

OPINION

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

"Ask yourself one question. 'Is it right?' Then do what you believe is best for your town, your state and your country."
— James M. Cox, founder, Cox Enterprises

Editorial Board

Paul J. Curran Jr., President and Publisher

Leroy Chapman Jr., Editor in Chief David Plazas, Opinion Editor Samira Jafari, Head of Standards

A ‘grandma’ performance changed my mind about concerts

A recent Beach Boys show in Cobb County was enjoyable because of the music and the venue staff.

By Maddy Milk
For The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

I attended what some people jokingly might call a “grandma concert,” and after one evening, I couldn’t help but think: Maybe we should all be doing concerts this way.



Maddy Milk

Growing up in metro Atlanta, I’ve attended concerts at venues all over the state. I’ve seen artists from nearly every genre, and over the past 20 years I’ve watched concert culture evolve.

Somewhere along the way, concerts stopped being relaxing and started feeling like an endurance test. Long walks from parking lots, endless concession lines, overcrowded venues and fighting through crowds have become the norm.

Then I attended the Beach Boys concert at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre on July 17. Seeing the Beach Boys had been on my bucket list since I was a child. With opportunities to see them becoming increasingly rare, I knew I couldn’t pass this one up. I expected a great concert. What I didn’t expect was that the venue itself would become one of the highlights of the evening.

I avoided the stereotypical traffic nightmare

When the lights came up, I glanced around the audience and realized there were very few people under the age of 40 in the orchestra section. The crowd was relaxed, polite and simply there to enjoy the music.

There was no pushing, no chaos and no sense that everyone was competing for the best experience.

From the moment I arrived, everything felt

effortless. Friendly staff greeted me at the entrance, helped me find my section and patiently waited while I stopped to grab a drink. There were no long concession lines, no confusion about where to go and no frustration. Every employee I encountered genuinely seemed happy to help.

The concert itself was everything I had dreamed it would be. I sang along, danced in my seat and enjoyed every minute of the performance.

When the show ended, I was reminded of just how different this experience had been. Within minutes, I was back at my car and on my way home.

No hourlong wait to leave a parking deck. No traffic nightmare. No exhausting trek back to the car.

I know where I want to go for future events

After years of attending concerts throughout Atlanta, it honestly felt like an alternate reality.

Maybe the biggest surprise wasn’t seeing the Beach Boys. It was discovering how enjoyable a concert can be when the venue is thoughtfully designed, the staff is welcoming and the atmosphere allows people to simply enjoy the music.

I’ll still attend concerts downtown when an artist I love comes to town. But after this experience, the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre will be the first venue I look for.

Sometimes the best concert isn’t just about who’s on stage – it’s about how you’re treated from the moment you arrive until the moment you leave.

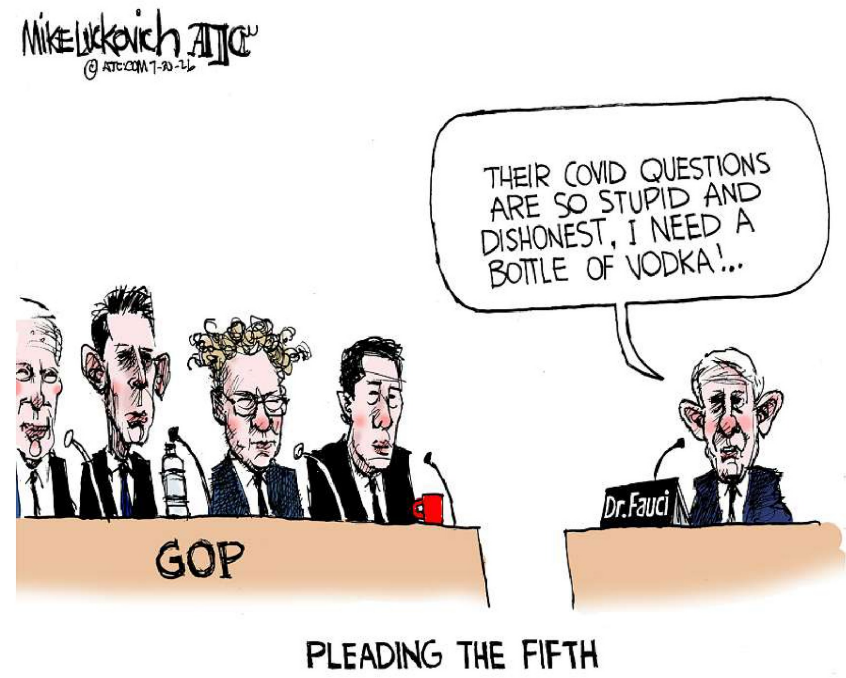
Maddy Milk is a Marietta, Georgia-based travel and event writer.

