rare occasion that they are to be bypassed by something of greater importance to students, educators and the community. A walkout by several dozen Dobyns-Bennett High School students to demand their safety be a priority was one of those times.

To a degree, young minds across the country are being co-opted for political purposes, but there's no denying the passion and deep concern students have about whether they are at risk in their second homes.

One of the Dobyns-Bennett students said they were cautioned against the walkout. "They (school officials) told us we were being childish and to stop playing around," the student said, adding that she wants to "make the government put metal detectors in our schools."

The students said they disregarded a warning from the principal in staging the walkout to bring attention to what they called safety and security problems at the 2,200-student school in light of the recent shooting that killed 17 at a Florida high school.

Across the country there's an alleged effort by gun opponents to use high school student protests to push their agenda, and it's being supported by liberal donors who hope to create

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new momentum to enact firearms restrictions.

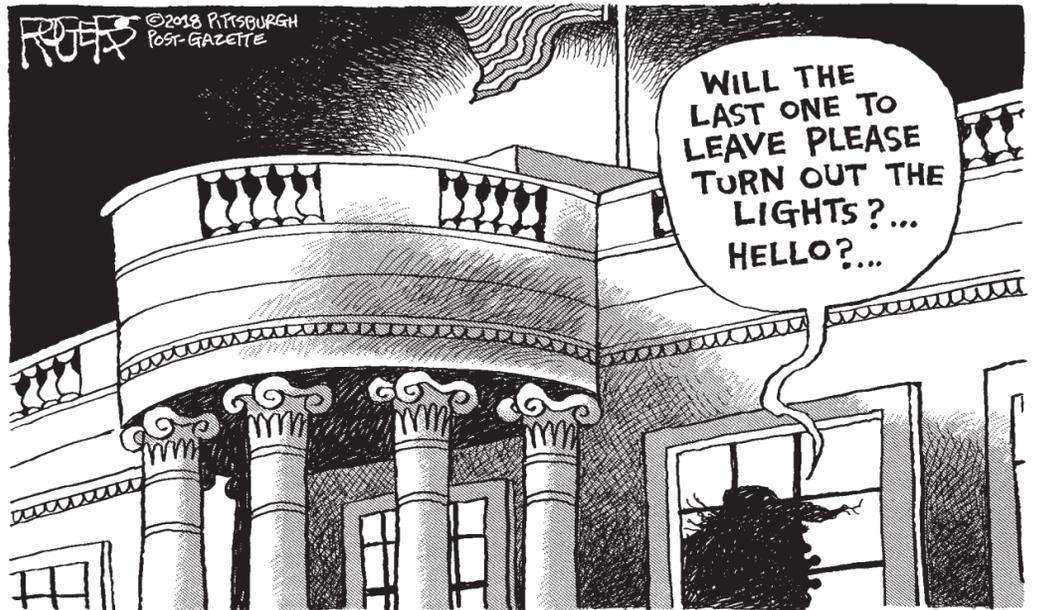
That may be true. But students are to be commended for standing up for themselves, and they should not be punished for it. Rather, they should be heard. Dismissing them as childish or just wanting a little time out of school as some would suggest sends the wrong message to these young people. Because they are teens doesn't mean they can't think for themselves.

In fact, sometimes they make a whole lot more sense than some adults who get a microphone every day.

Certainly there should be metal detectors on every door with a security agent standing by as students enter school buildings.

There are many in our communities who have weapons training including former military and law enforcement personnel who already possess and carry firearms. Having them operate access points at all schools, checking every backpack and bag carried onto the premises, will make for safer campuses.

Yes those are expensive suggestions. But we're not living in the '60s when school shootings weren't on our radar. We're living in a different world today.



### Trade war an awful idea

Of all the untrue and unhinged things President Trump has said during his time in office, this ranks as one of the most truly inane: "Trade wars are good and easy to win."

Virtually all economists of all stripes agree the president has it exactly wrong. Trade wars are bad, not good, and no country ever "wins" one.

Gregory Mankiw, a Harvard economics professor who advised President George W. Bush, told the *Washington Post*: "On trade policy, President Trump appears to be listening to advisers with views far outside mainstream economics. I don't know any respected economist, conservative or liberal, who thinks this is the right approach to promoting prosperity."

The president's statement, aimed at bolstering support for his decision to impose heavy tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, plays into a much larger, and deeply dangerous, trend. Trump has declared war on facts, on any independent expert who challenges his puerile prejudices on a vast range of topics.

Intelligence analysts, FBI agents, climate scientists, economists, federal judges have all been excoriated by Trump for contradicting his warped view of the world. The president's chief economic adviser, Gary Cohn, was so dismayed by Trump's tariff tantrum, he quit.

But Trump's trade policy is more about politics than economics: a symbolic gesture to fulfill his cynical campaign promise to bring back lost manufacturing jobs. The only folks who cheered his decision are those who share his fantasy that protectionism can revive the shuttered factories

blighting the Rust Belt.

From an economic viewpoint, however, the decision has been widely condemned, especially by Republicans, who traditionally support free trade.

*The Wall Street Journal* editorial page, a bastion of traditional conservative thinking, called the tariffs "the biggest policy blunder" of Trump's presidency. They listed many reasons, starting with the likely prospect that trading partners will retaliate against American exports, including Harley-Davidson motorcycles made in Wisconsin, the home state of Speaker Paul Ryan.

Ryan seldom breaks with the president, but he could not stomach this one. "We are extremely worried about the consequences of a trade war and are urging the White House to not advance with this plan," stated his press aide.

