

Improve buses Have you ever seen a city bus more than half full? Even during peak times the buses are not close to full, at least in south Tulsa. Often they have exactly no riders aboard. I suggest investing in smaller, shorter buses as I have seen in other cities. Far less initial investment, cheaper insurance, better fuel mileage, less wear and tear on the pavement, and they take up a lot less room on our narrow streets. Attracting more ridership would require protection at the bus stops from the rain, sun and wind. When it rains, those waiting next to the streets get splashed by passing vehicles. Perhaps an accurate, posted schedule at each stop would help riders plan their trips and would encourage those driving cars to take public transportation. A ride to the airport from midtown takes two hours and requires a bus transfer. Why not have express shuttles from designated pick-up points in town. It works very well in New York City. Lynn Frame,

Tulsa Plan needed Disappointed the Clean Power Plan is being repealed? Concerned about the future of Earth with Scott Pruitt heading the EPA? I am. Congress needs to come up with an effective replacement policy to reduce fossil fuel emissions now. Citizensâ€™™ Climate Lobby, a grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, has a solution in its Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal. The Climate Leadership Council released a similar plan earlier this year, authored by James Baker and George Shultz, called the Conservative Case for a Carbon Fee and Dividend. Both plans call for a gradual, predictable increasing fee on equivalent carbon dioxide emissions collected at the point where the fossil fuels enter our economy. Both plans are revenue neutral, meaning 100 percent of the carbon fees collected is returned to American households as an equal monthly dividend check. Both plans include border adjustments for goods entering the U.S. from countries without a comparable carbon price. America needs to lead in adopting a market-based solution that encourages businesses and individuals to be innovative and think more critically about how they produce and use energy. If Congress can pass a plan similar to Carbon Fee and Dividend, we will not

need the Clean Power Plan or other EPA over-regulation to reduce our fossil fuels emissions. Would you support a plan that trusted economic modeling predicts not only to reduce human-produced emissions but to grow our economy? I would, and so should our elected representatives. Leah Sutton, Tulsa Editorâ€™s note: Sutton is group leader of the Citizensâ€™ Climate Lobby, Tulsa chapter. Poor protest As a member of the poor residing in Oklahoma, I think a protest at the state Capitol might be more helpful than all the rhetoric we can spew. We do appreciate the kind words and monetary support, especially for our children. But the legislators want to believe that the charitable institutions established by generous donors will be enough to take care of us. Legislators certainly do not want to spend state money for health care or child care or for the mentally ill and the elderly. Let us show the members of the Legislature our faces. Are there wealthy Oklahomans who would volunteer to fund the poor to demonstrate at the state Capitol? Are there clerical leaders in the more wealthy religions who can find the funds to help pay for buses and maybe some food and water so the poor all over the state might be transported to the protest? We are invisible. We are not the scammers or the welfare or lazy Social Security abusers or Medicaid receivers. They need to know that we are real and not just some butt of a bad joke on Facebook. We are your grandparents, your parents, your children and your grandchildren. They need to see us. Who will help? Cathy J. Hunter, Broken Arrow Ignore no-tax pledge I donâ€™t believe I am the only one who is disgusted with the failure of the Legislature to solve the recurring state budget hole, the effects of which are well known. How much of this problem is the result of the governor and a number of legislators who are more bound to their promise of no taxes to Grover Norquist than to their oath of office? Regardless of their campaign rhetoric, I believe their constituents would accept a fair tax program that properly funds the state

and eliminates the many special interest loopholes and exemptions. Perhaps the proposed two-year prohibition against employment by lobbying firms ought to be for life. O.A. Cantrell, Tulsa â€˜Trickle-downâ€™ myth History shows that tax cuts that benefit mostly the wealthy, known as â€˜trickle-down economicsâ€™ and disguised as â€˜tax reform,â€™ just donâ€™t work. The President George W. Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 will be responsible for 40 percent of the national debt by 2019, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Oklahoma has done it with gross production taxes, and we are in a financial crisis with an education system in shambles. Now President Trump and the Republicans want to do it again. The argument for a large corporate tax cut is that employees, not shareholders, will get â€˜70 percentâ€™ of the economic benefit. Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin said that â€˜most economists believe that more than 70 percent of corporate taxes are paid by the workers,â€™ presumably in decreased wages and employment. But a 2012 internal study by the Treasury Department found that only 18 percent of a corporate tax break would benefit employees and that shareholders would receive 82 percent of the benefits. Itâ€™s no surprise that Mnuchin recently pulled that study from the website. And even Reagan administration studies have shown that our economy grows faster following a tax increase than a tax cut. The Republican strategy apparently is to hide the legislation, making it impossible for the bipartisan Joint Committee on Taxation to tell us whoâ€™s going to benefit. But is there really any serious doubt as to which class will get the better deal? Bob Pezold, Tulsa Donâ€™t worship symbols Since mankind emerged from the hunting stage to the agricultural age of living in communities, patriotism has been sometimes both the strength and the scourge of civilizations. Although most wars are fought over the bounty of the Earth, patriotism is the driving force that sustains wars. In ancient Athens, Sparta and Rome, the people celebrated their victories with patriotic fervor, which kept wars going. With the decline of the Roman Empire, nations began to form in Europe and in North and South America, patriotism began to

