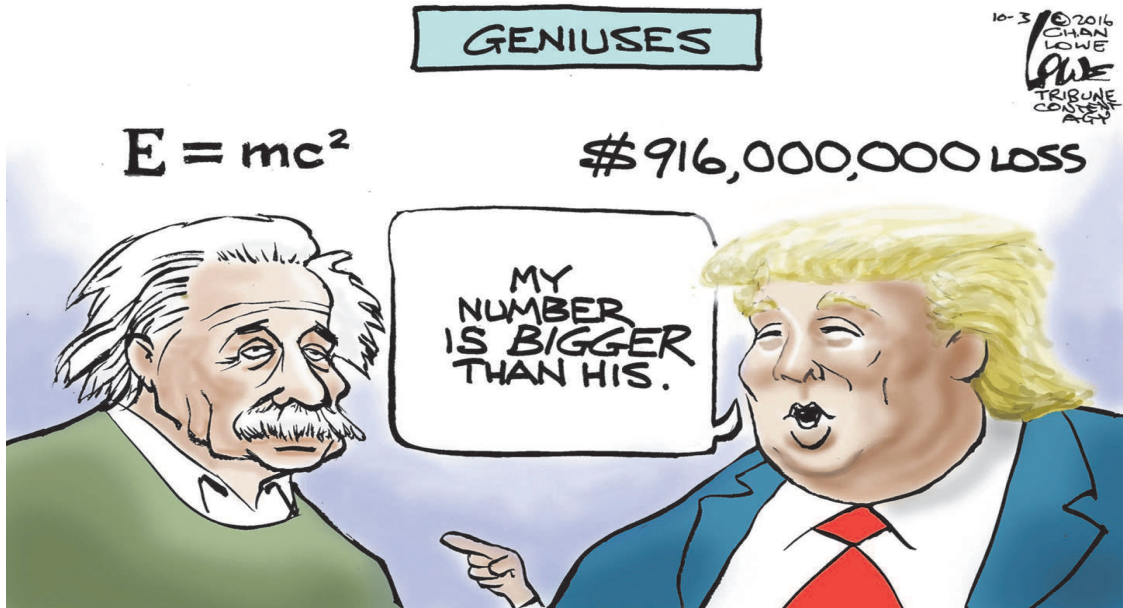


O P I N I O N



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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

Amidst bad news, bad behavior, and just plain meanness comes the story of Josh Erskine and the book he wrote ("co-wrote" as he says), "Inque."

To not only take on the pain of a friend's suicide but to turn it into a force for good is inspirational. I love that he used the project to further his education, honor a friend, and create a fund dedicated to suicide prevention.

The story made me cry and then it made me celebrate. I bought the book on Amazon and a couple to share as well. I am grateful to *The Nugget* for running the story and grateful to Josh for his courage, kindness, and perseverance.

Karly Drake-Lusby



To the Editor:

There is controversy over some NFL players sitting down, locking arms, or raising fists in protest of injustice in America during the National Anthem prior to NFL games.

I am a Vietnam veteran, and spent my career in law enforcement. I am a huge supporter of the 1st and 2nd amendments. My reaction is one of complete anger and disgust towards these self-righteous "children" who

have gained so much on the backs of those who gave everything.

Having spent two tours in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, I've witnessed the horrendous price paid for our freedoms; selfless acts that completely exacerbate the pettiness of contemptuous behavior during the National Anthem. These overpaid prima donnas need to take their protests elsewhere so I, and I'm sure millions of other patriotic Americans, don't have to witness their disgraceful tantrums while I enjoy football.

Good for Jerry Jones, the owner of the Dallas Cowboys, who made it clear to his "employees": show respect or lose your job.

Pat Bowe



To the Editor:

Deschutes County needs Sheriff Nelson.

As longtime residents of Deschutes County, we have seen our community change from what has been described as "an artsy resort community in the high Oregon desert" to what Aspen is to Colorado.

Over 50,000 residents have been added to our population since the 1990s. Bend's

See **LETTERS** on page 28



Robert B. Reich

American Voices

Last week, Congress engaged in a bipartisan barrage of CEO bashing.

