



The monuments are not at fault ■ By John Finney, Advocate General Manager

Last weekend in Charlottesville, VA violence broke out when ANTIFA protesters clashed with "Unite the Right" who were there protesting the planned

removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Both groups are made up of the extreme left and the extreme right; both groups showed up with helmets, shields, pepper spray and clubs. Nothing good was going to come when these two groups met.

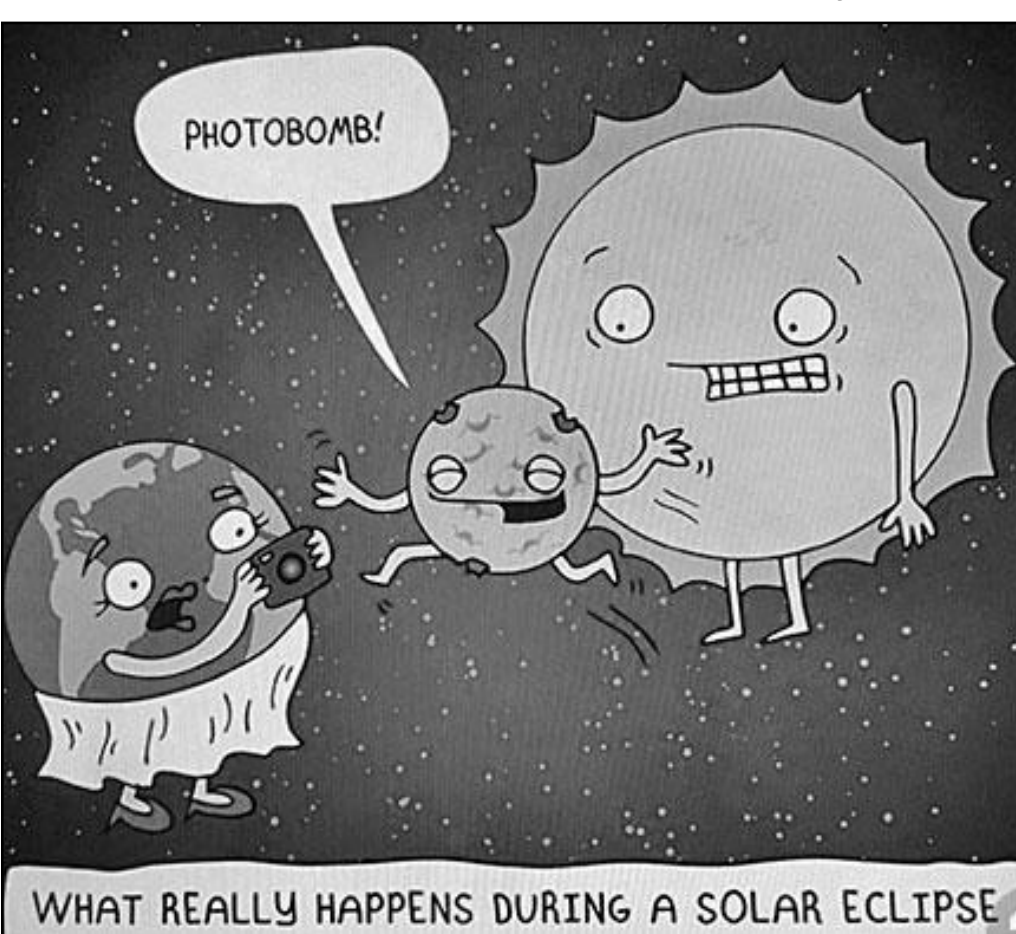
'Unite the Right' was made up of KKK members, white supremacists, skin heads and other right wing extremist. ANTIFA is a far left militant movement which opposes fascism, capitalism and is anti government. ANTIFA has no problem using violence and destruction of property to gain attention to their cause. These two groups meeting in Charlottesville became the perfect storm for the violence that occurred.

The removal of Confederate statues, bust, flags, and signage have been in the news since Dylann Roof shot and killed church goers in Charleston, S.C., in June of 2015. Since then, cities like New Orleans, La., voted and began removing statues from Jackson Square and other parts of the city.

