

Opinion

Voice of the dollar speaks more than American people

Charlie Ciuk

Staff Reporter

While running for the coveted title of President of the United States should ideally be based solely on ideas, leadership and character, it has become a depressing race for money.

Candidates, generally, now speak to the investors.

They speak to the people willing to donate money to their campaigns. The rich and powerful. Instead of running to lead, they run to obey.

This introduces obvious problems and unnecessary complexities to our political system. Ideally, the President is the one person in America that can be looked to, for inspiration, for hope, for safety, for strength.

If America is just one little castaway island, who are we going to put in charge of it?

One could make the argument that it doesn't entirely matter who we put in the Oval Office, citing various checks, balances and other rules of government.

Then again, how many people can name Supreme Court Justices, or even their own State Senators? The President is the one American that represents us worldwide, whether it's an accurate representation or not.

People are frustrated with politicians and their games. With the coming elections, career politicians are struggling to keep up with the populists.

Donald Trump, a billionaire and

general loudmouth holds a majority of the Republican vote in both Iowa and New Hampshire.

Ben Carson, a neurosurgeon with absolutely no political experience tails him in second place in the polls. Where are the people who do this for a living? They are not good enough to win? That is concerning. These people currently run our country.

Authenticity and character go a long way in politics.

After all, the merciful kings had an easier time on the throne than the tyrants did.

Candidates taking money from people is necessary for a campaign, but there are always strings attached.

For example, Ted Cruz unknowingly accepting money from a white supremacist organization within the last few months.

While Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton and almost every other candidate hunt down the rich to fund their campaigns, candidates such as Bernie Sanders and Ben Carson are taking a different approach.

They are appealing to the people of this country. They seek the approval, support and eventually, vote of the 99 percent.

While appearing on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, Sanders talked about how his "Feel the Bern" campaign has received on average \$35 per supporter. This is real money from real people.

While some complain about the rules of campaign funding, I am optimistic that the people will have a voice louder than the millions of dollars poured into campaigning and that ideas will win elections, not dollars. We will see what happens.

If America is just one little castaway island, who are we going to put in charge of it?

Scandal at the state house: Gamrat and Courser up for re-election on November 3rd

Lia Baldori

Associate Editor

This August, Republican state representatives Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser were caught in an extra-marital affair. While personal scandal alone might not be enough to give a government official the boot, the two were stripped of their titles due to an alleged misuse of taxpayer resources in an effort to maintain secrecy.

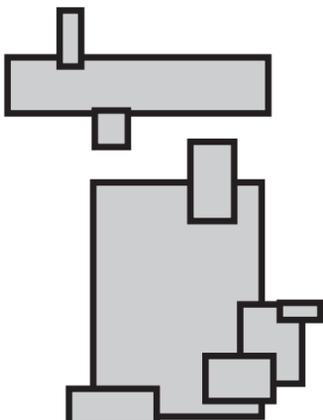
With this knowledge, it would be a safe assumption that both have had their fill of the political scene, and therefore might choose to carry out the rest of their days peacefully. Maybe by taking up new hobbies like gardening or macrame. Or working to repair their marriages.

On the contrary, in assuming this, one would be mistaken. According to Detroit News, mere days after Gamrat being expelled and Courser resigning from their seats, both announced plans to reclaim their positions in the upcoming March election.

"I think in general [an affair] should not be grounds for expulsion. It's really supposed to be like

breaking the law or doing something intentionally harmful to the nation as a whole," Jacob Pulice (12) said. "I think since they run on a platform for family values and they're really pushing that, they [both] should have resigned."

On top of the affair itself, CNN disclosed that Courser and Gamrat tried to cover their tracks by send-



ing fake emails rumoring interaction between Courser and a male prostitute. However, attempting to divert the public from their shenanigans by faking a gay sex scandal, while in poor taste, technically does not disqualify either candidate for reelec-

tion. Though it is still in question as to whether or not they can pull the votes, no current jurisdiction prevents the two from giving it a try.

Pulice also stated that they should be allowed to campaign again.

