

O P I N I O N



Letters to the Editor...

The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is noon Monday.

To the Editor:

Please give a big Sisters "Hi, Hello or Howdy" to eight international college students!

Having lived for 44 years in Central Oregon we are excited for the opportunity to welcome eight international college students to our community through a work and travel program. We believe there are extraordinary benefits of cultural exchange both personally and in our work place.

We were so impressed with each student during their interview and how eager they are to experience the American culture. These students are from Turkey and China and their majors include engineering, law, hospitality and tourism. These are bright young leaders and we want to introduce them to the American culture enabling them to develop positive American experiences that they will take back with them to their home countries.

The students will be working to help pay for their travel and living expenses. While our international students are working in our restaurant there will not be any impact to our

current staff and how many hours they are working. We continue to hire individuals from our community who are willing to work with passion and who are looking for opportunity. We believe in investing in our staff. We have a program called Archways to Opportunity, which offers free college tuition, high school completion programs and various management training programs — all for free! Our teams take care of us and we take care of them.

These students had a choice where to travel and work for the summer and they chose to come to Sisters. When you come into our McDonald's please introduce yourself and give them a big Sisters welcome. Say "Hi," "Howdy" or "Merhaba" ("Hello" in Turkish) or "Huan ying" ("Welcome" in Chinese)!

Nanette and Mick Bittler



To the Editor:

This letter is a response to the guest columnist, Carol Lovegren Miller, writing about

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Rachel Marsden

American Voices

PARIS — Russia is re-viving its military cadet program, Yunarmiya, which will be relaunched across the country later this year. The program's goal is the "growing of a generation of citizens who treat the history with care, who are kind and responsive, ready to build a bright future for themselves and for their country," according to General-colonel Alexander Kolmakov of the Russian Army.

Critics promptly slammed the initiative as proof of Russian militarization. They're missing the point.

Why is anything that smacks of discipline and structure viewed negatively? Why do some people believe that unless kids are frittering away their time in an unstructured manner, they're not properly living their childhood? Kids who grow up without structure end up woefully unprepared for adulthood. Characteristics such as discipline, independence and self-motivation aren't simply bestowed upon people when they reach a certain age. They're learned just like math or history.

But how are kids supposed to acquire these skills nowadays? In constant competition with distractions ranging from video games to reality television to social media, schoolteachers are already challenged to drill the basics into students' heads during limited classroom time, and extracurricular activities are increasingly falling victim to budget cuts. Knowledge alone is fine, but a lot of book-smart people fail to reach their full potential because they haven't learned how to apply themselves.

That's where the Russian youth initiative comes in. Tied to Russia's defense department, Yunarmiya teaches kids skills such as rifle-handling. Naturally, paranoid Russophobes are having hair-trigger visions of a Soviet-style youth army marching in unison.

The Soviet Union may have been Marxist, but these days Russia is leading the fight against cultural Marxism—the Western brand of Marxism that has sabotaged our culture and social fabric with an excessive focus on political correctness

and multiculturalism. The primary symptom of this societal malady is a lack of discipline, structure and standards.

It's fine, for example, to welcome new citizens into a country. But instead of insisting they adopt our values and culture, we have increasingly insisted on adopting the values and cultures of the societies that these newcomers are fleeing. By accommodating every whim, we're diluting what we stand for. By standing for everything, we therefore stand for nothing.

There is a pervasive notion in Western democracies that values and principles are for fascists who hate freedom. If you live in a so-called free country, you've probably been trained to keep your mouth shut when you see some kind of extreme social or cultural weirdness. In America, some people have found a champion in presumptive Republican presidential nominee and 2,000-pound anti-political correctness gorilla Donald Trump.

I visited Moscow recently, and it reminded me of my Canadian hometown (Coquitlam, British Columbia) in the 1980s: pleasant, polite, quiet, respectful. Such places are, sadly, becoming increasingly rare. I now live in Paris, considered one of the most libertine cities in the world. It's a place where personal, sexual, cultural and social morals are all over the map, if they even exist. Ironically, about the only thing that's banned outright — and strictly enforced — is any criticism of non-French cultural practices.

Shared values are the white blood cells of a democracy. Without shared values, cell division spirals out of control and societal cancers metastasize.

What if young people in democratic nations stood shoulder to shoulder with their fellow citizens as cadets, learning respect for their country along with the principles and standards necessary for success in life? "But those kids would be brainwashed by government," some would say. Whatever. It beats having them being brainwashed by leftists or jihadists.

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Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Chance t-storms 75/42	Partly sunny 68/40	Chance showers 60/37	Partly sunny 58/36	Mostly sunny 67/41	Mostly sunny 67/na

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