

To the Editor May 4, 2020

### **We can all do better**

So here we are now. Mother Nature has put us all in a killer virus timeout.

A timeout that gives us an opportunity to apply science towards a cure for a virus, which may or may not ever be achieved. But also importantly, she has given us time to think about how it is we arrived at this point.

For more than two hundred years, we have abused this planet and wasted her abundant air, water, animal, and plant life resources. We exterminated the indigenous populations who tried to teach us how to live in harmony with nature. We refused to be taught what they had learned over thousands of years, taking only what they needed and respecting the earth. Now Mother Earth is showing us that we are not the dominators of this planet. We will not kill this planet, it is us, our species, who will go extinct, and be killed by it.

Politicians say they want things to go back to normal. But for the majority of the eight billion people on this planet, normal really sucks. The majority of us humans want something better.

- We want a political system that serves the will of the people, not the interests of the rich and powerful.
- We want an economy that is not based on consumer spending and every increasing planet destroying consumption. We do not care about the necessary quarterly increases of profits of investors for parasitic entities like Wall Street.
- We want a society where people care for and look after each other. We can and must cure extreme poverty, disease, and hunger across the entire globe.
- We can end our endless wars if we end our desires for world colonialization.

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are inalienable human rights our founders said. Not just for Americans, but for the entire world.

The majority of our politicians today have become a cult of domestic terrorists who suppress democracy, damage our environment, threaten our existence as a species, neuter our government agencies, incite our worse instincts, divide us, and inflame our reptilian brains with hatred for others. They actively work against our best interests on a daily basis. They do daily damage to our necessary institutions, diminish, and destroy our long evolved ethics, values, and morals. They are the rich and powerful and they think that this makes them inherently smart and always right. Yet, they have no moral boundaries, and are completely disconnected from any conscience they might have once had.

Those who do not believe and understand this are a part of this cult, which denies science and places little or no value on knowledge and wisdom. They instead have their magical beliefs, prejudices, bigotries, and theories. They have all joined a death cult, awaiting the end of days.

Our current rolling tragedy of 66k plus dead from this virus will cause unthinkable, unimaginable, and unpredictable future changes in our current political, social, and economic systems over the course of the next few years and for the decades to come. To put it simply, everything and everyone will change or be changed by this.

We have neglected and abused our minority and impoverished populations. We have poisoned them with tainted water, polluted the air they breathe, offer them little or no health care. These are the very people who are and have been discriminated against in educational and employment opportunities and disadvantaged by our economic, political, social, and judicial systems. But right now, they are dying in record and disproportional numbers, because of their peasant status and injured health. Yet these are the very people we depend on to produce and deliver our food, operate our mass transportation systems, supply our water, and keep our lights on. (And our Netflix working)

This pandemic will be an extinction event for many small businesses, especially minority and women owned businesses. It will turn small town main streets and rural downtowns into ghost towns. The corporations are gobbling up the small business relief money through the loopholes, and the big banks are collecting big fees on these loans, leaving the unbanked majority of actual small businesses out in the cold.

We can use this time to fix these systems, or not. We can use this time to become better humans, or not. We can use this time to help ensure our survival, or not.

I think that we can all do better.

All of our lives now most certainly depend on it.