

Opinion

YOUR OPINION

Customer service was above and beyond

To the editor:

Once in a while, you come across a person you know is so amazing and wonderful that you must acknowledge and recognize them.

This person for my husband and me is a young lady who is a banker at Drummond Bank in Williston by the name of Keisha Richardson.

We had a savings and bill paying account at WF. They made so many mistakes with our bill paying account. That bank kept paying on an account that was already paid off instead of one that was open. They kept insisting they were paying the right bill. We tried closing our account to no avail.

Drummond already had three accounts of ours. We spoke to Miss Keisha to help us. She made so many phone calls to that bank and Social Security etc. We were in the office for four days every day. She always has a smile on her face. She is such a kind person.

We all hope that this is finally finished.

Kudos to Miss Keisha. She truly is one of a kind.

Lylis Jean Artis

Rotary says 'thanks'

To the editor:

The Rotary Club of Williston would like to thank all the participants, volunteers and sponsors of the 5th Annual Purple Pinkie Peanut Run Saturday, October 7th. The event included a 5K Fun Run and 1 Mile Walk open to all ages. Proceeds from the run go toward the Rotary Club of Williston's service projects, Levy County Youth programs and the Rotary International Purple Pinkie project.

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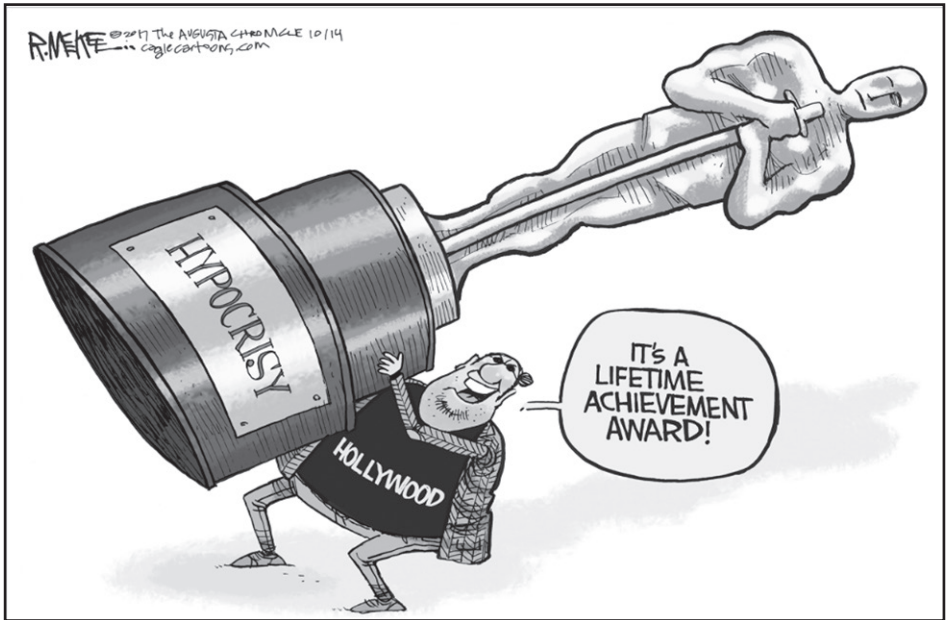
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Williston Rotary's local youth projects include The RACK – Rotarians Actively Caring for Kids- that provides shoes, socks and shoelaces to those in need in Joyce Bullock, Williston Elementary and Bronson Elementary Schools throughout the school year, dictionaries for all 3rd grade students in

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SEC football, Thomas Piketty and Fiddler

"Would it spoil some vast eternal plan... If I were a wealthy man."

"If I Were a Rich Man" from "Fiddler on the Roof"

Margaret McDowell

Arbor Outlook

Some folks garden on the weekend. Some golf. Others travel. My favorite weekend pas-time is reading and digesting a long economic treatise. Seriously. While my husband channel surfed for SEC football last weekend, I delved into "Capital in the Twenty-First Century" by Thomas Piketty, a professor at the Paris School of Economics and an expert on income inequality.

Piketty asserts that significant income inequality is deeply rooted in world history. Furthermore, he suggests that the leveling of the playing field during the late 20th century was an anomaly. And now, ownership of capital is again becoming more important than the ability to create capital.

In other words, what we now consider a recent occurrence, the shifting of income to the super-rich, is not a new trend, but rather a return to a historical norm. The best summary of Piketty's theory that I found was in The Economist, and reads thusly: "Private wealth dwarfed national income and was concentrated in the hands of the rich families who sat atop a relatively rigid class structure. This system persisted even as industrialization slowly contributed to rising wages for workers. Only the chaos of the first and second world wars and the Depression disrupted this pattern. High taxes, inflation, bankruptcies and the growth of sprawling welfare states caused wealth to shrink dramatically, and

ushered in a period in which both income and wealth were distributed in relatively egalitarian fashion."

You and I grew up in this egalitarian period. It was the only economic structure we had ever seen firsthand, regardless of the tales in history books about lords and serfs. The term "landed gentry" says it all; in the Middle Ages and well afterward, land ownership was commensurate with wealth. And even as America's economic system evolved, land ownership and inherited privilege cemented wealth in the hands of the few, rather than the multitudes, until the aforementioned disruptions temporarily changed the game.

Piketty asserts that normally you make more money on money than do you working, a concept that favors those who have financial resources. If the global economy grows quickly then the common man benefits, but when the economy grows slowly (which is the norm), class structure tends to revert to a "winner take all" system, and is thus less egalitarian.