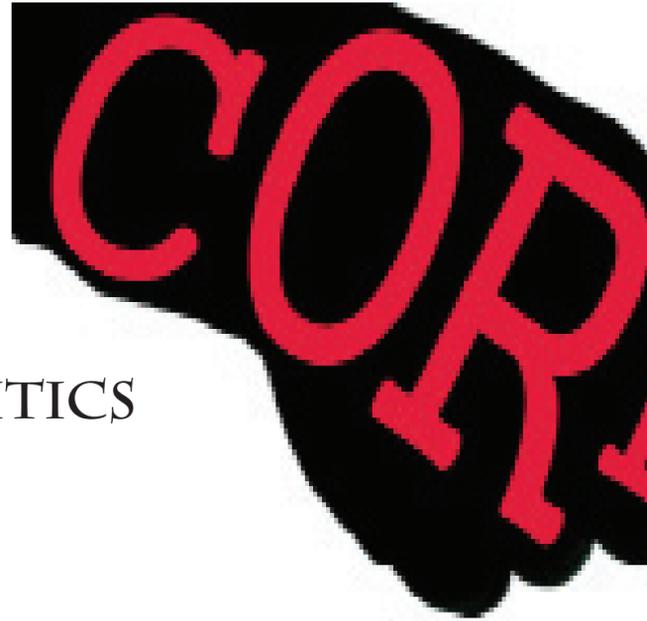
"You can be a sleazebag, but as long as you're pushing policies that advance the nation I'm not gonna kick you out," Pulice said. "Since [Courser] resigned, I would be okay with him running. I would question someone who was expelled."

MLive reported that the whole ordeal inspired the House Elections Committee to draft a bill preventing anyone from campaigning immediately after expulsion or resignation.

However, the bill will not be applicable this time around, so Gamrat and Courser are in the clear.

Nicole Verboncoeur (11) noted that their past afflictions should not be ignored.

"I personally wouldn't want someone who uses government resources to cover their own issues in office, but it isn't my decision to make," Verboncoeur said. "I guess it's not people's business who's sleeping with who, but when they try to use government resources to cover it up, that's where the problem comes in."



POLITICS

SPORTS

NEWS

Whether it's in local, state or national government, corruption is everywhere. This month on our Focus, we'll explore various examples of corruption that has recently r

Fox News on

Opinion

Bernice Gajda

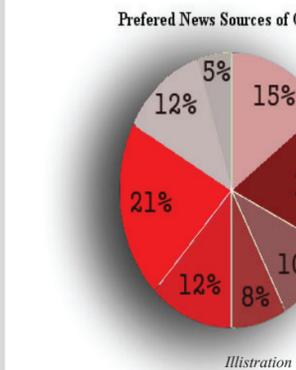
Associate Editor

Fox News is infamous on the topic of unreliable news sources.

In fact, according to a study done by *Business Insider*, those who get their news from Fox News are less informed about current events than those who watch no news at all.

Along with unreliable news, correspondents of Fox News have become notorious for outrageously offensive comments. This June Ann Coulter, a frequent guest speaker for Fox News, was asked about her opinion on Nikki Haley South Carolina's Governor.

"I'd really like to like Nikki Haley, since she is a Republican.



On the other hand, she is an immigrant and does not understand America's history," Coulter said. Not only does Coulter mislabel



MONEY

Skyrocket in prescription prices leaves dependent patients helpless

Caroline Serkaian
Staff Reporter

In August 2015, Martin Shkreli, CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals, bought the drug Daraprim and raised the price over 5000 percent.

Shkreli claims that the increased revenue will be used to conduct research on a better treatment for toxoplasmosis, a parasitic infection that is commonly contracted by people with weakened immune systems, particularly those with HIV, but there has been no additional information attached to that statement.

Along with treating toxoplasmosis, Daraprim protects individuals in high-risk areas from malaria. In 2014, about 2,000 people received Daraprim for treatment or prevention.

Shortly after buying Daraprim, which is essentially a monopoly on the drug market, Turing hiked the price from \$13.50 to \$750.

Daraprim has been on the market for 62 years, and the patent expired long ago; there is no competition for Turing Pharmaceuticals. Once a drug's patent expires, or becomes "generic," the price almost always dramatically decreases.

With that in mind, one might question the reason for this abrupt increase in cost. Some might speculate that this was the result of the exploitation of the basic theory of a monopolized market: obtaining sole control over one good or service in a market, and then hiking the price for purely profit's sake. Todd Heywood, a reporter for the City Pulse, and an HIV awareness advocate, has similar thoughts.

"What the drug companies will tell you is 'well, we've put all this research and money into developing these drugs, so we need to recoup those costs.' What they don't talk about is the fact that they have gotten millions, in some instances billions, of dollars in federal money to develop those drugs. There was no reason to raise it other than greed, and this venture capitalist is trying to make money by yanking the cost up," Heywood said.

