

This week in Trump's World

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OPINION COMMENTARY

As we head into the third week of the presidency of Donald J. Trump, it can be quite a mind workout to keep up with everything that is happening. Little of it is promising, however.

One of the most recent things to have taken place, as reported by The Independent, was a raid in Yemen conducted by U.S. Navy SEALs on a suspected Al-Qaeda camp in Yemen's Bayda province that resulted in the deaths of one member of the US special forces team and up to 30 Yemeni civilians, among them an eight-year-old girl.

To be completely objective and fair to the president, it is tough to judge whether he bears the responsibility for this operation's failure. The Atlantic reported that the operation, "according to The New York Times, was approved by and recommended to the president by his secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

The article also goes on to state that for said recommendation to go forward, the senior leadership of the Department of Defense would have signed off on the operation. So, if there is one situation where the President doesn't deserve the full brunt of the backlash, it would be this one.

Something he does deserve full backlash on is his continued insistence on his ban from people from seven specific Muslim countries. From numerous protests at multiple airports across the country, untold amounts of families who have no association whatsoever with terrorism are being separated or are unable to reunite with each other, it's fair to say that the ban has been at best, not very efficient.

However, as reported by Aljazeera, US District Judge James Robart of Seattle has put a nationwide block on the President's executive order. Said block will remain in place nationwide until a full review of a complaint by Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson.

Of the decision, Ferguson said, again according to Aljazeera, "The constitution prevailed today. No one is above the law, not even the president." They also reported that he went on to say that, "Not everybody may like this decision - I'm certain the president will not like this

decision - but it is his job, it is his responsibility, it is his obligation as president to honor it and I'll make sure he does."

Trump wasn't done with this action. In a blurb by CBS News, the President signed yet another executive order on Friday that will direct the Treasury secretary to review the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial oversight law, which reshaped financial regulation after the 2008-09 financial crisis.

According to The New York Times, President Trump also signed a memorandum that will begin reversing a policy known as the fiduciary rule, which requires brokers to act in the client's best interests, rather than seek the highest profit for themselves, when providing retirement ad-

vice. It's hard to envision any positive scenario for such a repeal if it were to happen.

The New York Times in that same article pointed out how these efforts to loosen regulations on banks and other major financial companies go directly against his campaign theme of being a champion of the working Americans and as a critic of the Wall Street elite.

Hopefully Trump realizes, sooner than later, that these sorts of actions and policies will have nothing but negative effects on his constituents, and subsequently, his political reputation, as well as that of the Republican Party. For now, we simply have to hope for the best, but expect the worst.

BC Theatre to present U.S. premiere of 'There Is a War'



Photos courtesy of BC Media Relations

BC Theatre students rehearse scenes from their upcoming production "There Is a War," which opens tomorrow night in the Porter Center's Morrison Playhouse. Read more about this show on page 5.