

LETTERS

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commands the National Guard) had done their jobs responsibly the feds would not be there now.

Bottom line: if you live in a safe neighborhood, thank the police. If you live in a dangerous neighborhood, welcome the police!

Donald Harner



To the Editor:

As a response to Craig Eisenbeis' column about his "adventure" to Cuba and to provide him with a bit of education about the horrific history of the revolution that plunged the Cuban people into their continuing police state existence: Please note that the Cuban people are the victims of this repressive regime, not victims of the USA.

In 1959 within weeks of taking power after an armed revolt against the corrupt dictator Batista, Fidel and Raul Castro, along with the revolution's chief enforcer and murderer Che Guevara, began the summary executions of Cuban business owners, land owners, professors, teachers, bureaucrats, police and military leaders. Che Guevara was made Castro's commander of the La Cabana prison, and the firing squads began. Che was asked by the foreign press about the justifications and legality of the executions by firing squad his answer was "These concepts of trials and legal procedures are unnecessary in a revolution; they are an archaic bourgeois detail. A revolution must become a cold killing machine, motivated by pure hate." Raul Castro said in an AP interview in 1959 that "Executions were about revenge and redress."

The "revolution" led by the Castros and Che was responsible for over 6,000 assassinations in the Oriente Province alone, (remember this next time you see some "woke hip" ignoramus wearing a Che-in-his-beret T-shirt)

Cuba fast became a police state with Soviet assistance and they both began exporting communist revolution and stirring up trouble with Cuba's neighbors, our neighbors, all in America's backyard during the Cold War.

Over 100,000 refugees fled, most landing in Miami, these people had their homes, businesses, farms, investments, cars and property seized by the state, no private property allowed, (unless you are the communist elite).

Craig Eisenbeis, you need to ask one of these thousands of Cuban exile families if they think the "USA is the bully" as you put it. Or ask these victims of the Cuban totalitarians if the U.S. policy towards the Cuban government is "just because they have a different way of life," not a way of life the vast majority of them desire or have chosen.

The Cuban people are trapped in a police state that has provided them nothing but oppression and impoverishment. As to your ridiculous statement about the Cuban healthcare system, even if their system did work, which it does not, the trade-off for the tyranny and poverty the population endures in not even close to worth it. Further propaganda you were fed on your Cuban "adventure," or intentionally pass along in your article, is that there is some benevolence and charitable quid pro quo provided by Cuba in sending their doctors abroad, it is well documented** they are mere slaves of the state and the Cuban government does this as a form of obtaining hard currency for their backward repressive communist economy. Craig maybe your next "adventure" should either be to the library to research the evils of the history of the communist Cuban government or to Miami to speak with some Cuban exiles.

Eric Knirk

**NYT 9/29/17, WSJ 12/25/19, BBC 5/14/19, Reuters 12/12/18, Civil Rights Defender 2/24/20

BUSINESSES: Direct contributions help weather storm

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corner of Cascade Avenue and Pine Street, had to reduce their indoor seating from 14 tables to eight or nine to meet state guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Unlike some other restaurants in town, their potential for outdoor seating is limited – so there's a pretty tight cap on the amount of business they are able to do. During the indoor season, Cork Cellars offers wine tastings and live music, which brings a crowd. Those activities may not be feasible this winter.

"That alone makes me nervous," she said.

Buck said they were encouraged by patrons to give the crowdfunding campaign a try, with Paulina Springs Books' successful effort last spring serving as an example.

"It was hard to ask," Buck said. "But people do want to help."

A Sisters-area man and his wife are conducting a quiet campaign to encourage just such direct assistance.

The local man, who asked not to be identified due to the nature of his effort, has been providing direct cash donations to local restaurants.

"I just couldn't sit by and look at what was happening with COVID and the local

businesses and not do something," he said. "My heart goes out to them (local business owners). They're trying as hard as they can."

Patronizing local businesses and restaurants is obviously important, but the local giver asserts that, in these extraordinary times, the extraordinary step of direct cash donation is necessary.

"You don't normally just give to a restaurant or a clothing store or whoever it is," the man said. "But this is a time when you might have to do that if we want Sisters to be the spunky place that it is."

The giver said that he and his wife chose to donate to restaurants because they feel a particular connection to the dining community here. But he encourages others to choose a business or a type of business and do something similar to help keep Sisters vital.

"All businesses are important," he said. "Pick a few businesses in Sisters that are important to you and help them out."

He believes that if enough local people with the means to do so regularly contribute to businesses of their choice, Sisters can weather the economic storm.

"One of the things that impresses me about Sisters — and I get this from your newspaper — is the community spirit," the man said. "It's a very encouraging thing and it's way more than I would have expected. It warms my heart."

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