

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

With the latest controversy from City Hall it appears that Mr. Transparency, A.K.A. Ex-Mayor Brad Boyd, has once again slid in under the radar.

It certainly appears to me that he took advantage of his relationship with Eric Porter, the City of Sisters senior planner, by having Mr. Porter not submit the request to the planning commission.

Mr. Porter was quoted in the December 23 issue of the *Nugget Newspaper* in an article by Jim Cornelius: "We collectively (the community development department staff) didn't feel it would be controversial." Really?

Has Mr. Porter and the staff been oblivious to the outcry over the proposal that went on for many months on Cascade regarding food carts? It certainly appears that the good old boy interests and connections are still alive and well in Sisters.

Grady Brown

Editor's note: According to City records, Brad Boyd's application was not the only one that was not referred to the planning commission. There were 12 Type II decisions made in 2014. Of these, only two were forwarded on to the planning commission; one was called up for review by the planning commission. See story, page 1.

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 42/26	Slt. chance rain 47/31	Partly sunny 49/35	Partly sunny 52/36	Partly sunny 54/36	Mostly sunny 52/na

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Rachel Marsden

American Voices

As a member of the French media, and as a French resident and immigrant, the terrorist attack in Paris targeting the French satirical publication Charlie Hebdo hit home literally and figuratively. Hopefully the political climate in the aftermath of the deadly attack can be leveraged to enact change on several fronts — change that, up until now, has been resisted.

France has a cultural problem: one of entitlement. In some cases, it simply leads to whining; in others, to jihad. The prevalence of various ethnic subsets within the French population is a matter of ongoing debate, with increasingly extremist voices perceiving this multiculturalism as a problem spiraling out of control. What's being viewed as an ethnic problem is really, at its core, an entitlement problem.

Should the makeup of France be controlled by more selective immigration? Yes, and by basing immigration on merit, regardless of ethnicity.

France has long fostered a policy of disproportionate mass immigration from terrorism-plagued, French-speaking African countries (called the "Francafrique" sphere) in exchange for economic and diplomatic cooperation. France is also able to use the militaries of these African nations as proxies, as we're currently seeing with the French counterterrorism initiative Operation Barkhane in Mali and four other African nations, for example. Enough foreign aid is flowing into these countries from France that their citizens shouldn't be exempt from demonstrating a basic level of actual achievement before being considered for integration into French society. Right now, it's enough to just be related to someone.

Islamic terrorists living in Europe tend to fall into two categories: rich entitled trust funders, or hoodlums with a sense of entitlement. Merit-based immigration would exclude both. I say this as someone who was mugged four years ago in the Paris subway by two punks who felt entitled to relieve me of my iPhone.

Many of these kids from

well-to-do families (like some of the 9/11 hijackers, for example, and the communist guerrillas from a previous era) and these thugs without jobs are essentially bored, and so they often seek trouble. They're bored enough, in some cases, to start fantasizing about ways in which they could commit spectacular suicide-by-SWAT in a shortcut to infamy. To some of them, going out in a blaze of self-perceived glory is a more attractive option than putting in the time, effort and hard work to make their lives meaningful.

It's worth noting that the brothers who perpetrated the Charlie Hebdo attack were not immigrants. Their entitlement was homegrown. They were bored, entitled hoodlums who happened to identify with a French subculture that co-opts elements of radical Islam, rap music and the bastardization of the French language to foster an identity. Many end up in prison, where they're further fueled by like-minded radical Islamists. Their vacation plans take them to jihadist tourism destinations.

Meanwhile, French leftists are quick to shout down, marginalize, fire or prosecute anyone who might infringe on the self-esteem of these thugs. At least French intelligence services aren't handicapped by the "civil liberties vs. security" debate that exists in America. Otherwise, the situation would be far worse.

How to remedy the problem? Start with the relentless official denunciation of any kind of thuggish or jihadist behavior, and the full public support of anyone who speaks out against it, however awkwardly. There can be no equivalence between denouncing jihadism and speaking out in support of it. The idea that any democracy must entertain calls for jihad under the guise of free speech is absurd. Don't like it? Then move to a country more aligned with your jihadist values.

I am Charlie. And hopefully the Charlie Hebdo attack inspires the French leftists currently in power to enact some real reforms.

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