

# SunSentinel

# OPINION

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## ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

# An important next step for Florida entrepreneurship

As an entrepreneurship educator, I am able to contribute to a vibrant ecosystem enabling the next generation of entrepreneurs, including many of our undergraduate and graduate students. We are fortunate to live and work in Florida, ranked the No. 2 state for economic freedom by the Fraser Institute in its most recent report. States with high levels of economic freedom, like Florida, are characterized by fewer regulations on business, labor markets and credit markets.



By Siri Terjesen

This economic freedom provides the necessary conditions for businesses to flourish. Our business-friendly state enables our students, and other aspiring entrepreneurs of all ages and experiences, to pursue the "American dream" of starting a business.

As aspiring entrepreneurs in some cities in Florida still face some unnecessary regulations, Florida Republican state representatives Mike Giallombardo, Joe Harding and Spencer Roach recently introduced House Bill 403 to reduce red tape on home business. This bill will prevent cities from charging additional fees to aspiring Floridian entrepreneurs and business owners who wish to start home-based businesses.

In addition to the administrative burdens that directly hamper aspiring entrepreneurs, research indicates that aspiring entrepreneurs face the psychological toll of having to deal with red tape that stalls or even halts new venture launches. If the bill becomes law, it will also allow entrepreneurs and business owners to challenge certain local government actions around licensing and regulation, and to recover specified attorney costs.

One of the many upsides of the bill is that "garage entrepreneurship" can flourish across our state. Many of America's most successful companies — such as Disney, Hewlett-Packard, Apple, Microsoft, Dell, Yankee Candle and Harley Davidson — started in garages. U.S. Small Business Administration research indicates that home-based businesses historically create about 64% of all new jobs.

Studies also show that home-based ventures are an important path to financial independence, especially for minorities and women, and enable entrepreneurs

to balance other responsibilities such as caring for elderly parents or young children. Entrepreneurial talent is equally distributed across our population, from young people just starting out to older adults wishing to pursue entrepreneurial paths after corporate careers. Home-based businesses make entrepreneurship accessible to all, so they're particularly vital for economically disadvantaged individuals who have no outside financial backing and do not have the ability to rent office space.

Some critics argue that home-based businesses get too large, but research indicates that home-based businesses that grow will then relocate to larger premises. There is a natural not-in-my-backyard thinking that leads critics to suggest that this bill would lead to home-based businesses such as auto repair or a funeral home; however, there is little to no data to support this contention. Such businesses are a microscopically small percentage of new ventures, and would be logistically almost impossible to successfully run from a home. Rather, U.S. Census data indicates the fastest growing home-based ventures, including during this pandemic, are online consulting and teaching, digital marketing, cybersecurity, graphic design and e-commerce ventures. Moreover, home-based entrepreneurs spend more time in their homes, and are therefore more likely to invest in home improvements, raising the value of their homes and their neighborhoods.

The bill before the Florida Legislature enables the next generation of aspiring Florida entrepreneurs to dream big and take the first important steps toward realizing their ambitions. I am excited by the prospect that our students and other aspiring entrepreneurs in Florida will have greater economic freedom to start new companies from their homes. Our state will grow stronger with this new wave of entrepreneurship enabled by representatives Giallombardo, Harding, and Roach.

*Siri Terjesen is the Phil Smith Professor of Entrepreneurship and Associate Dean for Research and External Relations at Florida Atlantic University's College of Business. Her opinions are her own, not necessarily those of the university.*

## ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

# How we address the hate in the Asian day spa murders

A white man is charged with killing six women of Asian descent, plus two other non-Asian victims, at three day spas in Georgia. The assailant allegedly shot and critically wounded a man who happened to be in front of one of the spas during the attack.



By Michael McAuliffe

The massacre broke a cultural dam, a barrier that has prevented this country from confronting a pattern of dehumanizing people of Asian descent or identity, especially women, and relegating them to the margins of society. At those margins, Asian-Americans and others of Asian descent have been the victims of targeted violence and abuse. That history of anti-Asian violence is long and such attacks are increasing. The Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center cited almost 4,000 incidents targeting people of Asian or Pacific Islander identity over the past year.

A particularly insidious anti-Asian stereotype is that Asian women are less than equal persons as compared to Westerners because Asian women are subservient and docile. This trope extends to day spas and the assumption that Asian women who work there exist to serve customers' every whim and want. The result is that the hopes, dreams and suffering of Asian women count for less than non-Asians.

This "lesser" xenophobic stereotype likely played a role in the execution of the six Asian women. The defendant admitted to the attacks and provided some self-serving non-explanation. His statements appear to attempt to justify ending temptation through execution. The alleged murderer wants you to believe the attacks were a product of an affliction he suffers, not a conscience choice about who to kill and why.

The Asian women who were killed were not random, unlucky victims. Bias appears to be built into the nature of the acts and the choices the assailant made.

The legal system, however, may not allow the prosecutors to tell the story of the hate in the hurt for several reasons.

The killings took place in two jurisdictions — four murders in Fulton County and four murders in Cherokee County. As a result, two district attorneys will make

separate charging decisions about the defendant's actions.

The state's murder statute carries maximum penalties of death or life imprisonment. The DAs could reach different conclusions about whether to seek the death penalty. There will be enormous pressure to keep the case simple and straight-forward to lessen the opportunity for error in a death penalty-eligible case.

Also, because they are murder cases, the prosecutions may not include any hate crime component. Georgia's new hate crimes law is not a stand-alone offense; it is only a sentencing enhancement provision. Given the extra evidentiary requirements, either or both DAs might forego it.

