

**O P I N I O N**



**Letters to the Editor...**

*The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is noon Monday.*

To the Editor:

The "off-leash" dog story, October 21, prompted me to respond. Recently, a friend and I enjoyed the Harvest Faire, walking up and down, viewing the many excellent exhibits. That is, until two canines, leashed, began a not-so-friendly barking, snarling session with one another. Then, along comes a gentleman parading, again leashed, three greyhounds. And so on...

This begs the question: Why do people have to bring their dogs with them to attend events, walk the streets, shop in the stores, and in general be in places where only people should be?

Another hazard, my friend was nearly tripped when one dog owner had to maneuver the dog leash around a second leash. If dogs were left at home, gnawing a bone or sleeping,

downtown shopping and events would be much more enjoyable.

Oh yes, I've owned many dogs in my lifetime.

Duane C. Anderson  
Tualatin, Oregon



To the Editor:

Ten years in the making! Finally! Our hopes for affordable housing for Sisters residents — 100 new homes!!!

So, within two we will have eight new affordable houses; 25 total, to include townhouses and cottages listed in the high \$200,000.

See **LETTERS** on page 20

**Sisters Weather Forecast**

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Rain 53/34	Chance showers 57/31	Chance showers 56/38	Partly sunny 60/35	Showers 48/30	Mostly cloudy 45/na

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**Robert B. Reich**

**American Voices**

Among the current crop of candidates for president of the United States, who exhibit their leadership?

Leadership isn't just the ability to attract followers. Otherwise some of the worst tyrants in history would be considered great leaders. They weren't leaders; they were demagogues.

A leader brings out the best in his followers. A demagogue brings out the worst.

Leaders inspire tolerance. Demagogues incite hate.

Leaders empower the powerless; they give them voice and respect. Demagogues scapegoat the powerless; they use scapegoating as a means to fortify their power.

Leaders calm peoples' irrational fears. Demagogues exploit them.

My list of great American leaders would include Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Frances Perkins and Martin Luther King Jr.

In his second inaugural address near the end of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln urged his followers to act "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

In his first inaugural at the depths of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt told Americans "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself — nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts."

In 1963, as African-Americans demanded their civil rights, Martin Luther King Jr. urged his followers "not to seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred."

My list of American demagogues would include Sen. "Pitchfork" Benjamin Tillman of South Carolina who supported lynch mobs in the 1890s; Father Charles Coughlin whose anti-Semitic radio rants in the 1930s praised Nazi Germany; Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin who conducted the communist witch hunts of the 1950s; and Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace the staunch defender of segregation.

These men inspired the worst in their followers. They scapegoated the weak and set Americans against each other. They used fear to stoke hate and entrench their power.

Back to the current crop of presidential candidates: Who are the leaders, and who

are the demagogues?

The leaders have sought to build bridges with those holding different views.

Rand Paul spoke at the University of California, Berkeley, for example, seeking common ground with the university's mostly progressive students.

Bernie Sanders traveled to Liberty University, where most students and faculty disagree with his positions on gay marriage and abortion. "I came here today," he said, "because I believe from the bottom of my heart that it is vitally important for those of us who hold different views to be able to engage in a civil discourse."

Other candidates, by contrast, have fueled division. Ben Carson has argued that Muslims should not be allowed to become president.

Donald Trump has charged that Mexican immigrants are "bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

After one of his followers charged at a New Hampshire town hall event that Muslims "have training camps growing where they want to kill us," and asked Trump "when can we get rid of them?" Trump didn't demur. He said, "A lot of people are saying that," and, "We're going to be looking at that."

Nor has Trump inspired the best in his followers.

At one recent rally, after Trump denigrated undocumented workers, his supporters reportedly shoved and spit on immigrant activists who had shown up to protest. At other Trump rallies, his followers have shouted at Latino U.S. citizens to "go home" and yelled "if it ain't white, it ain't right."

Trump followers have reportedly told immigrant activists to "clean my hotel room, bitch."

America is the only democracy in the world where anyone can declare himself or herself a candidate for the presidency — and, armed with enough money, possibly even win.

Which makes it all the more important that we distinguish leaders from demagogues.

The former ennoble our society. The latter degrade and endanger it — even if they lose.

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*Opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or The Nugget Newspaper.*