show its destructive power. In the American Civil War, men fought mostly for patriotic feelings of loyalty to their own states. In Germany, patriotism reached its highest peak under Hitler and Nazism when so-called undesirables were marked for extermination because they were deemed unfit. In the U.S. today, individuals are being ridiculed because they do not honor the symbols of American patriotism. How ridiculous. The prophet Amos would say that the true patriots are those who fight for justice for the weakest in society.

To those who spew ridicule, Plato and Jesus said people do evil because they know not what they do. As a veteran who served in Korea, I like what Clarence Jordan (a Southern Baptist pastor whose life's work inspired Habitat for Humanity) preached during the middle of the last century. His message was to practice love for all humanity. Don Bradfield, Sand Springs Build it Former Oklahoma politicians implored legislators not to raise taxes to fix the current budget problems but to grow the economy, instead. I have played the game Sim City, and it taught me an important lesson: "Build it, and they will come." In the game you have to have good infrastructure, schools and public safety in order to have people move into your city. Without that, people will not want to move to your city. Other than exploiting natural resources, such as agriculture, mining and drilling for oil and natural gas, companies look to other factors when considering whether to create or move a business. Good infrastructure, schools and public safety are all considerations. If you want to grow the economy beyond natural resource extraction and its supporting businesses, you have to create a great environment, and that involves government working with private businesses to create a welcoming environment. Right now, the leaders in government are doing the exact opposite. Time and time again, communities pass bond issues to support capital improvements to schools when state government is doing everything to thwart those efforts by making it unattractive to prospective and current teachers. The same holds true to infrastructure and public safety. When you meet to discuss how to grow the economy, remember: "Build it, and

they will come.â€• Morgan Bell, Broken Arrow No disrespect As a veteran, I am very distressed with the attitude of those who feel that they are entitled to their constitutional right to dishonor the flag and national anthem. There are two quotes that guide my thinking on the subject: â€œFreedom isnâ€™t freeâ€• and â€œAll gave some, and some gave all.â€• I am not a combat veteran; however, I have seen the price that some of my fellow veterans have paid. I was in charge of a squad that assisted in the transfer and loading of returning wounded at our medical facilities at Fort Sam Houston. The first hospital aircraft was loaded with patients who had been shot. Some had lost their sight or arms and legs. The second was loaded with burn victims. I will never forget the agony and pain that I saw or the price that my fellow Americans paid for my freedom. Understand that I believe in and support our constitutional rights, but not at the disrespect of my national anthem or my flag. The next time someone feels the need to sit or kneel during the honoring of our national symbols, they ought to go to a local veterans home or hospital and kneel before one of the patients and ask him or her how they feel about the honor that we all should pay to our nation. They have paid the price. Their respect ought to be earned. William P. Neely, Owasso New weapon America is at its finest when threatened by an outside adversary. Numerous times over the past couple of centuries we have rallied our resources and banded together in unity and purpose. When danger lurks, we set aside our differences and focus on the essential business of maintaining the framework and the integrity of a way of life that bestows a remarkable range of freedoms and protections to our citizens. Now we find ourselves under attack by a new form of weaponry. It is powerful. It is effective. It masks its true identity and lives within our borders with the sole intent of sowing divisive social discord. It exploits and exaggerates any talking point that has

the potential to set groups of people against one another and drive them apart.

Many of the communications inserted into our daily lives are out-and-out falsehoods designed to create issues where none exists. We are very much in serious jeopardy if we continue to believe everything that shows up on our computer screens and phones. So, how do we determine truth from words of manipulation? First, believe nothing that elicits an emotional response from you if it plays to your personal values and creates an us-versus-them situation. If it does, you're being played. The Golden Rule says: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." • Filter what you hear and see through that rule, and the truth will make itself known. Bob Warterfield, Tulsa, OK, Subscribe to Daily Headlines Sign up! * I understand and agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its user agreement and privacy policy.