

Letters to the editor for June 30, 2017

This month, the University of Florida received the highest score of all the 11 public universities in Florida in the performance-funding model created by the Board of Governors. That means UF will receive an additional \$7.4 million in performance funding this year versus last year, bringing the total allotted to the university since 2014 to more than \$103 million.

I would like to offer thanks to the governor, the Legislature and the Board of Governors for their continued commitment and support for this program and for UF. The money will be used in UF's ongoing efforts to hire and retain the world's best and brightest faculty.

UF's high score was due in part to increasing its number of licenses and options executed on technologies developed at the university. UF credits its success in that arena to focusing on closing deals, fostering a great reputation and encouraging commercially targeted thinking among faculty. That is economic development at its finest.

James W. "Bill" Heavener, chairman, UF Board of Trustees

True hero

Does anyone remember Sen. Sam Ervin? He was the head of the Senate Watergate committee, which played a pivotal role in gathering evidence that would lead to the indictment of 40 administration officials and the conviction of several of Richard Nixon's aides for obstruction of justice and other crimes. Its revelations prompted the impeachment process against Nixon.

In contrast, it seems we can expect little, if anything, from Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the House Oversight Committee. An article in *The Sun* reports that he seems to be consumed by form — the irrelevant and not unprecedented notion of not “overlapping” with other committees' work — rather than with substance, which obviously trumps his “fears” of “overlapping” with others.

Like a typical politician, he seeks to hold his office (by offending no one) rather than protect the country. I don't look for much from him, but he should read about a true hero who sought justice named Sam Ervin.

H.P. Benson, Gainesville

Unregulated militia

Reading *The Sun* and watching TV news confirms over and over that more Americans are shot and killed by other Americans than by “undocumented aliens.”

The president and “conservative” legislators insist the justification for arming these killers is the Second Amendment of our Constitution: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Who is the leader of this “well regulated Militia”? Is it the president? Congress? The National Rifle Association? Someone is doing a lousy job. Rather than spending billions of taxpayers’ dollars on a wall between the U.S. and Mexico, the president should be identifying and protecting us from the leaders of this tragically unregulated “militia.”

Asa Godbey, Gainesville

Bumpy road

The blame for President Trump lies with the Republican Party. He got nominated, and then won by a quirk of the Electoral College and 2.8 million votes fewer than his opponent.

Where was/is the Republican Party’s mentoring of this neophyte candidate? Former FBI Director James Comey was criticized because he did not tell the president his behavior was inappropriate, but you’d think that before inauguration day there would have been a Republican protocol advisor somewhere giving Trump a short course on the diplomatic end of the presidency.

Thanks, Republicans. It’s bumpy road ahead. We just hope cooler heads in Congress will prevail and don’t really make a mess of things for the 95 percent of us who have to struggle to keep our families afloat.

June Littler, Gainesville

Write a letter

Letters to the editor should be emailed to letters@gainesville.com. Letters should be 150 words or less and include the writer’s full name, city of residence and contact information.