THE SKEPTIC ARENA.COM

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Police say that Neo-Nazis didn't start the violence

at the state Capitol

by Joseph Serna of the Los Angeles Times

*A law enforcement official said that a series of violent clashes involving neo-Nazis, who were permitted to rally at the state Capitol, was initiated not by the white nationalist group but by counter-protesters.*

Joseph, I've had my run-ins with neo-Nazis before. It is a fact that we do not see eye-to-eye. I even have a podcast on my web site where one of them threatened to kill me and my family.

That being said, white supremacists don't bother me anywhere near as much as those who attack our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech. In today's world, those protesters represent the bigger threat to our society.

The KKK has been reduced in size from 6 million to 6 thousand. That means only one in a thousand still remain. They no longer have the power to lynch without being arrested, as they once did.

Today, they need police protection when they appear in public.

I'm proud of the way Americans have kicked them, and their horrid ideology, to the curb. But I am ashamed when idiots physically attack white supremacists who were doing nothing more than exercising their constitutional rights. It doesn't make me happy to have to defend white nationalists. So I will direct my anger at those who have forced me to defend them ...

those fucking asshole protesters.

*“If I had to say who started it and who didn’t, I’d say the permitted group didn’t start it,” said California Highway Patrol officer George Granada, a spokesman for its Protective Services division. “They came onto the grounds and were met almost instantly with a group of protesters there not to talk.”*

*The Traditionalist Worker Party had a permit to hold a rally on the Capitol grounds at noon, Granada said.​​​​​​​*

Joseph, the neo-Nazis had permits. Did the counter-protesters have permits?

(I think we all know the answer to that one)

*Waiting for them were counter-protesters, including members of the anti-fascist organization Antifa Sacramento, which had promoted a “Shut Down Nazi Rally” event on its website leading up to Sunday.*

Joseph, that's what I'm talking about - on what grounds do those protesters think they have the right to shut down any American's right to peacefully assemble and speak?

*A similar melee broke out in Anaheim earlier this year when members of the Ku Klux Klan announced they were holding a rally at a park. Counter-protesters showed up early and waited. When the first Klansmen arrived, they were set upon by the group.*

Joseph, you make the protesters sound like a pack of wild dogs. Come to think of it ... that's pretty much how they acted, wasn't it?

*Three people were stabbed at the Anaheim rally. At the Sacramento rally Sunday, seven people were stabbed and nine were hospitalized.*

*Granada said more than 100 CHP and Sacramento police officers were at the park to keep the peace, but the ground spans five city blocks and violence broke out intermittently. Sacramento police found a loaded gun but the CHP didn’t recover any knives or other weapons, Granada said.*

*“It’s not like all that stuff is visible up until it’s about to be used… a lot of that stuff comes out of wherever,” he said. “We were prepared… it could’ve been much worse. Luckily there were no injuries to officers, tourists or people of the general public.”*

*All the injuries were sustained by white nationalists or counter-protesters though specific totals weren’t available, Granada said.*

*The Traditionalist Worker Party said on its website that it had planned a Sunday rally in conjunction with the Golden State Skinheads “to make a statement about the precarious situation our race is in” after “brutal assaults” at Donald Trump events in California.*

Joseph, I don't know about any "race" being in a precarious situation, and if it were, it certainly wouldn't be the white race, but if Trump gets elected (as I fear he will be), then America might very well find itself in a precarious situation.

*When the groups met Sunday on the Capitol grounds, news media were on hand to bear witness and law enforcement was out to maintain control.*

*The violence erupted around 11:45 a.m., when word spread that roughly 30 people had shown up. Counter-protesters swarmed them and a fight immediately broke out, Granada said.*

*Robert Bautista, 65, said he saw a handful of white supremacists and skinheads arrive two or three at a time only to be immediately mobbed and chased away by the counter-protesters, who hurled water bottles and the wooden stakes that bore their signs.*

Joseph, when I try to picture those idiots throwing stuff like a troop of baboons, I remember that 40% of Americans don't accept that we evolved from ape-like creatures. Those protesters are the best argument I have ever seen for ... evolution. They provide a window into our violent past.

*“They beat the heck out of a couple guys,” said Bautista, a retired construction worker who was among the counter-protesters. “You could see their adrenaline was running high.”*

*Bautista also said he saw one counter-protester, a black man who appeared to be in his late 20s, convulsing on the ground with stab wounds to his chest and abdomen.*

*“He was a bloody mess,” he said.*

Joseph, I hope it hurt a lot. He thought his gang would beat the crap out of a few, outnumbered guys, but he ended up lying on the ground waiting to get fitted for a colostomy bag.

Hey, maybe there is a God after all?

*Dozens of counter-protesters remained after the injured had been taken away, watching over the Capitol steps in sweltering heat. On the grounds, a lone white nationalist supporter approached with a cellphone and shouted about his constitutional right to be on site and shoot video. After exchanging heated words with the protesters, people erupted into a chorus of "Nazi, go home.”*

Joseph, that's what the morons should have been doing all along. Maybe after a few of them got skewered, they finally wised up and decided that it might be smarter to obey the law and exercise their right to counter-demonstrate.

*For much of the afternoon, the historic domed Capitol was locked down, with staffers and tourists inside. Police swarmed the park-like grounds, but by Monday there had still been no arrests.*

*Police are scanning websites, social media accounts and videos online to find people involved in the violence, Granada said. Many of the counter-protesters wore masks, making them difficult to identify on video by law enforcement.*

Joseph, like ISIS, the bad guys usually wear a mask. At least the White Supremacists had the courage to show their faces.

