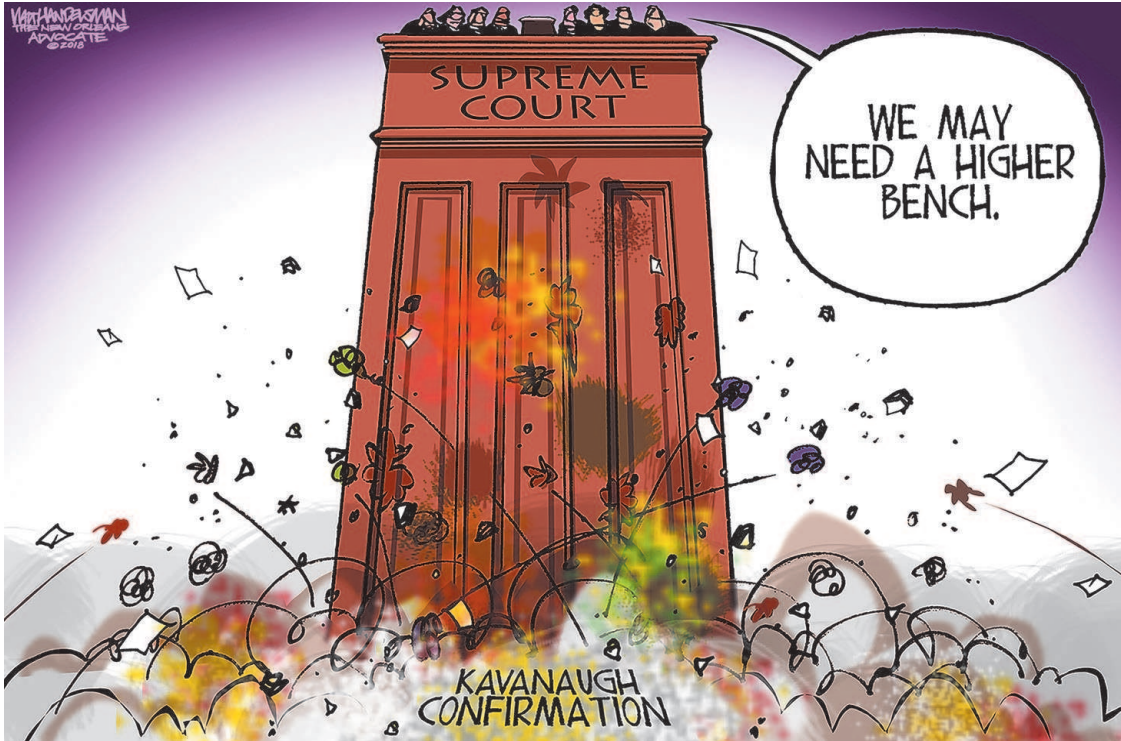


O P I N I O N



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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

My wife and I have been attending the Folk Festival for 15 years. In that time we have become Sisters fans. We have told many friends and relatives of the welcoming and friendly nature of your community. I am writing this letter, not in a way to complain, but in a way to let you know that this year we could feel an underlying change.

From the outside looking in, it felt as though there may be two factions developing. It seems as if there may be a group who would prefer to close the doors to outsiders. My analogy would be that of two parents bickering. They think the children, (visitors,) don't feel the tension. But we can and did.

I'm not writing to support one side or the other. You as a community need to set your own direction. I simply want you to know that, for the first time in fifteen years, we had experiences that left us wondering if we were welcome.

As a 50-year resident of Oregon, I have experienced a lot of growth. It can be difficult. It appears to me, the communities in which the

residents support the events and retailers are far more successful. However, as I said, it's up to you as a community. I think there are two choices. Reduce festivities and retail growth, or support them.

John Doran



To the Editor:

The numbers coming out in the news recently about how many immigrant children are being taken from their parents and put into detention in this, the United States of America, are both alarming and appalling.

It's not just the numbers; not ONE child should be taken.

What have we become in yet again our darkest hour? This is not about border control, this is about humanity, and if we allow this to continue it will define us as a country and a people in the harsh eyes of history.

We all know how sweet and shy and unsure and vulnerable children can be in their

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Jonah Goldberg

Donald Trump has received an enormous amount of criticism for the damage he's done to constitutional and democratic norms. I have been among those critics at times. But few of his transgressions can hold a candle to the mob assault on many of those norms in recent days.

Over and over, elected officials and leading commentators alike have insisted Christine Blasey Ford's allegation that Kavanaugh attempted to drunkenly rape her must be true because other men have done such things. "But really," said Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), "guess who is perpetuating all of these kinds of actions? It's the men in this country. And I just want to say to the men in this country: Just shut up and step up, do the right thing for a change."

Substitute "blacks" for "men" and this demagoguery is instantly recognizable as bigotry.

One of the greatest revolutionary ideas in all of human history is the classically liberal notion that there is no such thing as group rights. For thousands of years, aristocrats had more rights than peasants. When America was founded, whites had more rights than blacks, men had more rights than women, and rich white men had more rights than everybody else. This wasn't always true on paper, but it was overwhelmingly true in the real world.

America has worked — as a matter of law, politics and moral education — to live up to our ideals of individual rights, and we've made enormous progress. These last few days have not only proved how much more work is left to be done, but how easily we can go in the wrong direction when partisan fury drives our politics.

Just as there are no collective rights, there is also no such thing as collective guilt. It is of course true that most rapes are committed by men, but that doesn't mean most men are rapists. Nor does it mean that because some other men committed

rape, a man who didn't is guilty or loses the presumption of innocence. If you cannot understand this bedrock democratic norm, I invite you to review terrorism debates over the last two decades. Just because all jihadi terrorists are Muslims, not all Muslims are jihadi terrorists.

The same basic insight applies to every subcategory of men — white men, black men, privileged men, conservative men, etc. And yet Hirono is not alone in giving voice to this glib and wholesale slander. It's everywhere.

Over and over, opponents of Kavanaugh are arguing that Ford is credible because of the actions of other men. That argument is fine as far as it goes, but it does not go very far. Credible means "believable." It does not mean "true." And yet the argument made a thousand times a day on cable news and social media is that because the charge is (allegedly) believable, it must also be believed.

And while as a man, I do take offense at the presumption of guilt, my true objection has nothing to do with "male pride," since I find the concept fairly ridiculous. The real problem is that these arguments set a torch to many of the best ideals of this country.

Individuals have a right to confront their accuser. They have a right to defend themselves. Accusers have a right to be heard. They do not have a right to be believed absent evidence or to make anonymous charges and then refuse to support them. Partisans cannot prove an individual's guilt by invoking the real or alleged crimes of others. Nor should they insist that even if he's innocent, he should let himself be bullied into surrender for the greater good.

That is not the rule of law; it's not even decency. It's the rule of the mob, and the fact that it is coming from prominent journalists and senators doesn't make it any less repugnant.

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Opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or The Nugget Newspaper.

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 84/48	Sunny 88/45	Mostly Sunny 78/44	Mostly Sunny 75/42	AM Showers 68/42	Mostly Cloudy 65/42

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