

LETTERS

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up with spy novels and action movies to guide our beliefs and thoughts!

So the question is: how does one discern between conspiracy theory and truth? Objective evidence. Obviously, conspiracy mom’s beliefs and fears did not produce evidence of her theory. In fact, she started from her fears and looked for facts that confirmed her fears: a “communist” gathering next door turned out to be a Tupperware party. It’s one thing to accuse someone of being Marxist and another thing completely when they claim to be Marxist.

Several weeks ago I wrote an article on CRT and its influence in the country, especially in the Portland schools. With a 700-word allotment in the guest column *The Nugget* had to edit out the researched websites. One site I did not include because it does not acknowledge genuine challenges people of color experience and I believe is unfairly lopsided, however it does document names and places and activities which are taking place in Portland schools which does not create human flourishing. The author risks being sued for defamation and misrepresentation if false. I’d like to list a couple of references here while you do further research. Thanks for including Conspiracy Theory Mom in the guest column! I appreciate others’ points of view.

Rufo, C. F. (2021, June 13). The child soldiers of Portland. *City Journal*. Retrieved October 7, 2021, from www.city-journal.org/critical-race-theory-portland-public-schools.

Ball, J. (2020, September 23). A short history of black lives matter. *The Real News Network*. Retrieved October 7, 2021, from www.therealnews.com/pcullors0722blacklives.

Wikimedia Foundation. (2021, September 18). Struggle session. *Wikipedia*. Retrieved October 7, 2021, from www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Struggle_session.

Janie Martin

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Houseless solutions

To the Editor:

It may be easy for someone who is decently well off to say, “let’s keep emotions out of this conversation.” Tell that to someone who has been living out of a tent in the freezing cold.

What it really comes down to is how much do people actually care to fix this problem? I’m convinced that most people don’t care enough until

it threatens themselves.

Many hardworking Americans can barely even afford to live in Central Oregon anymore. And it’s not just a problem in this area, this problem is affecting us nationwide.

Many lower class/young people are likely to no longer even be able to afford to live in this area pretty soon. This is a time we desperately need real solutions. We need people to stop thinking the ways they always have and to start thinking outside of the box.

As rent is increased for many of the apartments in this area, typically to \$100 or more per year, how does anyone simply nod their head and think that is OK? It’s not. Many economists find that even when inflation does cool down, that doesn’t mean that rent is going back down.

That has serious implications for millions of people at our current inflation trajectory. Most people I know are barely keeping up with it as it is. Many people I know are resorting to living in vehicles and their car payment is now the new rent. The fact is that the cost of living is literally outpacing the wages of a regular person in America.

One idea that should be strongly considered in the face of this issue is Universal Basic Income (UBI). The idea is that every single American would unconditionally receive a sum of money each month to help form a baseline starting point. Many have suggested \$1,000 a month, other towns in America right now are running trials giving out around \$500 per month. The taxes to fund such a program would be specifically aimed primarily at huge corporate entities making billions — companies like Amazon, Facebook, and Google which are currently using loopholes to get out of paying their fair share.

The findings from UBI trials in other towns are very promising, and it’s been shown to be extremely good for the local economy. Aside from pure economic value, the impact it has on people’s lives is incredible. Just think of how much a financial safety net for society would help people who are currently houseless. That’s a real solution. Cash.

I would encourage the City of Sisters to look into the possibility of being a part of one of these trials. Many of the current trials are donor-funded and they are being used as research to see what the effects of UBI would be on the nation. UBI is a pro-capitalist program that still allows America to function as the capitalist country that it is, but from a more human-centered perspective. Read about it, consider it. It’s an actual solution. ?

Andrew Roe

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Flag etiquette

To the Editor:

While there is diversity in our country and community, there is one thing many US citizens agree, this country was founded on the principles of natural rights that include: the right to property, the right to question the government, and the right to have free and independent thought. The Declaration of Independence was established with consideration to these natural rights. Many who still respect this principle also believe in the United States of America, in its republic, one NATION under God with liberty and justice for all. The United States flag represent these principles, rights. and the people of this great country.

Many including myself are concerned with some issues happening in today’s government and political world. Recently I noticed a local resident flying an American Flag upside down. The United States Flag Code expresses the idea concisely, stating that a flag should never be flown upside-down except under one condition, being in some serious trouble. An upside-down flag is a signal of dire distress, in an instance of extreme danger to life or property.

Perhaps the individual who has chosen to fly the flag upside-down is actually troubled by dire distress facing the economics of the United States, state of this government, climate change of the entire planet? For whatever reason this individual has chosen to express their free speech right, to fly the American flag upside-down for a less obvious issue in this manner is actually reckless and disrespects many aspects of residents at large including the veterans in this community who serve(d) this country.

I hope a true patriot would consider the ramification of claiming dire distress in your community where new neighbors are moving in, others are trying to sell, and prospective buyers see the upside-down flag. This action is insulting to Americans and America. No matter your status in this county; legal or illegal, civilian or veteran, race, gender or creed, you have freedoms and liberties that we all should respect and be thankful for.

As a retired Navy veteran serving my country for 22 years, my flag flies proudly, out of respect for those friends who returned permanently wounded, and those who never made it back. It flies proudly for all who gave up portions of their life so that others could enjoy the freedoms of this country. It is my hope that eventually, everything will be all right.

Additional flag etiquette can be found at www.aflag.com.

Bill Anttila

