

# OPINION

## CAMARILLO Acorn

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The *Camarillo Acorn* welcomes your letters and comments. "Letters to the Editor" should be no longer than 350 words, although the *Camarillo Acorn* reserves the right to make occasional exceptions to this policy. Handwritten letters are acceptable only if they are legible. Letters must contain the writer's telephone number and address, for verification purposes only. Anonymous letters will not be accepted and no more than one letter per month may be submitted. The deadline to submit a letter for Friday's paper is Tuesday at noon. The *Camarillo Acorn* reserves the right to accept, reject or edit letters and other editorial material. The *Camarillo Acorn* does not return letters, photos or other editorial submissions. Editorial material may be mailed to the *Camarillo Acorn*, 1203 Flynn Rd. Suite 140, Camarillo, CA 93012, or faxed to (805) 484-2313. Or email: [camarillo@theacorn.com](mailto:camarillo@theacorn.com).

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## EDITORIAL

### A melodic lesson in the power of self-confidence

"Please play this tune as though you've never heard it before."

So said Sir Edward Elgar to the London Symphony Orchestra as he began a rare on-camera performance conducting his famed "Pomp and Circumstance March No.1" in 1931. The composition, which has become the background score for graduations worldwide, was already something of a standard when Elgar stepped up to the podium that day, and he no doubt wanted to be sure the musicians played it with appropriate vigor.

Written in 1901 and performed the following year during the coronation of Britain's Edward VII, the march was part of a body of work that made Elgar the most famous British composer of his generation. The first time it was used during a commencement ceremony was in 1905 at Yale University when Elgar received an honorary doctorate at the Ivy League school. Interestingly, it was played as a recessional, not a processional.

While the tune is familiar to anyone who has ever attended a graduation, most people

know little about Elgar. Yet the Class of 2021—and anyone, really—can learn a lesson about perseverance from the composer.

Born in 1857 to a family living in a small English village, Elgar was the fourth of seven children. His father was a piano tuner who also owned a music shop, and his mother loved the arts. Throughout his childhood, they would encourage his musical talent, though Elgar would spend most of his adulthood striving to find fame.

Living the life of a starving artist, he met and married the wealthy Alice Roberts, whose upper-crust parents disinherited her for not only marrying a musician, but a Catholic.

His wife would become his saving grace, nurturing and encouraging him throughout their marriage as his manager and his closest confidant.

Elgar persevered with his dream to become a renowned composer. It wasn't until he was 42 that his work—specifically the Enigma Variations—began to earn him international acclaim. The musician, who lived through

poverty, war and a worldwide pandemic, was knighted by King Edward in 1904 and was immortalized by the music he left behind.

Elgar's life reminds us that the idea of overnight success is a myth and most worthwhile achievements are born from years of hard work and commitment. He also shows that life will be filled with triumph and tragedy, heartbreak and love, all within a world of constant change and challenges. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, Elgar stands as a testament to the power of self-confidence (though he certainly had doubt) and the will to achieve one's goals in spite of great odds.

The next time you take part in a graduation and hear Elgar's familiar march as the graduates stream onto the stage or field, let it stand as a reminder that grit and hard work fuel the engine that carries talent. Elgar is proof of that.

To the graduates of 2021, the world awaits. No matter what, please play this tune as though you've never heard it before.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Are we asking the right questions?

Below is one of the city's goals for next year that appears in their 2021-22 draft budget regarding police and public health issues:

"Evaluate the feasibility of increasing the current police department funding to expand the City's involvement and collaboration with the VC Sheriff's Department, VC Behavioral Health, and other agencies for assistance, as appropriate, in helping law enforcement respond to homelessness and calls involving mental health issues."

This is too narrow a view for all the public safety and social issues we expect our police officers to solve.

First, we should not start with the assumption that the city will be increasing the funding for police services to integrate their work better with other county services. The citizens would be better served if the council started with a question, because in this way they could become better educated and provide a forum for citizens to be better informed about this complex problem that is more than a police issue.

I suggest that question might be: What have some other cities done that is working that provide for triaging 911 calls so that all of them do not end with a patrol car responding?

This is an important way to posit the question because it does not include continuing to ask police officers to solve homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness crises and all domestic disputes. We need to know about alternatives that are being tried by other cities to see if any seem to be working.

This approach does not denigrate police officers or what they do for us. We, nearly all of us, want a patrol car to rush when real harm is being threatened, but not all calls for police service involve this, and we may be able to find a way of improving our mix of services, and it should not start with the assumption that we need



to have more staffed squad cars to deal with both criminal and noncriminal issues.

David Smith  
Camarillo

### Say no to commercial air traffic

Supervisor Long: As a longtime supporter and constituent of yours, plus a 48-year resident of Camarillo, I strongly urge you to not only resist any expansion of commercial aircraft traffic at the airport but to lead the way on the board and to publicly resist such efforts.

This is important to all Camarillo residents in order to ensure our quality of life is maintained. Once the door is open, many, many other firms will follow.

I am old enough to remember when LAX interests proposed moving all cargo flights from there to Point Mugu only to have the Department of Defense nix it due to the critical nature of the work at the base.

I believe your support will be appreciated by a great majority of the residents within your district and throughout the county.

Thank you.  
Eric Duncan Sr.  
Camarillo

### Writer was right about fares

This letter is in response to the June 11 letter "New fares are unfair" by Betsy Artuso.

I am a longtime Camarillo resident. I have seen Betsy in her wheelchair and her two large dogs around town weekly.

The CAT transfer service is vital to maintaining livability for Betsy and every other CAT rider.

The Camarillo City Council needs to reconsider the 220% increase in fares. The mental, emotional and physical well-being of your less affluent Camarillo residents depends on the availability and affordability of this vital service.

Jeanne Howard  
Camarillo

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