

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Outside money flows to GOP, too

When I started reading the Dec. 17 Viewpoint, "Follow the money on the campaign trail," I assumed the author was an earnest if somewhat naive citizen. She is "shocked" at the amount of campaign money raised for local Democratic candidates that comes from outside the area, the 2nd Congressional District and South Bend mayoral races specifically. Why, these candidates might be beholden to outside special interest groups. Mayor-elect Pete Buttigieg came in for special criticism because the 29-year-old might be using South Bend "as a stepping-stone to a run at the U.S. Senate."

I was startled to discover at the end that the writer is chairwoman of the Republican Party of St. Joseph County. Does she really expect us to believe that Republicans don't

take money from outside their districts and aren't beholden to special interests both outside and inside the district? That a young politician doesn't have future plans?

There is nothing the Democrats are doing that the Republicans aren't doing as well. I live in Michigan's 6th Congressional District represented by Fred Upton, who raised about \$1 million, most from outside the district, for a campaign against his Democratic opponent, who was able to raise about \$50,000.

Susan Gilbert
Galien

Get involved

This is in response to Jim Brown's Dec. 14 Voice letter. Clearly, he doesn't know much about unions or what "right to work" means. Unions could be better on some issues, but being a dues-paying mem-

ber for more than 30 years, I can say, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Unions negotiate for wages, health care, fairness and work safety.

Unions have kept businesses in check and protected workers for many years.

It is more effective if a group of employees asks for something from a company, rather than just one person. Unions offer seminars from sexual harassment to workplace safety to driving safety. My union dues go for much more than lobbying.

We all have a right to work — in a safe environment with decent wages. If a company is doing well, then the employees should also do well — not just the upper management.

Right to work is for big business. Politicians in favor of it are the same people who receive megabucks from big business — for

their political gain!

Dan Herman
South Bend

Simply live

The flaw in the concept of human nature is caused by the species' pursuit of false happiness as they seek: money/material possessions, love/sex, power/influence/control.

The majority of humans are not content with food, shelter or clothes and the search for inner peace because they lack self-knowledge, self-esteem/self-respect and respect for others. Were they to nurture the latter conditions, most of the problems facing the world would be eliminated.

Only an individual can change him/herself. Each must, in time, reach the realization their path has been one of futility and learn to simply live.

Julie Ferraro
South Bend