

The Delray Democrat

Letters to the Editors —Outgoing, That Is¹

Writing to local papers can influence NPAs and gives aid, comfort, and information to Democrats. Here is the latest crop. If you've been published and would like us to republish your letter, please send it to editor@thedelraydemocratic.com.

Re: Andres Oppenheimer's Jan. 31 opinion, "Trump betrayed Venezuelan exiles by revoking TPS and engaging Maduro." Why are Venezuelan exiles surprised by President Trump's betrayal and his interest in Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro? They can't say they didn't know this malignant narcissist would promise anything to anyone to secure their votes. He demonstrated his pathological lying almost daily during his first term in office and in the preceding and subsequent years.

Indeed, his false accusations about Venezuelans echoes nearly word for word what he said about Mexicans. Recall his demagoguery in Hialeah in November 2023, where he plied his divisive politics against South American immigrants — to a crowd of applauding Cubans. Sadly, the Venezuelan community did what too many others did in the last election: believe a wannabe dictator while trying to protect themselves from a sitting dictator.

June S. Neal, *Miami Herald*, February 11, 2025

Congratulations on your thorough investigation of this frightening shift of public funds to private schools ("Vouchers for All," Feb. 16). It is an anti-democratic attempt to debilitate our public schools in favor of religious education, exactly what the Constitution prohibits.

Of course, the parents accepting the vouchers are happy to get the financial support. But what's the real price for our kids? Public education is the only institution in America that brings together people of every race, ethnicity and religion and teaches them how to be an American.

Given the enormity of the task, it has been very successful. Except in Florida, thanks to Gov. Ron DeSantis and his 19th century-thinking colleagues. One national magazine that touted Florida's schools as ranking No. 1 proved to be so inaccurate that dozens of colleges have withdrawn from cooperation. Here are the facts. "In the past seven years, Florida's average SAT score has dropped by nearly 70 points, and Florida students currently have the 47th lowest average SAT score in the nation," according to a Florida Education Association report. And despite good reading levels in fourth grade, by the time our students get to 8th grade, things are dim. The National Assessment of Educational Progress reading scale ranges from 0 to 500. In 2024, the score for Florida's eighth-graders was only 253, lower than 2022 and lower than 22 other states. And their average math score was 267, lower than the national average of 272.

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), March 2025, page 4.

It is unconscionable to siphon off any more money from our public schools.

June S. Neal Delray Beach, *Orlando Sentinel*, February 20, 2025 (June S. Neal is the president of Read Banned Books).

Re: the Feb. 27 Miami Herald online story, “‘Give us back our sons’: A look at the Venezuelan migrants Trump sent to Guantanamo.” Thank you for reporting that what the Trump administration characterizes as the “worst of the worst” being held at Guantanamo Bay actually includes many Venezuelan immigrants accused of petty crimes or no crimes at all. One could be shocked — shocked! — at the administration’s dissembling. Actually, unrepentant, repetitive, brazen lying is more like it.

Michael K. Cantwell, *Miami Herald*, March 4, 2025