According to Heywood, the federal money that the drug companies are given provide adequate funding to develop and produce the medicine, and outside

revenue is rarely needed.

At the same time, Shkreli claims the revenue from the price hike will be used to conduct further research. According to an article in the New York Times, he also states that the cost was increased so that Turing Pharmaceuticals could merely "stay in business." Since this drug is what people call a "specialty drug," it is not mass produced like many over-the-counter medicines, and therefore the cost of production is higher.

The recent controversy following the price hike is not new and Heywood believes that it is time to take action against outrageous drug prices

Price hikes like this one, and even less extreme ones, take their toll on patients.

"Sometimes insurances decide that they're not going to cover that [drug] any more and they'll cover a different one," Stephanie Barri, an intern at PGPA Pharmacy, said. Depending on the drug, this change in treatment could have little effect on the patient, but Daraprim is a different story. In this case, because there is no competition for Turing Pharmaceuticals, the higher price is virtually unavoidable.

"Sometimes patients have to pay higher copays, so they just decide they don't want to take the drug anymore and not tell their doctor," Barri said.

Doctors do not advise this decision; it can lead to the return of harmful symptoms, or complicate the disease even further.

Because of all the controversy surrounding Daraprim, Turing Pharmaceuticals has said that they will now lower the cost, but the new price has still not yet been released.

Amidst all of these grey clouds, there is a silver lining because one pharmaceutical company is fighting back. Imprimis Pharmaceuticals announced on October 22 that they will be offering an alternative to Daraprim and sell it on the market for \$1 a pill, essentially making Turing's promise to lower the price irrelevant.

As a part of their new program *Imprimis Cares*, this new pill on the market contains the same main ingredient as Daraprim as well as an additional one that aids in reversing the negative side effects on bone marrow that the main ingredient causes.

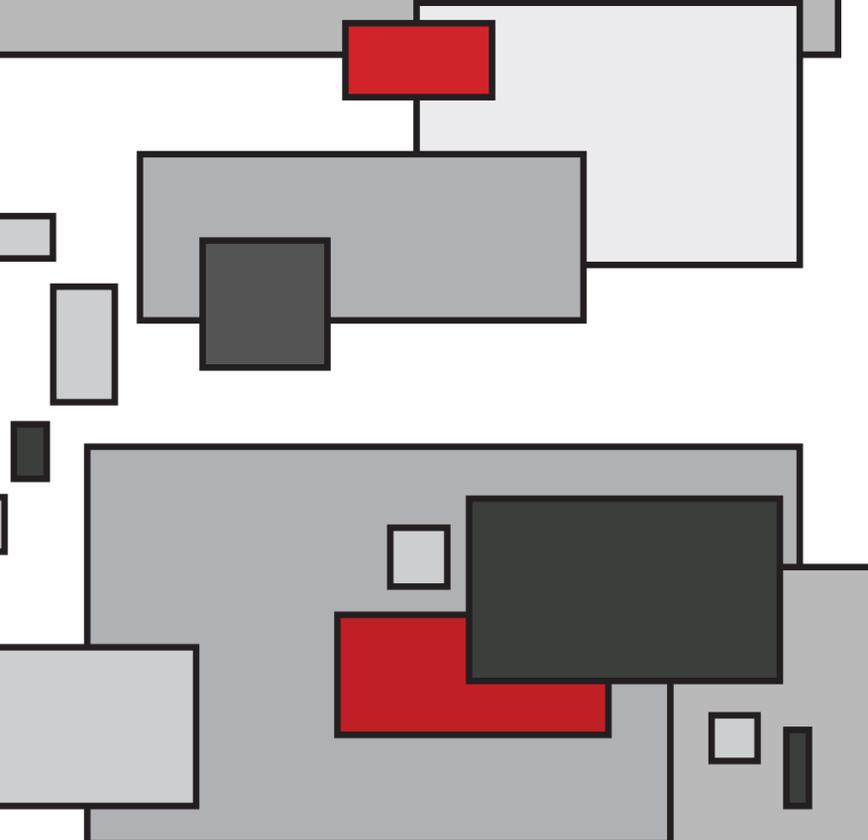
"*Imprimis Cares* and its team of compounding pharmacists will work with physicians and their patients to ensure they have affordable access to the medicines they need from the over 7,800 generic FDA-approved drugs," Mark Baum, CEO of Imprimis said.

This new development proves to the public that pharmaceutical companies are able to profit from selling drugs at affordable prices, countering all that Shkreli said in his attempt to justify the price hike of Daraprim.

