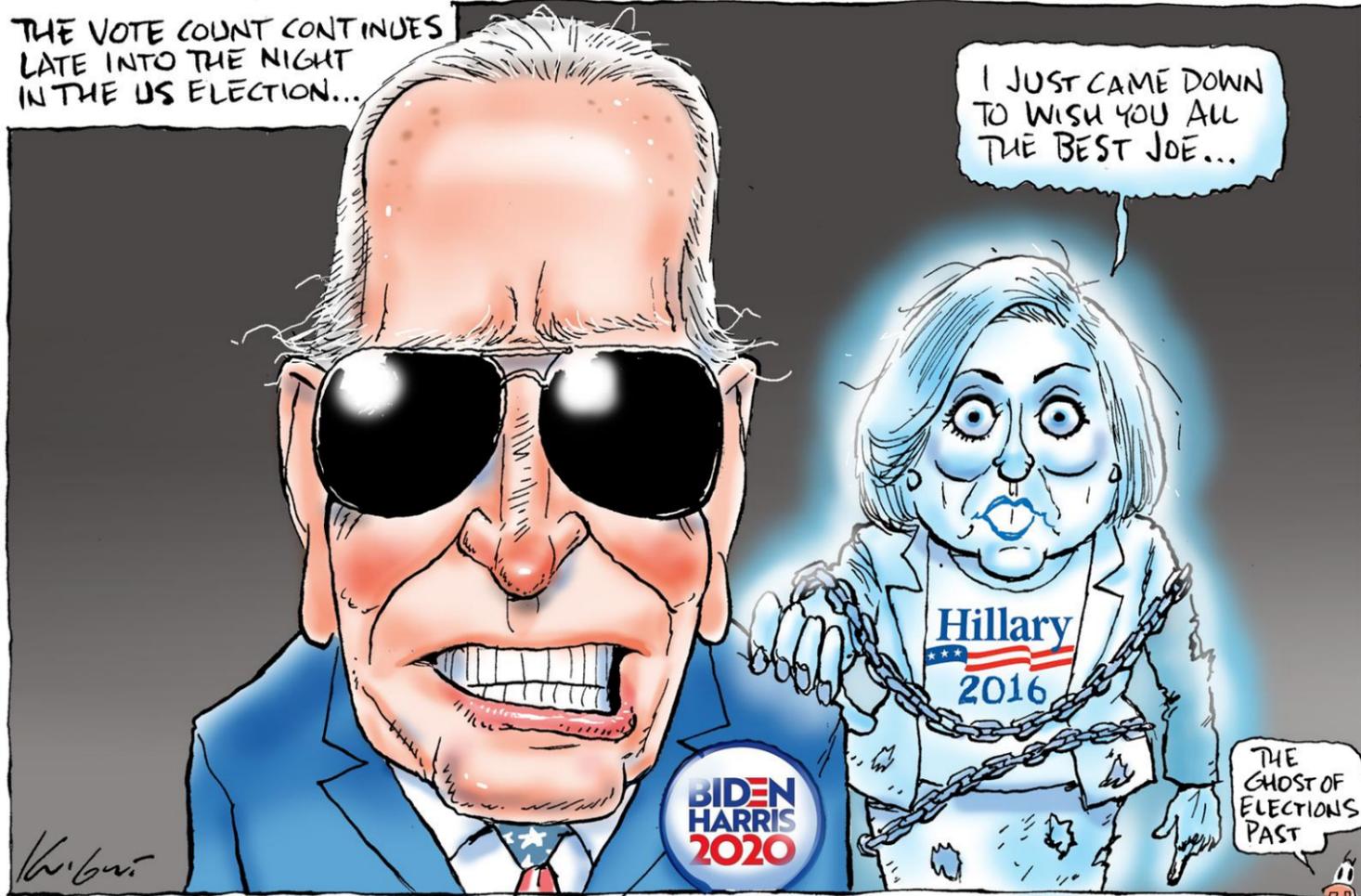


MARK KNIGHT

Hand-signed Knight cartoons are available for purchase from the Herald Sun shop. Send your request via email to hsshop@news.com.au



ED GANNON

Here's some real fake news

WOULD you ever eat a zebra? What about a monkey? How's the nausea? But what if that zebra or monkey meat was actually fake — made from cells in a laboratory? I doubt the appetite just took a turn for the better. The idea of eating exotic animals is, for most, unpalatable. The reaction when the spectre of eating dog or horse arises is one of repulsion. Even the thought of eating goat upsets some, despite it being the most eaten meat on the globe. So to tuck into a chimpanzee chop — real or not — will most likely send nearly everyone off the charts. Yet an Australian company, Vow Food, is looking at bringing such exotic meats to our plates.

The company says it wants to push the meat-eating experience beyond “a handful of domesticated animals” and to “open our eyes to the enormity of options available”. So take cattle, sheep, chickens and pigs off the menu — the four species that make up virtually all our food. The company claims these species constitute just 0.02 per cent of the animals available for us to eat.