At the federal level, a civil rights prosecution faces a high hurdle. Any federal charges would need to be justified based on an unvindicated federal interest, such as an inadequate penalty or result in the state case. That's not likely given the penalties for first degree murder.

In addition, the federal criminal civil rights statutes can be unwieldy and present proof challenges in court. At this stage, the FBI and the Department of Justice prosecutors will monitor the local authorities instead of actively participating in an investigation or seeking charges.

Despite the understandable demands that the Asian day spa massacres be classified as hate crimes of national significance, the actual cases likely will not reflect that fact. In the end, the murders of six Asian women and two others in Georgia may need to play a galvanizing public role, as opposed to a legal one, in combating the scourge of the lesser Asian stereotype.

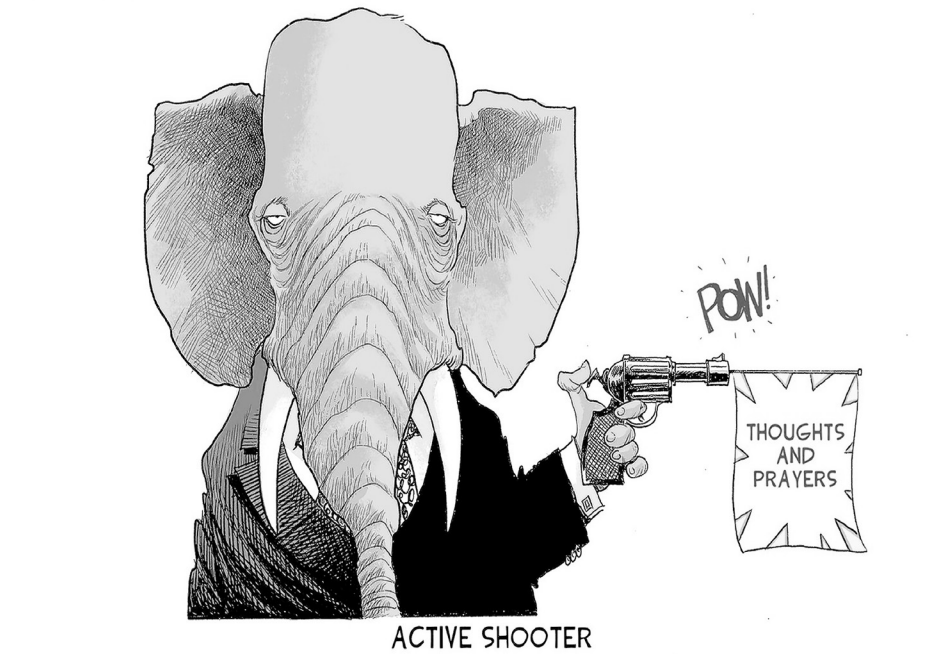
Long after the criminal case is closed, the nation should be identifying and implementing ways to improve and protect the lives of Asian-Americans. The only lesser in the conversation should be the falsehoods that have survived far too long.

*Michael McAuliffe is a former federal civil rights prosecutor and a former elected state attorney in Palm Beach County. His debut novel, "No Truth Left to Tell," was published in March 2020.*

## CARTOON ROUNDUP



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### On vaccinations, we've acted locally. Time to start thinking globally

With the vaccination effort against COVID-19 picking up steam in the United States, many of us are hopeful of a "normal" summer. However, according to the WHO, some nations, such as Brazil and India, are experiencing a rapid rise in transmission with only a fraction of the population receiving a vaccination.

As the burden of COVID-19 eases in the United States, it is in our best interest to champion a global perspective to the vaccination campaign. If we allow COVID-19 to continue to circulate in other countries, we run a significant risk of vaccine-resistant variants wreaking havoc. In addition, poorer nations will need our resources to reenter the global economy, a development that is key to our own economic recovery.

I will be encouraging my congressional representatives to boost the federal budget allocated to the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you will join me.

Peter Holt, Pompano Beach

### This time, let's do something about assault weapons

With regards to the supermarket shooting, it's time to ban assault weapons. I am well aware of the Second Amendment. When it was written, these rifles did not exist as they do today. The right to bear arms and protect your family does not necessitate weapons of mass destruction.

Meanwhile, a white man is injured and arrested after murdering 10 people, including a police officer, and a Black man

mind his own business in his friend's garage is killed by police. Let's also fix systemic racism!

Shari Kalkstein, Tamarac

### Yet another anti-Trump conspiracy in the lamestream media

I was wondering why the Sun Sentinel decided to run a half-page story on page 3 of today's paper (March 22), certainly a rather prestigious placement in the newspaper, concerning some obscure academic differences involving a book and research about World War I hero Sgt. Alvin York by Pennsylvania state Sen. Doug Mastriano.

Since I like history, I did read the story, but nevertheless I thought this would have been more suited to somewhere inside the paper, like page 18 or 27. But the real reason you ran the story, along with its placement, is that Sen. Mastriano supported President Trump and you wanted to smear him somehow with this bizarre attack on his academic career and, in so doing, also smear President Trump by association.

Thomas Rubino, Coconut Creek

### We're vaccinating 40-somethings now? Isn't it a little soon?

Why are we expanding vaccination eligibility when the people currently eligible still can't get an appointment? The Miami-Dade mayor said she made her decision based on demand and availability, but clearly she is delusional if she believes that the supply (of appointments) is even close to the demand.

Nolan Whitaker, Hollywood