Today we are seeing a return to economic power of the super-rich and the shrinking of the middle class in America. Only now, instead of land, financial assets are the route to dominance for the wealthy.

Margaret R. McDowell, ChFC, AIF, author of the syndicated economic column "Arbor Outlook," is the founder of Arbor Wealth Management, LLC, (850-608-6121 – www.arborwealth.net), a fiduciary, "fee-only" registered investment advisory firm located near Destin. This column should not be considered personalized investment advice and provides no assurance that any specific strategy or investment will be suitable or profitable for an investor.

Harvey Weinstein and me

When the first accusation against movie producer Harvey Weinstein came out, I wasn't too shocked.

Most of us have grown up with the stereotyped "casting couch" portrayal of Hollywood.

Over the years, usually after some bigwig mogul has died, we hear the tales but then it's too late to confront the alleged abuser.

Bill Cosby has been an exception to that rule. And now Harvey Weinstein.

In the days that followed that first accusation, as more and more women came forward – and not all of them actresses – all I could say was, "He's sick."

Every day, both mainstream news and social media report another alleged victim.

Why, you may ask, did these women not come forward? Why did they mask the horror of rape? The embarrassment of harassment? The threat of public humiliation?

Many have said they were just getting started in their careers and he was so powerful they feared their working days would be limited.

Some feared other repercussions.

But for the most part, women just felt ashamed. They were the victims, but somehow the guilt they felt became so overwhelming they wore the mantle of disgust and shame rather than place it where it rightly went: on the abuser.

I know how they feel.

Carolyn Ten Broeck

Editor

Slice of Life

Over the weekend, someone started a #metoo status on Facebook asking women (and men) to post if they've ever been in an abusive situation, whether it was workplace or elsewhere.

I shared it.

This morning my husband asked, "You've been sexually harassed in the workplace?"

"Or assaulted," I added.

He was surprised to learn I have. Harassed a couple times in the workplace, assaulted several times elsewhere.

He was taken aback. "You've never told me that," he said.

I don't talk about it. Not with the man who knows everything about me, and loves me anyway. Not with my best friend, Denise, who knew me better than I knew myself.

I haven't been raped, please understand, but I have been sexually assaulted – the unwanted touch, grope, feel.

I always felt it was my cross to bear. Once upon a time, when I was decades younger, I toyed with the idea that perhaps I had said or done something to provoke the unwanted advances.

It wasn't until I was a freshman in college that I took a workshop, "How to Say No to a Rapist and Survive" that I learned that my behavior had nothing to do with it.

Robert Garver

Bob At The Movies

Happy Death Day

Tree (Jessica Rothe) is having an unhappy birthday.

She wakes up in the bed of a stranger named Carter (Israel Broussard). Carter's roommate says something disrespectful. She gets hassled by an environmentalist. She's being stalked by an ex. She lives in a sorority house run by a judgmental bully. She's annoyed by her own roommate (Ruby Modine) and throws the special cupcake she made into the trash. She's late for class, but she's off the hook because she's having an affair with the married professor.

She shares a birthday with her late mother, and her estranged father nags her to remember that fact when all she wants to do is forget.

As if all that weren't enough, at the end of the day, she gets stabbed to death.

Tree once again wakes up in Carter's bed. The same roommate bursts in with the same inappropriate remark. She gets hassled by the same environmentalist and ex. She's getting a weird sense of déjà vu, but since she got killed in the day she remembers, she's not too beaten up about it.

She avoids taking the path that brought her to the killer and makes it to her surprise birthday party. At the party, she gets stabbed to death. She wakes up in Carter's bed again, with the obnoxious roommate coming in right on cue. She's in a time loop, and it seems the only way to get out of it is to avoid being killed, and the way to do that is find out who keeps killing her.

Tree's killer has to be someone who hates her, so the list of suspects is narrowed down to everyone she knows. There's even one she doesn't know: an escaped serial killer (Rob Mello).

Her killer knows the nuances of her schedule and this guy wouldn't, but he's still a suspect because... you know, serial killer. She investigates the suspects' whereabouts one by one, usually getting killed as soon as she eliminates that person as a suspect.

The repeated murders take a toll on her well-being, so there is a sense of urgency, because each time she gets killed she's increasingly unlikely to spryly wake up again.

The movie is a mess, and a lot of it has to do with the main character. Simply put, Tree is incredibly unlikeable.

I get that the movie is doing a whole "redemption" arc where she's mean at first and ends up learning a lesson, but even "nice" Tree has no respect for other people's schedules and resolves a conflict by pouring "chocolate milk" (brown sludge that the movie insists is chocolate milk) onto an offender's head.

She makes for a lousy horror movie protagonist.

Established in 1879

Williston Pioneer

SUN NEWS

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General Information: The Williston Pioneer Sun News (USPS 530200) is published weekly, each Thursday, by Florida Newspapers LLC., 607 SW 1st Ave., Williston, FL 32696. Periodical's postage paid at Williston, Florida.

Notice: The publisher's liability for error is limited to the space occupied by the error. All errors must be brought to the attention of the newspaper within one week.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Williston Pioneer Sun News, 607 SW 1st Ave., Williston, FL 32696. The Williston Pioneer Sun News has continuously served the Williston community since 1879.

Phone: 352-528-3343
607 SW 1st Ave., Williston, FL 32696