

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

Is it possible that the whistleblower is not one person but multiple people such as a co-op? Why is the media, both sides, mandating non-disclosure of the whistleblower's name? Why does Congress, again both sides, refuse to put out his name? Is the anonymity of the op-ed writer also known, but again non-disclosure mandated? Is the op-ed writer also the whistleblower?

We as Americans don't know the answer to any of these questions, but Congress and the media do. But I'll bet if we did know, we'd unite in wanting to know what is going on. I hate it when they say "The Americans need to know" and then we get this BS.

Congress needs to lead this country by example; right now their example is childish and divisive. Americans need to know the truth, we'll get that when the partisan bickering stops and is replaced with compromise and common sense. We as Americans need to "be what happens" rather than waiting to see what happens!

Let your representatives know what you expect from them.

Terry Coultas

To the Editor:

The Halloween Parade for the kiddos and parents in Sisters is an annual event that has grown from 10 elementary-age kids in 1982 to 275-300 today. This does not include the 100-plus parents, many of whom dress up to walk with their children. Each family brings canned goods that Rotary collects and then transports to the Kiwanis Food Bank.

The Sisters Library, under the leadership of Peg Bermel, initiated this event in 1982 and Rotary Club of Sisters took over management and sponsorship in 2008 requiring some 20 volunteers to organize and supervise.

The most recent event was held on a spectacular Indian Summer afternoon. More than 60 retailers, most in costume, took part handing out a cornucopia of fresh and packaged treats to the eager children.

It was disappointing that *The Nugget* provided such little coverage of this important community event. The colorful festivities showcased one of the many joys and benefits of living in Sisters Country. We hope that next year's Parade will be more prominently mentioned.

Steve Auerbach
President Rotary Club of Sisters

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
AM Clouds/PM Sun 43/23	Partly Cloudy 48/27	Partly Cloudy 56/35	AM Showers 46/31	Partly Cloudy 55/40	Partly Cloudy 54/30

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Sign of the times

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

An ad campaign designed to get locals thinking about east-west connectivity in Bend and encourage participation in a transportation survey has run afoul of cancel culture.

The billboard that loomed over the intersection of 9th and Wilson depicted a covered wagon trekking across the high desert, with the tagline: "Traveling East to West still tough?" and a link to the survey.

Because some folks complained the billboard was culturally and historically insensitive, the City of Bend scrambled to replace it.

Sign of the times.

Central Oregon Daily News reported that, "City Manager Eric King acknowledged Tuesday night (alluding) to the western expansion and colonization was a misstep.

"There were (sic) displacement of native peoples and that is real; and that is a mistake on our part to sort of acknowledge that," King said. "So, we are taking that image down."

That's a lot of cultural freight for one covered wagon to haul.

The ever-tightening purity spirals that come with this kind of performative "wokeness" make it difficult to push back. One cannot plead benign intent — intent is irrelevant. If I am offended, you have clearly given offense and the only remedy is to reverse the offending act. Questioning the validity of my interpretation or the suggestion there might be other valid interpretations is itself offensive. Your inability to grasp that a statement is insensitive is prima facie evidence of your insensitivity. Resistance is futile.

When the offended are aroused, there is no opportunity for dialogue; it's acquiesce or face the wrath of the mob. And sometimes even the most lugubrious apology or craven climb-down won't save you.

We have stepped through a looking glass, tumbled down a rabbit hole and landed in a wonderland where the Queen of Hearts constantly shrieks, "Off with their heads!"

Former President Barack Obama recently offered some wise words regarding performative wokeness:

"I do get a sense sometimes now among certain young people, and this is accelerated by social media, that the way of me making change is to be as judgmental as possible about other people and that's enough.

"Like if I tweet or hashtag about how you didn't do something right, or used the wrong verb, then I can sit back and feel pretty good about myself because: 'Man, did you see how woke I was? I called you out.'"

He's right, of course, but he's speaking in his patented calm, measured tones in the midst of a howling hurricane. At the risk of a dangerous insensitivity, one might question whether those who engage in these paroxysms of performative wokeness and feed a voracious cancel culture are really interested in change at all.

One of the citizens who took issue at the billboard told the Bend City Council: "History matters ... When we tell a history that is incomplete, we are lying to ourselves and we are asking others to believe our lies. And it's not City Council, it's not our City Manager, it's not one individual, it's all of us."

We'll set aside the question as to how it might be possible to tell a complete history on a billboard and acknowledge that, yes, history matters. It would be wonderful if our society actually wanted to explore our history in all its glorious complexity and contradiction. The history of America's westward expansion — like frontier history across the globe — is a tale of epic heroism and fortitude AND a tale of duplicity, displacement and tragedy.

This silly incident in Bend moves no one any closer to engaging with that fraught history. Quite the opposite: The fallout from this sort of episode makes people and institutions shy away from even alluding to historical themes for fear of inadvertently giving offense and finding one's head on the Queen of Hearts' chopping block.

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