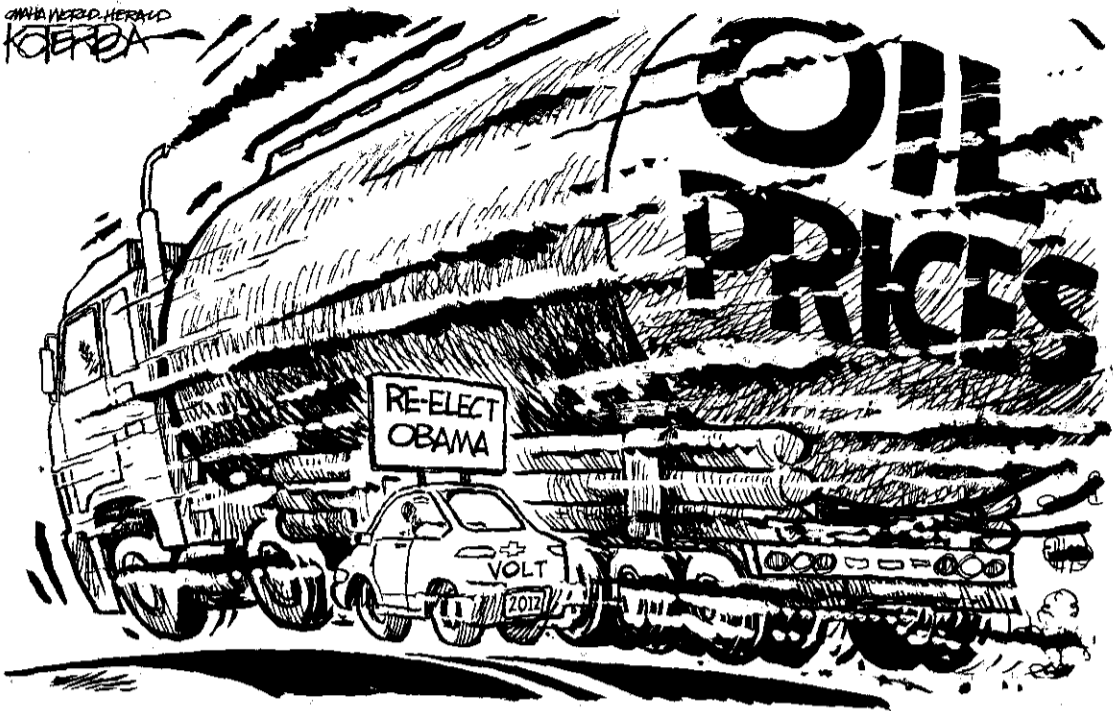


“Work saves us from three great evils:
boredom, vice and need.” — Voltaire

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ON THE ROAD TO THE PRESIDENCY...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Putnam shouldn't ask city for money

I'm writing in response to the articles regarding the Putnam Museum's former IMAX theater. This theater should be making money, instead of asking the city of Davenport for funding, as the Putnam recently did.

Over the years, I've consistently seen missteps in the way the IMAX has been managed. When feature films were beginning to show day and date on IMAX screens, this opened up a huge opportunity for our IMAX theater. Problem was, these movies either never made it here ("300"), or would show two or three months after being released. IMAX movies are usually tentpole films, so who hasn't seen a movie like "The Dark Knight" two months after it's come out?

This latest change to the Putnam screen is just as confusing. They now have 4K projection capabilities. A number of classic films have been recently restored with 4K transfers. So what does the Putnam do for its grand re-opening? They show a movie that can be viewed for free on Netflix ("Life in a Day") and another nature 3-D film. You've got a brand new 4K projector; use it!

Putnam's president stated — "It's always good for our area to be among the first in the world to have a new technology." Yes, we're among the first in the world to have 4K projectors, just as we were among the first in the world to have IMAX. My question is, what good is being first, if you're not going to use the technology to its fullest potential?

Kevin Prior
Davenport

Iowa should use 2-tiered fuel tax

To raise the Iowa fuel tax or not? Why not compromise with a two-tiered fuel tax structure? That is, a higher rate kicks in above 10 gallons. The initial assumption here is that a software upgrade of modern electronic pumps would make this all possible. A pump sticker will inform of the additional cents for gallons over 10. The cost counter would self-correct upon crossing the 10-gallon threshold. A two-tiered fuel tax system would imply in consumers' minds an appropriate weekly usage amount given most refill the family car once per week. Many will emphasize the "10 per week" during new car purchases, in turn swaying manufacturing production. As a parallel, witness the special electronic toll lanes of multi-lane highways in large metropolitan areas, those finding the cost insignificant have access to the less-congested and faster lanes. Meanwhile, government welcomes the additional revenue. For those watching dimes, the normal "free" lanes are still available. To be clear, the beauty of a two-tiered fuel tax system is that those who cannot afford a higher fuel tax rate or object on principle to paying more can opt out by performing a stop, pay and restart of the same pump or avoiding pumping beyond the 10-gallon threshold. Successive pumpings in this manner allow for tax savings for anyone really wanting or needing it. Meanwhile, Iowa receives a needed boost in revenue to maintain smooth roads and safe bridges.

Tim Gannett
Davenport

Occupy movement will grow

In the Feb. 5 editorial headlined, "Iowa: Occupied no more/State movement leaves no discernible impact on governance," this publication referred to me as an "early organizer" who "morphed his efforts into something he calls 'New American Spring,'" adding that I acknowledged "confusion and dissent among local occupiers." The author then wondered "what influence these folks might have had" if they had occupied local government.

The Occupy Wall Street social phenomenon should be understood as incubation for future social entrepreneurs. I made a strategic decision not to pursue specific political action, but to create a forum for such transformative action, constructing a new populist paradigm for our nation, ahead of its inevitable awakening. My "New American Spring" vision for American social evolution is not so much a "morphing" from Occupy to something else, as an evolution, a distillation, even a providential transformation into what Occupy, and even the tea party, was always intended to be: a new realization of American populism.

This stone that the builders rejected will indeed become the chief cornerstone. Failing to recognize this is as much as to say that our country should have decried the normal differences of opinions pertaining to any new awakening to the point of giving up on the whole endeavor before it even took root.

Visit our website at newamericanspring.org, and grab on to the tail of the shooting star!

Roger Farinha
Davenport