

O P I N I O N

Editorial...

A little grace

Outrage is America’s drug of choice these days. Somebody says something or does something we don’t like, we take a BIG hit of that 150-proof outrage and start mashing the buttons on our social media. Social media is a powerful accelerant and amplifier of the high. Not only can we indulge our own craving for some righteous anger, if we can really get it going, we can share the experience with a whole bunch of other angry, outraged people. It’s a party!

Trouble is, benders are destructive — not just to those on the receiving end of the outrage binge, but also to the perpetrators. You can’t make yourself big by making someone else small. In fact, in humiliating and diminishing others, we diminish ourselves. The remorse hangover from that doesn’t feel too good.

We all screw up sometimes. We say something that comes out wrong; we do the easy wrong thing instead of the hard right thing; we’re impatient when we should be patient. When we blow it, we hope others focus on our good intentions, rather than our words or actions. We hope they recognize that maybe

we were just having a bad moment. We hope for a little grace.

All too often, we’re slow to extend to others the kind of grace we want for ourselves. We assume the worst of them, that they’re acting in bad faith or out of meanness or some other selfish or unsavory motive.

Maybe we need to take a step back and put down that outrage-delivery device and cut each other some slack. People have been under real stress for a long time. Businesses here in Sisters that are trying to recover from COVID-19 restrictions are facing acute staffing shortages that make it hard to serve their customers. Those who are working are trying to do more than they realistically can. The constant threat of wildfire in a deep drought has us all on edge.

It may momentarily feel good to release some of the tension we all carry with a good shot of outrage — but the short-term high isn’t worth the long-term damage. We’ll all be better off if we can offer each other a little grace.

Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

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 10 a.m. Monday.

Critical Race Theory

To the Editor:

My 13-year-old son and I read your article guest column on CRT and had a discussion (“*Critical Race Theory and Sisters schools, The Nugget, June 30, page 1*; “*Don’t be fooled by Critical Race Theory,*” *The Nugget, July 14, page 2*).

He was quite upset after reading and could not understand why Sisters would not include this discussion in their school curriculum. Having lived in Atlanta, Georgia, India, and now Sisters (not to mention visiting 15 countries) he has seen the world as few his age has. Why are we so afraid of having a discussion?

In Atlanta we could see the effect to this day that laws and highway systems — made

100 years previously — were still having on the African-American community.

The reality is Sisters is an overwhelmingly white community which can easily ignore Critical Race Theory. I’m not saying let’s open the doors and embrace it. But, why are we so afraid to let our teachers and children have a discussion about this subject? Maybe we are too afraid of what we would uncover.

Shelby Murray

Going bananas

To the Editor:

I will apologize ahead of time as this letter has

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Smoke and mirrors on Critical Race Theory

By **Susan Cobb**
Guest Columnist

Consider the facts so readily available online via many credible resources. Herein, sharing two of them. From Wikipedia (sans footnotes and links) we learn that “Critical Race Theory” (CRT) is a body of legal scholarship and an academic movement of civil-rights scholars and activists in the United States that seeks to critically examine U.S. law as it intersects with issues of race in the U.S. and to challenge mainstream American liberal approaches to racial justice. CRT examines social, cultural, and legal issues primarily as they relate to race and racism in the U.S.

CRT originated in the mid-1970s in the writings of several American legal scholars, including Derrick Bell, Alan Freeman, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Richard Delgado, Cheryl Harris, Charles R. Lawrence III, Mari Matsuda, and Patricia J. Williams. It emerged as a movement by the 1980s, reworking theories of critical legal studies (CLS) with more focus on race. CRT is grounded in critical theory and draws from thinkers such as Antonio Gramsci, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, and W. E. B. DuBois, as well as the Black Power, Chicano, and radical feminist movements from the 1960s and 1970s.

Thus, one immediately understands, CRT is not being taught or studied in grade, middle, or high school but rather in law schools. It also is not, as some would have you believe, evil.

Here is an excerpt from Britannica on the topic: *In their work Critical Race Theory: An Introduction, first published in 2001, the legal scholars Richard Delgado (one of the founders of CRT) and Jean Stefancic discuss several general propositions that they claim would be accepted by many critical race theorists, despite the considerable variation of belief among members of the movement. These “basic*

tenets” of CRT, according to the authors, include the following claims: 1. Race is socially constructed, not biologically natural. 2. Racism in the United States is normal, not aberrational: it is the common, ordinary experience of most people of color. 3. Owing to what critical race theorists call “interest convergence” or “material determinism,” legal advances (or setbacks) for people of color tend to serve the interests of dominant white groups. Thus, the racial hierarchy that characterizes American society may be unaffected or even reinforced by ostensible improvements in the legal status of oppressed or exploited people. 4. Members of minority groups periodically undergo “differential racialization,” or the attribution to them of varying sets of negative stereotypes, again depending on the needs or interests of whites. 5. According to the thesis of “intersectionality” or “anti-essentialism,” no individual can be adequately identified by membership in a single group. An African American person, for example, may also identify as a woman, a lesbian, a feminist, a Christian, and so on. 6. The “voice of color” thesis holds that people of color are uniquely qualified to speak on behalf of other members of their group (or groups) regarding the forms and effects of racism. This consensus has led to the growth of the “legal storytelling” movement, which argues that the self-expressed views of victims of racism and other forms of oppression provide essential insight into the nature of the legal system.

With just these two authoritative examples, one can readily understand that the hype being promulgated across the USA about CRT is just that. It is a “look over here” effort to distract well-meaning voting parents with scary words like “critical,” “race,” and “theory,” so they won’t otherwise focus on the efforts happening across the USA to reduce nonwhites’ right to vote. Smoke and mirrors folks — don’t get caught up in it.

Views 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

July 28 Wednesday Partly Cloudy 92/60	July 29 Thursday Partly Cloudy 94/64	July 30 Friday Partly Cloudy 96/66	July 31 Saturday Partly Cloudy 95/62	August 1 Sunday Partly Cloudy 90/58	August 2 Monday Partly Cloudy 90/56	August 3 Tuesday Mostly Sunny 87/53
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