Some Republicans are talking about blocking Trump's tariffs if they cannot convince the president to change his mind. "He's going to get a lot of resistance on this," said Sen. John Thune of South Dakota. "It's a big deal."

Trade is not just about jobs and money; it's also about relationships. And the nations most hurt by Trump's proposal would not be rivals like China or Russia, but close allies like Canada, South Korea and Mexico.

Trade wars are not just bad -- they are disastrous. And yet this president, in the face of every economic and historical argument, insists he knows better. Can a man so detached from reality be fit to govern the country?

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JAMES CLARK



### Elected officials should be elected

Engulfed in an inferno of controversy, Nashville Mayor Megan Barry resigned Tuesday. It will allow Nashville voters to go to the polls and elect a new mayor in August.

The move got me thinking about our situation in McMinnville where Mayor Jimmy Haley is running for county executive. While Haley runs for county executive, he is keeping his seat as mayor.

Where this could create a problem is if Haley is in fact elected county executive in August. If this happens, and Haley keeps his position as McMinnville mayor all the way up to the General Election, it looks like city residents won't be able to elect Haley's replacement in the 2018 election cycle, meaning we would have an appointed mayor for more than two years until November 2020.

This seems way too long for my tastes because I operate under the old-fashioned philosophy our elected officials should be elected. That's why I think Haley should resign as McMinnville mayor before the election in August to give city voters the chance to pick his replacement should he become county executive.

The way it's been explained to me, city residents would miss this opportunity by several weeks should Haley not resign.

That's because it will take weeks to certify the election after it takes place Aug. 7. If Haley were to win, then resign as mayor at that point, there would be a qualifying window for candidates to pick up papers, have them signed, and then returned to the Election Commission. This would have to be done before the ballot is finalized in October.

All this is a long way of saying Haley can't wait until after the election to see if he wins if McMinnville residents are going to elect another mayor this year. Haley would probably have to resign in June, which I think is what he should do. City residents deserve to have an elected mayor, not one who is appointed for more than two years.

It should be pointed out Haley is no shoo-in to be elected county executive and he might not win that seat anyway. That's entirely possible.

If he were to resign as McMinnville mayor beforehand, he would be left in the cold and without an elected position at that point. I say that's a chance Commissioner Terry Bell took when he decided not to seek re-election to the Warren County Commission to run for county executive. If Bell can take that chance, Haley can too.

It's also not to say I would be disappointed by McMinnville Vice Mayor Ben Newman being appointed to the mayor position should Haley win county executive. Newman would be next in line and I think he would do a fine job. If he were forced to run for the mayor's seat in an election, it could be argued Newman would be favored to win anyway.

Maybe, maybe not. The only way to know for sure is to let the voters decide, which won't happen unless Haley resigns as mayor before the election. As a firm supporter of letting the voters be heard, this is exactly what I think should happen.

*Standard editor James Clark can be reached at 473-2191.*



### Billy Graham's children speak

A few years before World War II, a 13-year-old girl in China wrote a prayer for her future husband.

The girl was Ruth Bell, the daughter of Presbyterian missionaries, and her five children have often shared that poem with others. So that's what Virginia "Gigi" Graham did, once again, at the March 2 funeral of the man her mother married in 1943: the Rev. Billy Graham.

"Dear God, I pray all unafraid / as we're inclined to do.

"I do not want a handsome man / But, oh God, let him be like you.

"I do not need one big and strong / nor yet so very tall.

"Nor need he be a genius / or wealthy, Lord, at all.

"But let his head be high, dear God / and let his eye be clear,

"His shoulders straight, whatever his fate / whatever his earthly sphere.

"And, oh God, let his face have character / and a ruggedness of soul, "And let his whole life show, dear God / a singleness of goal.

"And when he comes, as he will come, / with those quiet eyes aglow, "I'll understand that he's the man / I prayed for long ago."

One by one, Billy and Ruth Graham's children -- Gigi, Anne, Ruth, Franklin and Ned -- took the pulpit in a 28,000-square-foot tent erected at the Billy Graham Library, in Charlotte, N.C.

The Graham children shared memories, as well as gentle inside-the-family jabs. Gigi stressed that, rather than being labeled the oldest child, she was the "one that daddy loved the longest." Noting that others spoke longer than their assigned three minutes, Ned was very brief, stressing that his

father was "faithful, available and teachable. ... May we all be that way."

Evangelist Anne Graham Lotz fought a crosswind in the pulpit that blew tissues from her hand. But she carried on -- with a trumpet voice strikingly like her father's -- describing how her mother taught her to read the Bible daily. Her father, when at home, led discussions that helped her think her way through the scriptures.

Lotz said she closed each Bible session with, "Daddy, I love you." So that's what she did at the funeral.

Ruth described how she rushed into a quick second marriage -- ignoring her parents' advice -- that immediately crashed. After a long drive home, her father was waiting atop the family's driveway in the North Carolina mountains.

"What was I going to say to Daddy? What was I going to say to Mother? ... You women will understand: You don't want to embarrass your father. You really don't want to embarrass Billy Graham," she said.

"As I got out of the car, he wrapped his arms around me. He said, 'Welcome home.' There was no shame. There was no blame. There was no condemnation, just unconditional love."

As leader of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Franklin spoke last.

"The Billy Graham that the world saw on television, the Billy Graham that the world saw in the big stadiums, was the same Billy Graham that we saw at home. There weren't two Billy Gramhams," he stressed.

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#### ON RELIGION

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