

LETTERS

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As a women, I don't think you ever get over the nervousness you get when encountering a man while you are alone in the woods.

While I have volunteered with the Shepherd's House in Bend and interacted with many homeless, I have come to know that, while for the most part some of them are ordinary people going through a hard time, there are others I did not feel comfortable with even in a controlled environment.

I urge you to contact the Sisters Forest Service 541-549-7700 if this concerns you also.

Michelle Baldessari

To the Editor:

I want to talk about false liberty.

False liberty is when a person thinks that their individual *rights* take precedent over the *rights* of everybody else. An example might be smoking cigarettes. Some people thought that they had a right to smoke anywhere they want. It turned out that the *facts* were that second-hand smoke turned out to be just as dangerous as direct smoke. Did smokers realize that it wasn't fair to endanger the server at the bar or the other passengers on the plane with their exhalations and hold off on their habit until they could smoke somewhere better? Some did, but many very vocal and persistent people would refuse claiming that their rights were being infringed on.

We've all seen those people.

The same thing was true about seat belts. Some people felt that it was their *right* to get their head stuffed into the windshield leaving a mess for somebody else to clean up. The same thing was true for wearing motorcycle helmets. Was the *right* to have the wind blowing through your hair more important than the *rights* of the emergency responders to not have to clean up your brains off the highway and for your children to not have a daddy anymore? You could say the same thing about guns but I'm not talking about guns today.

I'm talking about masks.

I promise you that nobody likes dealing with

wearing a mask. Some of us, however, understand that the *facts* say that wearing one lowers the case rate and deaths considerably. That should be good enough for everyone. Instead the mask wearers are called "sheep." Don't forget that sheep are the ones that follow their leader off the cliff, not the ones who take the safe route.

Your *right* to not wear a (God knows) annoying mask is *not* more important than everybody else's *right* to health. That's a *fact*. If all the folks who don't wear masks just hung out together and never went out in public then I think we'd see Darwinism at it's finest. But those of us that are wearing masks are trying to keep everybody else safe because that's what human beings do for each other. The greatest strength of our species and the reason that we dominate on this planet is the fact that we cooperate, otherwise we would still be looking fearfully out of a cave somewhere watching some other species building their first pyramids.

Take care of each other, people.
Bruce Campbell

To the Editor:

This is in response to the Letters to the Editor on December 16 from JK Wells. Although this missive was chock full of lies and conspiracy theory rhetoric (what if this, what if that), I want to focus on the reference involving Johns Hopkins that "U.S. deaths, from all causes, is on track to be average for 2020." The article they reference was published by the John Hopkins student newspaper on November 22 and was not endorsed by the University or Medical Center. In fact, when Johns Hopkins discovered it, they forced the student newspaper to retract the article on November 26 and apologize for spreading misinformation.

They admitted that there has been "almost 300,000 excess deaths due to COVID-19," compared to previous years.

I want to make two points. First, people who spread these lies and conspiracy theories have no common sense. Obviously, any serious person would realize that there is no way you could have zero excess deaths while the pandemic is ravaging

our country and the world. Unless, of course, you believe the pandemic is a hoax and then I submit you have much larger problems than misrepresenting a source such as John Hopkins.

Second, I believe *The Nugget* editorial staff has an obligation to check references involving such a prestigious institution as Johns Hopkins University. The "zero excess deaths" reference shocked me so much that I spent 45 seconds to discover that they had quickly published a retraction and apologized. You certainly could have verified that information before publishing it.

You cannot hide behind your belief that "letters to the editor are the opinions of the writer" as stated by the editor in chief in response to another letter in the same *Nugget*. This reference to Johns Hopkins is not an opinion and is from a source that could be easily verified, which is the bedrock of news-reporting, fact-checking responsibilities.

Jay Juhrend

To the Editor:

It no longer suffices that the education system from university to kindergarten is the domain of the anti-American left and the mainstream media is the propaganda arm of the government party.

It now comes down to the proposed censoring of conversation in our local community. We should now be required to embrace leftist orthodoxy or be brought to heel.

Mr. Mackey, myself, and millions of like-minded Americans should be relegated to a re-education gulag.

Larry Benson

To the Editor:

Well, it's post-election time here in America, and our divisions are more acute than ever.

I'm an American, believe in democracy and the Constitution. So my question to everyone is: Are you an American? If you answered yes, then now you must accept that Joe Biden is the next president,

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