The Senate Banking Committee assailed Wells Fargo CEO John Stumpf for pushing employees to create as many as 2 million bogus bank and credit card accounts without customer consent — making customers pay overdraft and late fees on accounts they never knew they had.

Meanwhile, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform criticized Mylan NV CEO Heather Bresch for raising the price of its EpiPen, an emergency allergy treatment, forcing customers to pay \$608 for a two-pack that had cost \$100 in 2009.

Noting that Mylan had sought legislation to increase the number of patients who receive prescriptions for EpiPens, Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., angrily told Bresch: "You get a level of scrutiny and a level of treatment that would ordinarily curl my hair, but you asked for it."

Such shaming before congressional committees tends to reassure the public that Congress is taking action. But, especially with Republicans in charge, Congress is doing nothing to prevent the wrongdoing from recurring.

Can we be clear? CEOs have only one goal in mind: making money. If they can make more money by misleading or price-gouging, they'll continue to do so until it's no longer as profitable.

For years we've watched Congress grill CEOs of Wall Street banks about bank fraud. If it's not Wells Fargo's sham accounts, it's JPMorgan Chase's Jamie Dimon, whose bank failed to report trading losses. (Remember the "London Whale"?) Or it's Goldman Sachs' Lloyd Blankfein, whose firm defrauded investors.

Republicans rage at the CEOs who appear before them, but they haven't given the Justice Department enough funding to pursue criminal charges against corporations and executives who violate the law. They haven't even appropriated enough money for regulatory agencies to police the

market. Funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, for example, is capped at 12 percent of the Federal Reserve's operating expenses. Even now, Republicans are trying to put the CFPB's funding into the appropriations process, where it can be squeezed far more.

Congress has allowed Wall Street banks and pharmaceutical companies to accumulate the sort of vast market power that invites wrongdoing.

Similarly, for years we've watched Congress condemn CEOs of pharmaceutical companies for price-gouging. If not Mylan's Bresch, it's Turing Pharmaceuticals' Martin Shkreli, who jacked up the price of Daraprim — used to treat life-threatening infections — from \$13.50 to \$750 a pill. Or Valeant Pharmaceuticals' Michael Pearson, who quadrupled the price of Syprine, used to treat an inherited disorder that can cause severe liver and nerve damage. Or Amphastar Pharmaceuticals CEO Jack Y. Zhang, who hoisted the price of naloxone, used in cases of heroin overdoses, to more than \$400 a pop.

Yet Congress has not enacted any laws prohibiting such price-gouging. To the contrary, as with the banks, Congress has allowed pharmaceutical companies to accumulate the sort of vast market power that invites wrongdoing.

Mylan and other pharmaceutical companies can engage in price-gouging because they're the only ones producing these lifesaving drugs.

Congress has made it illegal for Americans to shop at foreign pharmacies for cheaper versions of some drugs sold in U.S., and it hasn't appropriated the Food and Drug Administration enough funds to get competing versions of lifesaving drugs to market quickly.

Instead of setting up further rounds of CEO perp walks for the TV cameras, Congress should give the Justice Department and regulatory agencies enough funding to do their jobs.

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Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Showers 54/32	Partly sunny 60/37	Mostly cloudy 64/38	Mostly sunny 69/37	Partly sunny 69/37	Partly sunny 63/na

The Nugget Newspaper, Inc.

Website: www.nuggetnews.com
 442 E. Main Ave., P.O. Box 698, Sisters, Oregon 97759
 Tel: 541-549-9941 | Fax: 541-549-9940 | editor@nuggetnews.com



Member

Postmaster: Send address changes to
 The Nugget Newspaper,
 P.O. Box 698, Sisters, OR 97759.
 Third Class Postage Paid at Sisters, Oregon.

Publisher - Editor: Kiki Dolson
News Editor: Jim Cornelius
Production Manager: Leith Williver
Classifieds & Circulation: Teresa Mahnken
Advertising: Karen Kassy
Graphic Design: Jess Draper
Proofreader: Pete Rathbun
Accounting: Erin Bordonaro

The Nugget is mailed to residents within the Sisters School District; subscriptions are available outside delivery area. Third-class postage: one year, \$45; six months (or less), \$25. First-class postage: one year, \$85; six months, \$55.

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