And if you think the zebra thing is a stretch, the company's website features a picture of a cow, a lion, a turtle, what appears to be a bison and the aforementioned zebra.

“What are the odds that animals we eat today are the best of two million species available?” the company asks.

We are not talking plant-based food, which is aimed at the vegan market. This new “meat” will be grown from a cell in a laboratory to look and cook the same as traditional meat. They have already produced lab-grown kangaroo.

“By taking an entirely new approach, we can bypass raising animals and find tastes, flavours and textures completely new to us.”

There is method in their madness. Food celebrity Matt Preston told The Weekly Times lab-grown beef or chicken potentially suffered from comparison to a top-end natural steak. But none of us can compare a lab-produced rhino rib eye to the real thing.

It is not just meat coming from the lab. A US company has genetically modified a yeast to produce bovine casein, which could replace much of the dairy industry's products. Another company is making egg whites from cells.

The arguments for these methods revolve around the environment, animal welfare, and potentially cost. One day we may go to the zoo to see a cow or a sheep, before heading home to chuck a baboon on the barbie.

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Good leaders serve us, we don't serve them

THERE have been many moments during Melbourne's lockdown that have made me scratch my head and think, what is motivating our leaders at the moment?

There was the moment in October when Daniel Andrews extended the state of emergency and state of disaster in Victoria for a further four weeks, to allow him to shift the rules in an instant.

Then there was the Premier's refusal to reduce the restrictions on Melburnians early last week when there had been a rolling average of 4.6 cases in the previous fortnight.

Just one day later, after severe community backlash, he changed the rules and relaxed restrictions.

But it's not just Andrews' leadership that causes me to question where we are as a country in terms of leadership. There are countless examples of hardened hierarchies, rigid rules and profits before people, where leaders who have been given the privilege of incredibly powerful positions are leading Australia down an ugly path.

There's the case of sexual harassment claims against Boe Pahari, who had been appointed AMP Capital chief executive in July, before being demoted when it was revealed he had sexually harassed a colleague at the company.

It was only after the share price started tanking that the company's board demoted him from the role.

Then there's the Rio Tinto chief Jean-Sebastien Jacques and two other senior executives leaving the



JAQUIE SCAMMELL

global mining company after they allowed a 46,000-year-old rock shelter at Juukan Gorge in Western Australia's Pilbara region to be blown up.

It took weeks for the CEO and other decision makers responsible to resign and in the end it was shareholder outrage, not moral code, that led to their heads rolling.

It seems that some of those who are in powerful positions have perhaps forgotten the primary role of a leader, which is to serve.

Leaders who rule with an iron fist, exhibit self-confidence, build extensive networks and find clever ways to navigate political constructs are rewarded and somewhat promoted in this country.

Have we normalised arrogance, manipulation, overconfidence and risk-prone individuals, so much so these are disguised as the traits for successful leaders?

This dictatorship style of leadership is conditioning workplaces, schools and society to support the most authoritarian role model because they are who gets recognised the most.

But there is a far more effective way to lead people: servant

leadership. A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and wellbeing of people and the communities to which they belong.

That is the leadership I choose to be surrounded by as a good citizen who pays their taxes; leaders who remove obstacles from you, and leave you better than when they found you.

They serve rather than command, develop people rather than be domineering.

Leaders who rule first believe in the following myths:

LEADERS HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS

While leaders who rule believe this to be true, leaders who serve first will ask, not tell. To show a sincere interest and encourage people to think for themselves, leaders have to ask more questions.

OPTICS OVER ETHICS

If the only way you can solve problems is through dishonesty, you're not a leader. If you abuse your influence or confuse manipulation with leadership, you may win a few battles, but you'll lose the war. Leaders who serve first are clear on their purpose and give people a clear sense of progress and why they are doing what they do.

PUT PEOPLE IN BOXES

Leaders who rule first tell people why they can't do something. Leaders who serve first don't put people in boxes, in fact it's their desire to remove obstacles and judgments and free them from boxes. Leaders who serve first are about helping people reach places they didn't know they could go, inspiring and empowering people to be better than they were yesterday.

FOLLOW THE RULES INSTEAD OF BREAKING THEM

Leadership is nothing if not understanding the need for change, and then possessing the ability to deliver that change and take people on the journey. Leaders who rule stick with the status quo and fail to read the context that may inspire change.

TAKE CREDIT INSTEAD OF GIVING IT

Leaders who serve first are humble and are not found seeking the spotlight but seeking to shine the spotlight on others. The best leaders only use “I” when accepting responsibility for failures. Likewise, they are quick to use “we” when referring to successes.

Leaders who serve first know that when people feel they are appreciated and can trust you, extraordinary results can be realised.

CARE ABOUT PROCESS MORE THAN PEOPLE

Leaders who serve first can be critical change agents by approaching everyone in a team or community with compassion and genuine curiosity.

So in a nutshell, leaders who rule first are in it for themselves. They are motivated to acquire power, wealth, popularity, and fame for themselves only.

Leaders who serve first are in it for others. They are motivated to influence and lead by identifying and meeting the needs of others.

And it's time that we demanded the latter from our leaders.

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