

O P I N I O N

Early Deadlines for 8-23 issue of The Nugget:

Deadline for display advertising
and events calendar is Thursday,
August 17 at 5 p.m.

Normal deadlines apply for all other items.

Monday, August 21

The Nugget will close
from 9:30 to 11 a.m.
so staff can enjoy the eclipse.



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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

While the article in *The Nugget* of August 9 ("Protect your eyes during solar eclipse," Page 1,) is correct in its text, a headline above the continuation on page 19 is dead wrong and may mislead observers in Sisters to the extent that they will not observe the phenomenon which is the reason for all the interest in this eclipse.

That is the observation of the solar corona, which is only visible to the unaided eye during a total solar eclipse and then only within the band of totality. While the duration of totality varies from none at all about one-half mile south of Cascade Avenue to over one minute on the northern edges of Sisters, most of Sisters has some duration of totality to enjoy.

If the advice shown in this headline "ECLIPSE: Wear glasses for entirety of eclipse in Sisters" is followed local observers

will miss the most exciting and beautiful part of the eclipse.

As soon as none of the sun's surface is visible while viewing through eclipse glasses or other devices, the viewer should remove the glasses and view the eclipse with their naked eyes or binoculars until a bright part of the sun becomes visible after totality. Then any further viewing needs to be done using the glasses or a filter.

Jim Hammond









To the Editor:

My compliment to our Sisters Christian community which brought together an estimated 500 or more parents and children together for worship. The gathering took place

See LETTERS on page 23

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 82/50 	Sunny 84/50 	Sunny 85/50 	Sunny 82/49 	Sunny 83/50 	Sunny 84/na 

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Jonah Goldberg

In 2005, the *Los Angeles Times* hired me as a columnist. That was great news (for me). But the best part was when Barbra Streisand canceled her subscription in protest.

Her real complaint wasn't so much that the *Times* had hired me, but that it had dropped Robert Scheer, an old-style, left-wing writer, in the same editorial shakeup. "The greater Southern California community is one that not only proudly embraces its diversity, but demands it," Streisand wrote in an "open letter" to the newspaper. "Your decision to fire Robert Scheer is a great disservice to the spirit of our community.

"It seems that your new leadership ... is entirely out of touch with your readers and their desire to be exposed to views that stretch them beyond their own paradigms."

Without intending to, Streisand actually managed to synthesize the problem with diversity mania. You see, by bringing me and some other writers aboard, the *Times* did diversify its editorial fare. In theory, Streisand touted the importance of presenting readers with diverse views. But in reality, she wanted to read only views she agreed with. Not only was Scheer a friend of hers, she was his biggest fan. Scheer did not "stretch" her paradigms; he confirmed them.

Moreover, ethnically Scheer and I are almost indistinguishable. We're also both white males. The only meaningful difference between us, besides age, is that I'm a conservative. When Streisand talked about diversity, she meant a diversity of attributes — sex, ethnicity, skin color, etc. — but not viewpoints.

The Streisand episode came to mind while I was watching the ridiculous media feeding frenzy over a memo written by a since-fired Google employee, James Damore, titled "Google's Ideological Echo Chamber." In it, he extolled diversity and praised many of the company's efforts to hire more women. But he argued that many of these efforts were counterproductive and at odds with other forms of diversity.

His real "crime,"

however, was his suggestion that the obsession with hiring more female engineers ran into some structural problems that could not be solved with ever-more-aggressive outreach. Whether for reasons of culture or biology (or both), women are more reluctant than men to pursue degrees in engineering and computer science.

The data are on his side. More than 80 percent of computer science and engineering majors are male, while women receive about 60 percent of biology degrees and 75 percent of psychology degrees.

To listen to the hysterics, this can be explained entirely by the sexist bias of the computer science and engineering fields — and the big corporations that depend on them.

This is nuts. It's absolutely true that women were once blocked from many careers. But since those barriers were lifted, women have flooded into, or even have come to dominate, all manner of fields. Is it really plausible that sexism is the primary, never mind sole, explanation for female underrepresentation in computer science and engineering?

No doubt there are real injustices out there. The demands of motherhood and the culture of Silicon Valley surely pose challenges. But these disparities are nonetheless a sign of great social progress. Women are choosing the careers they want. I don't hear many people bleating about the lack of sexual diversity among trash collectors.

The issue here isn't diversity, but conformity. Everyone must agree with a very narrow dogma about not just sexual equality but the approved ways of enforcing it. At a shareholders meeting in June, Eric Schmidt, chairman of Google parent company Alphabet, said, "The company was founded under the principles of freedom of expression, diversity, inclusiveness and science-based thinking." He also added: "You'll also find that all of the other companies in our industry agree with us."

Exactly: Our gamut is undiluted and our paradigms are made of oak.

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