

Response to feedback

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It doesn't matter that we are a college newspaper, because we are all adults on this campus who are able to vote. It is our responsibility to increase and maintain political knowledge. It is just as important, if not more, for a college newspaper to cover political news just as large news media organizations would and do.

Also, the comment that we are "telling people which candidate they should vote for" is just not true at all. In the article, it is merely just asking and urging Sanders supporters to stick with the Democratic vote and vote for Biden, unlike what happened in 2016. It was not demanding people vote for a specific person.

We on the Clarion staff, and even as a whole nation, should hope that everyone is able to educate themselves to the fullest extent that they can, and make an educated vote on whoever they want, and feel best, to vote for themselves.

Finally, in response to the statement about us trying to keep our "political articles non-biased," the answer is that we work to do what we can.

Most of the people on the Clarion staff typically lean the same way politically, and, even with that, it is hard for any newspaper and news organization to remain unbiased with many article topics, especially political ones.

Looking back, one can see on the same page as the article in question that there is a cartoon criticizing Sanders. Looking back at last week's issue, one can also see that there is a letter to the editor titled "'Vote blue no matter who,' you say? Not us" in which both Trump and Biden are criticized and talk about and advocate for voting on a third party candidate. Therefore, the political content that we publish is not all completely biased.

Looking even further back, all the way back to the Jan. 30, 2019 issue, there was an opinion article published that is titled "Why the context of the Sandmann-Phillips confrontation matters." This article talks about the incident that occurred between Nick Sandmann, a Covington Catholic High School student and Nathan Phillips, a Native American elder, back on Jan. 18 of that year.

The views expressed in this article were left leaning on the political spectrum, and we received two letters to the editor about that article that were right leaning on the spectrum that we gladly and proudly published in the next issue.

The Clarion staff welcomes views and opinions on all parts and sides of the political spectrum, whether it's on our own staff, an article contribution and/or a letter to the editor. As stated last week in another response I wrote, it's what the First Amendment is for. The United States is truly a marketplace of ideas.

Our letters policy is clearly advertised and stated in the staff box and says: "The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length or content. We do not publish letters whose authorship cannot be verified." We will gladly publish any letters to the editor as long as they are not libelous, greatly inaccurate factually, aggressive, meant for harm, and/or etc.

Letters to the editor and contributions can be sent to the Clarion email or to me personally.

Anyone can also join the staff and write for themselves, send in article contributions and/or fill out the pandemic survey/form if there is something they would like us to write about or answer.

If anyone has any questions or story ideas that you want us to answer or write about, please send us your feedback by filling out the survey that can be found using the link address: <http://bit.ly/clarion-feedback-2020>.

Poland's largest national park is on fire

By Lande Simpson
Staff Writer

Nearly 10 percent of Biebrza National Park is burning down which also happens to be occurring during the worst drought Poland has seen in decades (BBC News). Many park rangers and tour guides say that this fire did not just happen randomly. The fire did not ignite from dry heat and there are a few underlying factors here and they will be fighting the fire for months (BBC News). The Environment Ministry says that the fire occurred due to farmers illegally burning grass (BBC News) and the dry weather worsening the outbreak of it.

Biebrza National Park is the largest national park in Poland. It is in the northeastern part of the country and is roughly 228 miles. It is known for its infamous peat-bogs, numerous wetlands and marshes, which is home to elk, beavers and many different species of birds. This fire will not only affect the habitats for the wildlife at the national park, this could also affect the number of unique and rare species of birds that live at this park. Reports from Notes from Poland stated that animals are being burned alive within the forest and the wetlands trying to protect their nests.

The World Wildlife Fund of Polska stated, "We regulate rivers, straighten their banks, conduct harmful maintenance works, which accelerate the outflow of water, we build dams and hydrotechnical barriers, dry marshes. We forget that it is natural rivers and their valleys that counteract drought, and wetlands are the best areas for natural retention, agriculture is a major sector affected by losses from extreme weather phenomena, drought is one of the most common threats." This basically says there was nothing anyone could really do to prevent this wildfire or the rapid spread of it. Farmers illegally burned grass during a drought and it backfired in the worst way possible. Poland's government has yet to announce any major steps to help out the national park but the president has asked Poles to use water more responsibly in this dire time.

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