Send letters to the editor of 250 words or fewer with your name, city or town and contact information to letters@ajc.com.



Mike Love and The Beach Boys put on a good show at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre recently, but the arena staff deserves a ton of credit, too. AMY HARRIS/INVISION/AP

Mike Luckovich



Letters to the editor
Letters should be no longer than 200 words and include a daytime phone number for verification. Letters will be edited for fact, length, clarity, style and tone and may be published in print and digital formats. Emailed submissions are strongly preferred, with letters in the body of the email. Please do not send attachments. The volume of submissions prevents us from acknowledging the receipt of letters. Please email letters to letters@ajc.com.

About the Opinion page
The AJC recognizes the diversity and differences of opinion among our readership, and we strive to accommodate this by regularly offering insights that point toward solutions for problems facing us today. Part of this work is publishing conservative and liberal opinion essays. We also recognize the variety of voices within parties, and we strive to represent those, too. We welcome submissions of about 750 words. Opinion essays will be edited for fact, length, clarity, style and tone. Send Opinion essay submissions to opinion@ajc.com.

READERS WRITE

We can honor service members and condemn war

Rep. Brian Mast, R-Fla., has engaged in the kind of disgusting rhetoric that should be condemned by all. He is using the deaths of our service members as a political tool to try to defend the indefensible. Mast said: “To belittle this mission is to belittle and demean the very service these members gave their life for” in the war against Iran. Mast’s comments could best be characterized by a term frequently used by the president, but not printable in this newspaper. We can and do honor the dedication, courage and professionalism of our service members. That in no way obligates us to support this war of choice that took their lives.

We do not honor our service members by sacrificing the lives of more brave men and women in a war with no identifiable objective or plan.

LARRY AUERBACH, ATLANTA

Presidential immunity needs challenging

It’s time to reexamine the Supreme Court opinion on presidential immunity. It is not absolute. It only pertains to the performance of his duties as president. Many of the things President Donald Trump does fall outside the performance of his legal and constitutionally recognized presidential duties. While this is very broad, it needs to be challenged. How about some attorneys do something here?

PETER TRAGER, SANDY SPRINGS

Senate should have final say on who leads DOJ

In the July 24 opinion, “Why it doesn’t matter if Todd Blanche gets confirmed as the new attorney general,” Michael J. Broyde argues that Blanche’s Senate confirmation as attorney general “doesn’t matter” because, as the Senate-confirmed deputy attorney general, he can continue serving as acting attorney general under federal law.

That argument overlooks the most obvious point: Confirmation matters precisely because the Senate has the authority to reject a nominee. If the Senate declines to confirm Blanche and the president chooses to nominate someone else who is confirmed, that new attorney general – not Blanche – would lead the Department of Justice. To dismiss confirmation as little more than “political theater” ignores the constitutional role of Senate advice and consent and the possibility that the confirmation process could produce different leadership for one of the nation’s most important departments.

The article also devotes considerable space to repeating that the Department of Justice can continue functioning under an acting attorney general. Few readers would dispute that. The more interesting question is whether the Senate should permanently entrust Blanche with the office of attorney general. That is exactly what the confirmation process is designed to determine, and it is why the outcome does matter.

BILL BUIST, ATLANTA