

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Critical thinking needs upgrading

We all should give thanks to The News & Observer for its excellent reporting, analysis and descriptions of candidate qualifications during the run-up to the elections. It is a real shame that the paper does not reach a wider circulation of people to educate them on critical issues, and that more of our population did not follow the recommendations they gave.

We certainly need to improve our education throughout the state and nation, because it is both fundamental and necessary to have an educated population, who are capable of some degree of critical thinking, for a free democracy to work. We have witnessed the fact that this condition does not exist in North Carolina and in many regions of the country.

It is difficult to believe that we could have put ourselves in such a position where decisions are likely to occur which will threaten our country's positive role in the world, the educational system for our children, our tolerance for all ethnic groups, the progress made on health care, the rights and respect for women in our society, and the welfare of many other countries around the world as we become isolationists.

Even more disconcerting is the fact that the proposed course of doubling down on our global carbon footprint, and breaking our initial commitments to the rest of the world's countries, will certainly put into jeopardy the very existence of life on planet Earth because of this even more disastrous idea, while disregarding the scientific facts and neglecting the threats that we know we already face from climate change.

- Russell Philbrick
Professor of physics and of atmospheric sciences, N.C. State
Raleigh

Promises, promises

Usually we are concerned that the election winner won't keep campaign promises. This time we're concerned that he will.

- Stanley Munsat
Chapel Hill

YOUR OPINION

Sending a letter: We welcome letters from readers. Please include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number. Letters should be 200 words.

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Was it a racist decision?

I've heard from a few people who say that Donald Trump that it was not an racist decision. I choose to believe them, that it was not racism.

Despite our differences of opinion on taxes, immigration and trade policy, I believe that Americans are not widely racist. I believe that the actions we've seen are not racist groups, and that the core of American values are equality and equality for all.

We need to hear it from them, that they do not support racial violence. Especially if they are a supporter of Trump, especially within their communities - churches and neighborhoods - say it on their social media accounts. Say it at Thanksgiving dinner.

They are strong, and I believe in their strength. I want to hear it.

- V