Whenever you are looking for a red flag to help identify the bad guys, the first thing you should do ... is look for a mask.

*Counter-protester Yvette Felarca, 46, said the marchers had been driven away and had not been able to recruit members.*

Joseph, she is too stupid to realize how bad she looks by bragging about using violence to deprive Americans of their constitutional rights to freedom of speech and assembly.

As an atheist, I will be one of the first ones in America to lose my freedom of speech, if thugs like these are allowed to violently shut up, those with whom they disagree.

Do you think I could run my web site in a Muslim nation?

Well I could, if I wanted to run the risk of an early, brutal death.

These thugs (I mean the protesters - not the racists) represent a serious threat to everything America stands for. Failure to nip this dangerous, violent activity now, will ensure a quick trip back to The Dark Ages.

*"The Nazis are the violent ones — we are acting in self-defense," said Felarca,*

Joseph, to believe her claim you would have to believe that these few neo-Nazis saw dozens of angry protesters and decided to attack them. Who in the hell would believe that?

*who [Felarca] sustained a bloody blow to the head."*

She's a liar. I'm glad she got bloodied. I hope it hurt.

*"We need to take them head on, confront them, but with as many people as possible."*

Joseph, they already had the skinheads greatly outnumbered and they still got their asses kicked. How many people does she want?

Her comments indicate that her brain was in no danger from that blow she took to the head. Her brain would have only been in danger ... had she been kicked in the ass.

*The Traditionalist Worker Party vice chairman, Matt Parrott, blamed “leftist radicals” for instigating the violence. Videos and photos of the rally posted on social media showed the white nationalists vastly outnumbered by protesters from anti-fascist groups.*

Joseph, and yet, if we are to believe Wonder Woman, the White Nationalists were frothing at the mouth while viciously attacking all those protesters.

It's stunning that she could lie her tail off, when video and photos abound that prove her wrong.

What a total whack job.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-neo-nazi-event-stabbings-capitol-20160627-snap-story.html>

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

Can organisms without brains make decisions?

Most of life is brainless and the vast majority of organisms on Earth lack neurons. Plants, fungi, and bacteria (in many cases, without the help of a simple nervous system) must all cope with the problem of making life-or-death decisions.

Researchers recently studied this problem in the unicellular slime mold, which can grow to several square meters in size. This giant cell, which typically lives in shady, cool, and moist areas of temperate forests, spreads out to search its environment like an amoeba, extending oozy tendrils along the forest floor in search of its prey of fungi, bacteria, and decaying vegetable matter.

Neither plant, animal, nor fungus, the slime mold has become a candidate for cognition studies due to its spectacular problem-solving abilities. It has been shown to solve labyrinth mazes, make complicated trade-offs, anticipate periodic events, remember where it has been, construct transport networks, and even make irrational decisions -- a capability that has long been viewed as a by-product of brain circuitry.

In this study, researchers examined the decision-making ability of slime mold using a test classically used in humans, birds, and other brained organisms: the two-armed bandit problem, named for the infamous slot machine, or one-armed bandit. In a two-armed bandit problem, the subject has two levers to pull, each of which delivers a certain, randomly determined reward. One of the levers is more likely to deliver a higher reward overall, so the challenge for participants is to decide at what point to stop exploring both options and decide to exclusively exploit just the one option in order to maximize their payoff. The phenomenon is called the exploration-exploitation tradeoff and is relevant to more than just slot machines, applying to many situations, including investors picking start-up companies, or drivers choosing a parking space. As such, it has become a classical tool for testing the decision-making abilities of humans and other animals, but it has never before been used on an organism without a brain.

The researchers adapted the two-armed bandit test for slime mold by giving the organism the choice to explore two opposite directions. In each direction, the slime mold encountered discrete patches of food, more or less regularly distributed. One direction would contain more of these patches than the other. They then observed how far in each direction the slime mold would explore before switching to the exploitation of one of the two directions only. The results of these experiments demonstrate that slime mold compares the relative qualities of multiple options, most often choosing the direction with the higher overall concentration of food. It was able to sum up the number of food patches encountered in each direction, as well as the quantity of food present at each patch to make correct and adaptive decisions as to the direction it should move next.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

John Wayne (1907–1979) 72 years

He was an American actor, director, and producer. An Academy Award-winner for True Grit (1969), Wayne was among the top box office draws for three decades.

Wayne grew up in Southern California. He found work at local film studios when he lost his football scholarship to USC as a result of a bodysurfing accident. Initially working for the Fox Film Corporation, he mostly appeared in small bit parts. His first leading role came in The Big Trail (1930), which led to leading roles in numerous B movies throughout the 1930's, many of them in the Western genre.

Wayne's career took off in 1939, with John Ford's Stagecoach making him an instant mainstream star. Wayne went on to star in 142 pictures. 83 of his movies were Westerns.

He is also remembered for his roles in The Quiet Man (1952), Rio Bravo (1959), and The Longest Day (1962). In his final screen performance, he starred as an aging gunfighter battling cancer in The Shootist (1976).

"I believe in white supremacy,

until the blacks are educated to a point of responsibility.

I don’t believe giving authority and positions of leadership

and judgment to irresponsible people …

I don’t feel we did wrong in taking this great country

away from [the Native Americans] …

Our so-called stealing of this country from them

was just a matter of survival.

There were great numbers of people who needed new land,

and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves."

(Comment: John Wayne is what passes for a hero ... in America)