With Imprimis' revolutionary program, there is hope that other companies will follow their lead and push for more affordable medicines for all.

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ts, world organizations or news sources, us page, our staffers took a closer look at made the news.



er faux news?

OHS Students



South Carolina-born Haley as an immigrant, but Coulter also claims that Haley as an "immigrant" would be the only reason she does not have

her support. Coulter adds blatant discrimination to an already idiotic slew of words against immigrants claiming that they do not understand America's history.

Coulter also demonstrates her knowledge of American history, claiming an immigrant would not know the history of the United States, a country founded and fueled by immigrants.

On the other spectrum of reliable news, Business Insider found that listeners of National Public Radio were the most knowledgeable on current events out of the eight news sources on the survey.

Out of 100 Okemos High School students surveyed by The OHS Press, CNN was the most popular news source closely trailed by Fox News.

by Bernice Gadjia & Annaleigh Barker

Death, insider deals surround Qatar world cup

Harrison Ramsey
Staff Reporter

The game of soccer recently fell into a deep pit of corruption and extortion.

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is the governing body for international soccer. FIFA decides on issues ranging from game schedules and locations to the business side of the sport.

The uproar surrounding FIFA is its scandalous deal with the country of Qatar on December 2010 which is just coming into the light now. Qatar, a relatively unknown nation, is a wealthy country located in the Middle East. It gained its wealth through the oil business because of the massive amounts of fossil fuels excavated from its land.

"When I saw that Qatar was awarded the World Cup, I had to google Qatar and see where it was," Keith Miller (Soccer Coach) said.

Since 1930 the World Cup tournament has almost always been in a well-known country with a large population many being soccer fans.

"Brazil was a good choice, being a soccer powerhouse. Germany as well, being a big country that has lots of soccer heritage," Miller said. Before the world cup, Qatar has never been a soccer powerhouse or had any background in the sport whatsoever.

The World Cup in 2022, however, will be held in Qatar. People are starting to believe that FIFA must be engaged in a deal or bribe because of the trend shown about the large countries hosting the World Cup. The 2022 World Cup will change this dynamic

and people believe that FIFA was swayed by Qatar's massive amount of wealth.

"It looks pretty shady. There is a lot of money there to be thrown around," Miller said.

Qatar now has the authority to determine the length of the tournament; they are attempting to fit the entire tournament into a 28 day period. Teams would have to play multiple games per day in order to keep up with the fast-paced schedule.

Past World Cups have taken anywhere from 32 days to 40 days. According to this statistic from FIFA, the teams would not be able to function at peak performance early in the tournament because they would be worn down by the over scheduled playing time.

"There is no rest period, there is no preparation for any national team, that's crazy. Everybody now is coming to the conclusion that it will be very difficult to play a tournament in such a short time," Theo Van Seggelen, FIFPro general secretary, an article by ABC News, said.

Van Seggelen is afraid that the teams will not perform at their highest ability because they will be too tired and worn down. If teams play multiple games a day it could cause teams that are expected to make it to the finals to be knocked out of the World Cup.

"It really does not make a whole lot of logical sense to host 90 plus minute athletic contests in a place where the average temperature is going to be 110 degrees," Miller said. Spectators are worried about

the visitors getting seriously injured because Qatar is a country that is ruled solely by the wealthy without any kind of involvement from the middle or low class. Qatar refuses to resolve problems that other countries are presenting them with which leads people to wonder why FIFA chose Qatar for the 2022 World Cup.

In 2013, workers from around the world, including Qatar, began construction for the 2022 World Cup. Workers began to encounter troubles ever since they started living there received very low pay for long hours in the blazing heat without breaks.

Citizens are not able to leave without an exit visa, which has been abolished for migrant workers, whom most of the construction workers are.

Compared to other large event constructions, Qatar has raised the highest death toll. Over 1,000 people have perished because of poor conditions or lack of the ability to leave the area according to an article by BBC News. Suspicion is high among many as to why FIFA chose Qatar for the 2022 world cup.

In the construction of the 2012 London Olympics, there was one recorded death. There were nine recorded deaths in the construction of the 2014 Brazil World Cup.

Many countries, including England, have stepped up to say that they could host the 2022 World Cup if FIFA decides Qatar is too unsafe. Miller stated that he believes more and more people are seeing this negative image of professional soccer now that the media is covering this more and more. Although thus far, FIFA does not seem to budge.