

TUESDAY
APRIL 7, 2020

Editor
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OPINION

The First Amendment
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A modest proposal

I don't know about you, but I feel pretty good about belonging to the rare state that didn't decree a house arrest for its population. As an immigrant, my strongest attraction to America was its spirit of self-reliance, independence and, yes, a bit of hard-headedness. I like it when I'm trusted as a respected member of a strong community, and not as a subject.

E pluribus unum is the motto of our great nation. In these crazy times, I read it as my responsibility to contribute to the one unit, indivisible under God.

We are under attack by a lethal enemy, mostly invisible. But we have weapons, among which, the most powerful is prevention.

Both laboratory and clinical studies seem to show a direct relationship between the amount of viruses invading us and the gravity of the subsequent disease we develop. Any barrier to the inflow of viruses protects us from the worst of outcomes.

Even more intriguing, exposure to a limited viral load not only triggers a milder form of disease, but may be significant enough to trigger an immune response, which is the production of antibodies, our bodies' soldiers fighting back the infection.

In a way, a low-grade infection awakens a sleeping giant inside us. This newly aroused army will likely protect us from future attacks, as these soldiers are extremely skilled in defeating that particular enemy.

Our Great State of Arkansas decided to make a stand. We are required to be the foot

soldiers that will follow the rules. They are simple, and no more than a minor inconvenience. We will wear protective barriers (soft cotton masks – no limitation on designs that will express your true self) and spread sanitizers on our hands every time we move from one location to another – in and out of our cars, places of business, etc. Make sure our basic needs providers including offices, grocery stores staff (I'm looking at you-K) set an example by wearing masks and gloves and carry a personal sanitizer kit, and encourage their clients to follow their lead, both when entering and leaving the establishment.

You may look dorky, and your kids may laugh at you. It's your job to tell them why you are a hero. Because we all know you'll do just fine, but you cannot guarantee the safety of that close friend, or family member who may not be as strong as you are.

In the end, you and your dear ones may be just fine. But maybe it will be so because someone you'll never know decided to do the right thing, wear a mask, rub some sanitizer and protect you and yours, when you didn't.

All I'm saying is don't try to make our medical community show you how awesome they are when they'll bail you out.

Cut up a mask, have sanitizers on you, frequently spray your mask with alcohol and create a transition area at home to rid of your outer layers, to be washed daily.

Do the right thing and be a protector.
God Bless.

Calin Savu, M.D.
Jonesboro

Dangerous precedent

The various commissions, boards, courts, committees and councils that govern the city and county are in the process of setting a dangerous precedent for conducting their business that will disenfranchise the citizens of Jonesboro and Craighead County.

Because of the coronavirus restrictions, no citizens are currently allowed to attend the meetings of these various governing bodies. However, a decision has been made that business will continue as always but without any public input on the issues at hand.

The constituency is being asked to present written comments at a specific time before a meeting takes place and will be able to follow the proceedings live via Facebook or the Zoom App.

Such procedure is not acceptable. Until now all meetings have been open to all citizens to express either orally or by their mere presence their acceptance or rejection of a project that is before the members of the various boards for their approval or rejection. A large physical presence of proponents or opponents of an issue can be quite persuasive in determining the outcome.

Therefore, I am asking that all issues of zoning and other major decisions that affect the populace of Jonesboro and Craighead County be tabled by all governing bodies until this crisis has passed and business has returned to normal.

Scott Darwin
Jonesboro