Last week in Durham, N.C., a Confederate statue was pulled down by protesters in response to the rally in Charlottesville. Taquyah Thompson has been arrested for participating in a riot and property damage over \$1500. She was the one placing the rope around the statue allowing the crowd to pull it down. The Governor of North Carolina has called for protestors not to vandalize these statues, but let the legislative process have them removed.

In Chicago, a bust of Abraham Lincoln was destroyed in a South Side neighborhood. It was erected there on August 31, 1926.

At 2:00 a.m. in the morning last Friday, the statue of Roger B. Taney was removed from the State House in Annapolis, Md. It was erected in his honor as U.S.



WHAT REALLY HAPPENS DURING A SOLAR ECLIPSE

Supreme Court Justice. He had written the 1857 Dred Scott decision that upheld slavery and denied citizenship to African Americans.

Donald Trump has taken heat from both parties for his comments on Charlottesville, last week, Trump said. "And you had a group on one side that was bad, and you had a group on the other side that was also very violent." "They were there to protest the taking down of the statue of Robert E. Lee," he continued. "This week it's Robert E. Lee. I noticed that Stonewall Jackson is coming down. I wonder is it George Washington next week and is it Thomas Jefferson the week after? You know, you really do have to ask yourself, where does it stop?"

Now there are groups asking for the removal of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other

politicians to have them removed from public property.

Governor Bill Haslam has stated that Nathan Bedford Forrest should not be honored in the Tennessee Capital, but it is not up to him to have it removed. Our General Assembly passed a law that leaves those decisions up to the Tennessee Historical Commission. It will take two thirds of the commission to have it removed.

Removing historical monuments will not change history. They should be used as teaching tools to educate on their historical significance during that time in our countries history. We should learn from history so we do not repeat it.

It was not the monuments fault for the violence that occurred in Charlottesville or Donald Trump's; it was the extremist views by two groups that hate what the other stands for.

Corker: Nation faces 'great peril' without 'radical changes' in White House

AUGUST 17 – U.S. Sen. Bob Corker (Chattanooga, Republican) today called for "radical changes" in the White House to bring more stability and confidence to Donald Trump's presidency, reports the Times Free Press.

"The president has not yet been able to demon-

strate the stability, nor some of the competence, that he needs to demonstrate in order for him to be successful — and our nation and our world needs for him to be successful, whether you are Republican or Democrat," Corker told the Chattanooga Rotary club today.

In some of his sharpest criticisms yet of President Trump, the Tennessee Republican chided Trump for his comments about the fatal protest rally last weekend in Charlottesville, Va., Trump's "hot rhetoric" about North Korea, and his tweets criticizing fellow Republicans in the Congress.

"We're at a point where there needs to be radical changes at the White House — it has to happen," Corker told reporters following his luncheon address. "He (President Trump) recently has not demonstrated that he understands the character of our nation — what has made it great and what it is today. He's got to demonstrate the characteristics of a president who understands that. Without those things happening, our nation is going to go through great peril."

Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Trump "needs to move beyond himself and move to a place where he thinks what is best for the nation."

Despite instances of partisan, ideological and racial polarization across the country, Corker urged Trump to try to reconcile differences, rather than inflame heated emotions.

"We should hope that he aspires, that he does some self reflection, and that he does what is necessary to demonstrate stability, to demonstrate competence and demonstrate he understands the character of our nation and works daily to bring out the best from the people of our nation," Corker said. "Helping to inspire divisions because it generates support from your base is not a formula for causing our nation to advance and to overcome the many issues that we have to deal with right now."

AUGUST 18 - Corker tempered his remarks regarding the President a bit to the Kiwanis Club in Columbia on Friday citing some of the Administrations more positive accomplishments. However, he drew widespread applause from the group when he explained that he is obligated to be an "American first" (before a Republican).



Americans' lost humanity

By Emily Weathers Kennedy

Recently I went to the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library to visit with my retired friends in our knitting group. This is my happy place. My calm. I circled the parking lot, never full on a Wednesday morning, and wondered what was different about this particular day. After a while, a lady came out of the library. I followed her to her spot, put on my blinker, and waited. Suddenly a middle-aged couple in a Subaru SUV zipped in from the side street and stopped opposite me in the row, I thought waiting to pass. But no.

As I had to wait for the lady to drive by me, the Subaru fellow darted into the parking space before I could get to it. I honked my horn in amazement. The Subaru lady hurried out and into the library.

