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February 4, 2022

Editor

Rivereast News Bulletin

P.O. Box 73

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To The Editor:

Jon Turban correctly diagnoses racist undertones in recent letters, but his cure is worse than the disease. "Giving someone a platform to expose openly racist language [...] has no place in society." No. The marketplace of ideas is central to a free society. Even morons spouting drivel must be tolerated. In dialog and mutual critique we discover truth.

How does this apply to Ed Kozlowski's latest bogeyman, Neil Young? Isn't his Spotify ultimatum– Joe Rogan or Young– an unacceptable deplatforming? Well no. When Twitter suspended Trump's account for violating its terms, fans quit Twitter in protest. They were perfectly justified. The same holds for Neil Young. If a platform offends you, whether by suspending your hero's access or by hosting Covid misinformation promoters, then you can withhold your approval, your attention, or your music catalog. It doesn't repudiate the marketplace of ideas; it's how that marketplace functions. Personally, I'm with Jill Filipovic, who said Spotify "should draw the line at dangerous life-threatening conspiracy theories."

Mr. Kozlowski's remaining letter is a monstrous waste. First he paints the Reaganite Neil Young as a hero of Progressivism, then bashes Young for an old homophobic statement, and parrots bits of a ridiculous conspiracy theory involving Young selling music rights to Hipgnosis (great name!), Blackstone's later investment, their hiring a former Pfizer executive, suppression of anti-vaxx information, and, likely, Elvis and space aliens. Such idiocy is increasingly the enterprise of the right.

...I just read Jonathan Rauch's \*The Constitution of Knowledge\*, which discusses how we determine truth: in science, in economics, in politics. He breaks little new ground, but it's a wonderful synthesis of ideas from Hobbes to Locke and Madison, to Trumpian disinformation and modern cancel culture. The marketplace of ideas is a central concern. I highly recommend it.

Sincerely,

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