

OPINION

Marin IJ Readers' Forum for March 22, 2021

By [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR I](#)

March 21, 2021 at 12:33 p.m.

Slough's name honors Black man's contribution

The notion that by changing the name of Black John Slough to John Pinkston Slough in order to bring about some racial equality seems misguided to me ("Marin petitioner wants Black John Slough renamed," March 10).

If the name is changed, no one will ever know that Pinkston was a Black man. In fact, "Pinkston" sounds about as Anglo-Saxon as it can get.

I'm sure that, back in the old days, calling him "Black John" was the accepted way to identify the man. I believe that we should keep the name as it is, but put up a plaque to commemorate his accomplishments and contributions to Novato, Marin, the state and country.

There are a great many other landmarks and streets in this county named after people that the average person doesn't know, or care who the heck they were. We shouldn't change names of landmarks just because we are worried they sound racist. Is the Tiburon park named Blackie's Pasture in need of a change because it sounds racist? It was named for a beloved horse.

It all seems so ridiculous to me.

— *Chuck Nerviani, Novato*

Novato right to approve Costco gas station plan

What a breath of fresh air to see local officials actually making a commonsense decision in approving Novato's proposed Costco gas station ("Novato City Council approves Costco gas station," March 11).

There is no justification for not building this gas station. Would the lack of a Costco gas station cause anyone to drive less or run out and buy an electric vehicle? An environmental review was done and concluded no adverse impact.

I believe that denying it would have been a purely symbolic gesture to assuage the "enviro-zealots." It would have been just as pointless and moronic as renaming our schools and roads for events that happened 400 years ago.

I thank the Novato City Council for having a positive impact on our wallets.

— *Roger Chemtob, Larkspur*

Party approaches to lost elections not comparable

I am writing in regard to the recent Marin Voice commentary by Todd Hooper. His comparison of how Republicans and Democrats approach elections is dishonest and morally obtuse.

Hooper equates Donald Trump's election denials of 2020 with Democrats' belief of Russian interference in the 2016 election. Russians did interfere in the 2016 election — this was confirmed by Republican-led Senate committees and our own intelligence services. However, Democrats overwhelmingly and immediately recognized in 2016 that Trump won.



Hooper is also dishonest when he writes that Trump's election denial has a pedigree in behavior by Democrat Stacey Abrams.

Abrams, a Black woman, ran for governor of Georgia in 2018; overseeing the election was Republican candidate Brian Kemp, then Georgia secretary of state. In that role, Kemp has been accused of throwing more than a million inactive voters off the rolls, which was unprecedented. He was also accused of putting thousands of new registrations on hold.

The citizens affected in both actions were disproportionately people of color. Abrams lost her race to Kemp by 55,000 votes. In initially refusing to make a formal concession, Abrams did indeed highlight voter suppression. She also acknowledged that Kemp would be certified as the victor.

In contrast, Trump did his part to incite a failed insurrection in which police officers were assaulted and the Capitol itself was desecrated by feces and those flaunting the Confederate flag.

Until Democrats incite an assault on the Capitol, or harangue and threaten elected officials to change their certified vote counts (as Trump did), Hooper's equating of Democratic and Republican approaches to elections rings incredibly hollow.

— *Ruth Dell, Tiburon*

Health care proposal good for businesses

The proposed California Assembly Bill 1400 is the best thing for state businesses, large or small.

If passed and signed, the bill takes the expensive employee health insurance burden off the backs of businesses, providing employees and everyone else 100% of medical and dental care with negotiated drug prices.

The single-payer program is called CalCare. Businesses save funds now lost to insurance companies for employee health care. They will be able to use that money for investment in their business and employee compensation.

California's No. 1 cause of personal bankruptcy is catastrophic medical cost. That would be history if we pass AB 1400.

— *Brian Stompe, Novato*

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