I rolled down my window and said to the driver, "Excuse me, sir, but this was my space."

He said, "First come first served."

I answered, "Exactly, I was here first. I have been waiting for that spot for quite a while."

He shrugged and repeated his statement as he walked away. He knew! He didn't care!

I circled for probably ten more minutes, finally following someone out again to the street. Turns out, there were several middle-aged folks visiting the library to hear an eclipse presentation.

My thoughts that day didn't center on the rudeness of the couple—people encounter worse daily. But I was left wondering if this general callousness to the welfare of others is somehow going to be more prevalent with a cad-in-chief in the White House. After all, he not only espouses groping women as he cheats and lies (on record), but he this week defended the indefensible—white supremacists who espouse pure hatred and violence against people of color and Jews. Is society going

to find the behavior and attitude of our president to be normal and acceptable? Was the guy from the library acting as he thought appropriate based on what the president reveals daily?

How have people in this country lost their humanity? One person gripes about stirring the hornets' nest by just leaving statues and monuments alone. "It's *my* Southern heritage like it is theirs," he says.

If people could reach down deeply into themselves, they might just see that laying claim on some symbol of hatred for the sake of one's "heritage" is not only selfish, it is wrong. Most monuments to Confederate leaders were erected in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s during the Jim Crow era to put black folks in their place, reviving the racism of the CSA in southern states. These monuments represent people who fought a treasonous war against the United States to keep human beings enslaved. The Confederate flag evokes the same horror for black people as the monuments do. Why would any moral person tolerate another human being's mental anguish when it could be prevented?

Like people of color, Jewish Americans are forced to see elements of the most painful time in their history every time some neo-Nazi group decides to march, taunting and tormenting. Participants in white supremacist marches are not "fine people" as the president claimed. Even supporting them is unfeeling and cruel.

What I would tell the fellow from the library that day is that my husband would have driven to the library door and let me get out before circling again and again to find a parking spot, possibly parking a mile away on the street rather than ever taking someone else's. My husband is a gentleman. What I would tell the people who defend white supremacists is that after 152 years, I'd say it's time to embrace other symbols of Southern heritage and let the healing begin anew. It's time to uncover our American humanity.



How to avoid another Charlottesville

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Does anybody in America truly want to repeat another horrific Charlottesville?

I hope the answer is no but it seems there are different groups lusting for more of Charlottesville. Three people were killed and many others injured in a display of civil warfare reminiscent of what I used to watch on the evening news back in the sixties.

Are there hate groups in America? The answer is yes. Is there racism in America? The answer is yes. Is the solution to hate and racism violence? No. Hurting one another, cursing each other, violating each other and trying to kill each other comes from the basest and most depraved human beings.

Where is the commonsense of what happened in Charlottesville, Virginia? There was no commonsense.

How do we avoid another Charlottesville?

Freedom of speech does not mean freedom of violence. Every group that protests in any community in the United States should first gain a permit from the local county or city government for a day and length of time with an exact location to hold the march or protest. The protest must be civil. There is no need for guns at a march or at rally to speak. Freedom of speech does not mean freedom to start shooting off guns.

Next, the group should be required to put up a deposit of cash. It takes money to clean up a town after hundreds

or thousands of people have dropped their cigarette butts and pop cans everywhere. Part of the cash deposit should be refundable if the group marches orderly and leaves the community orderly.

Tell all the local people that the protestors are coming and to leave town or find something else to do. In other words ignore them. The best way to kill anything is indifference. Indifference has been killing churches and marriages for many years now.

Forbid another group to protest at the same time. Civil freedom of speech should mean I get a turn and then you get a turn. However national cable television news and Presidential debates have proven that there is little civility and manners in our nation anymore. People start talking and then opponents begin yelling trying to drown them out. Any group that has a permit to march and speak about their cause should have a chance to say what they want to say. When they are finished the opposing group should pay their fee to march and have their say about the issue.

Yelling at each other and throwing things and driving cars into crowds gains nothing but death, more hatred and more violence.

A date and time set by the city and county gives local and state police the opportunity to organize in such a way to save lives. An event such as Charlottesville requires hundreds of state police people and maybe even the Na-

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