

LETTERS

It's time to speak out against abortion

Editor,

While traveling I-94 from Kalamazoo, there is a billboard with the head of Jesus and the following words: "The Supreme Court calls it abortion. God calls it murder."

It made me think, and I decided that if I don't speak for the unborn, then I am accepting abortion. I know this won't change a person's mind, for somehow this is a black or white issue centering on a woman's right to her own body. I can accept that this will change no one.

What I can't accept is that we have elected officials and a Supreme Court who refuse to view the atrocities of the Planned Parenthood videos and their harvesting and selling of baby parts. It's a reality that has defined the present mindset of our world. These videos are not altered, and we cannot be tricked into believing they are.

For those on the side of abortion on demand, I'm sorry. Our Pope Francis tells us to pray for you. I will.

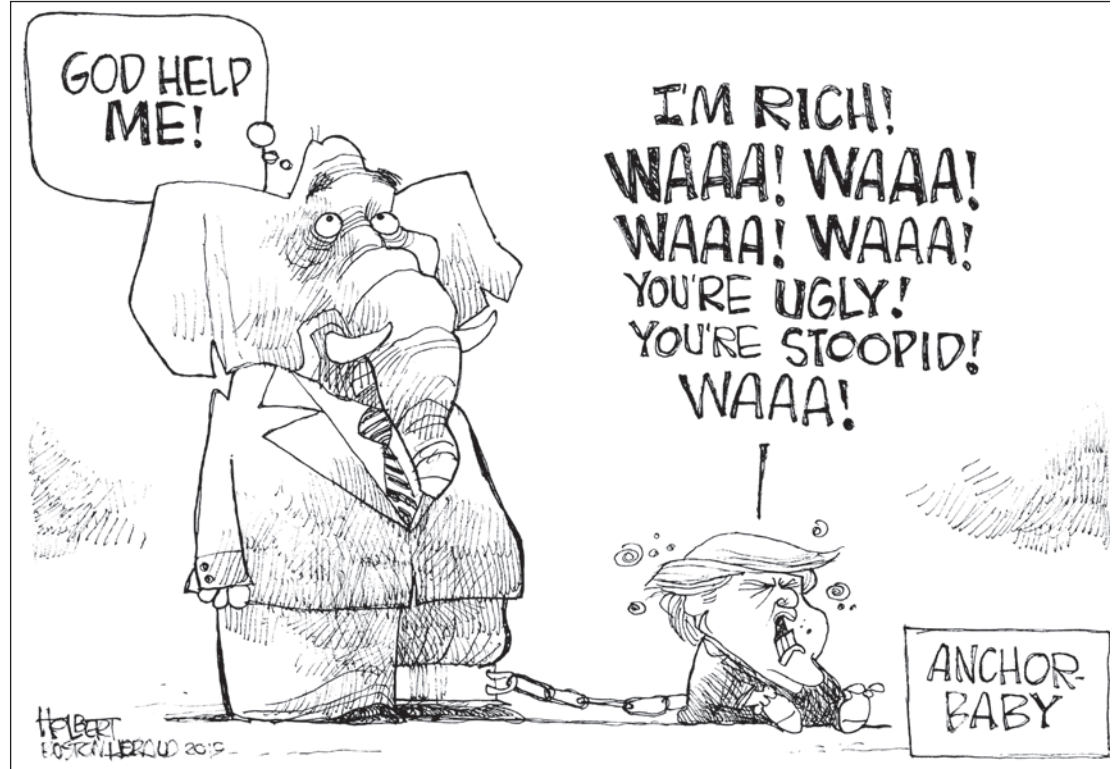
Charlene Willmeng Coloma

LMC's funding campaign is vital to its future

Editor,

As a lifelong resident of Southwest Michigan, I'm proud to be an advocate for Lake Michigan College. Lake Michigan College served as a place to learn and grow after high school before transferring to Michigan State University. Today, I work for Whirlpool Corp., where I have been for the past decade working in employee engagement and communications.

Lake Michigan College believes in the importance of diversity and it is so vital for us to support these efforts. Their foundational programs and opportunities help members of our community who need it most and to provide an atmo-



sphere for academic achievement and individuality. They help eliminate barriers to inclusion across socioeconomic lines as we work to eliminate gaps between the "haves" and the "have nots" in our communities.

The college's recent funding venture, Campaign for Tomorrow, is helping the college imagine an even brighter future for our community:

- Creating a new next generation business center connecting college faculty with aspiring entrepreneurs that could be a learning place for the next small business owner in Benton Harbor.

- Launching a new viticulture program that could bring even more wineries to our area serving as a catalyst for tourism, which could help us become the Napa Valley of the Midwest.

- Refreshing and supporting the Mendel Center so it can bring even more art to our community to keep us engaged and entertained.

I am making a contribution to the Lake Michigan College Campaign for Tomorrow during

the final stretch of their campaign, and I'd encourage others to do the same to support the college's driving force behind our community's commerce and creativity.

Brad Gorman Benton Harbor

'Liberty and justice for all' remains a false promise

Editor,

I was 12 years old in 1954 when the words "under God" were added to the Pledge of Allegiance. It was also around that time that I was beginning to learn about the Constitution and its bedrock principles, such as separation of church and state. At the time, it did not seem much of a problem to simply catch my breath while those two words were being recited by everyone else around me, so it seemed harmless enough. How wrong I was. Later, as I began to read newspapers and watch the news on TV, it was the words "with liberty and justice for all" that took on a false ring. It appeared that most of the people

I knew who had no problem with "under God" had a hard time accepting the concept of "all." Undocumented immigrants, refugees, gays, Muslims, the poor, most minorities and women who believe in their right to choose were excluded, and it is only getting worse. A lot worse. Of course we all have our own pet prejudices; two of mine, for example, are toward zealots who hide behind patriotism and religion to discriminate and legislate against others.

Sadly, there is not one single candidate for the Republican nomination for president who is not pandering to this all-time new low level of ignorance and hypocrisy. Whatever happened to the old moderate level of ignorance and hypocrisy Republicans used to be known for? Liberty and justice for all may never be completely attainable, but unless it applies to everyone, including those you don't like or agree with, it is meaningless to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Scott Elliot Benton Harbor