



Dangerous to listen to those who are ignorant of facts

Posted: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored." – Aldous Huxley

There seems to be a growing belief in our society that everybody's opinions are pretty much equal; i.e., uninformed, ignorant viewpoints are as valid as informed, enlightened perspectives.

I am not talking politics here. Our respect for, and pursuit of, the truth has been on a downward spiral for at least the last 50 years. The current situation is simply a predictable manifestation of that trend.

Many Americans have lost the desire, as well as the patience needed, to make sense of an increasingly complex world. If an idea cannot be fully captured in a succinct sound bite or a memorable catch phrase, they either become suspicious or simply lose interest.

This unhealthy inclination is symptomatic of a larger anti-intellectual shift within our culture – one rooted in a fundamental and pervasive mistrust of almost everything.

Access to virtually unlimited information via the internet has created the illusion that anyone can – with minimal time and effort – understand as much about highly specialized and multifaceted subjects as those who have studied them their entire lives.

Not only is this sheer nonsense; it is dangerous and threatens our very existence.

News flash: Some people know more than others. We need to stop listening to those who obviously don't know what they are talking about and, more importantly, we need to keep them out of leadership roles.

The problems that lie ahead for this country are immense. They are not going to be solved with naïve homespun wisdom and a barrage of simplistic clichés. My grandad was smart, but he was grossly ill-equipped to navigate the intricate world in which we find ourselves today.

"Wise people understand the need to consult experts; only fools are confident they know everything." – Ken Poirot

Aaron W. Hughey
Bowling Green

www.bgdailynews.com