

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

In view of the letters on the roundabout I think certain observations are necessary.

From a letter April 15 by Steve Allely:

"...if a roundabout is installed I can guarantee some unaware trucker is going to plow straight through in the middle of some dark night..." You guarantee? Truckers would be that careless?

In the same letter "I don't know of any trucker or hauler who thinks this is a good idea." To make this statement objective, one would have to give the names of the truckers as well as the type of rig they are driving (large pickups are not long-haul trucks).

From a letter of April 15 by Thomas Pryor:

"In New Jersey... Even a few decades ago these circles were being decommissioned or modified because of the high rate of accidents." This statement should be provided with verifiable references. Same letter, "looking at Bend's roundabouts on the more heavily used intersections, it is apparent that they are failing and creating long lines during busy times."

Do you have objective information comparing some roundabouts with some of Bend's signal intersections?

From a letter from Donna Holland on April 22:

"A roundabout will destroy the ambience and quaintness of Sisters." That is opinion and will be hard to ascertain since the event has not occurred. "I presented my personal survey to ODOT and City officials of 52 businesses I interviewed during the first week in April..." Good for you at least that was an attempt to quantify your opinion. If one is making such a survey, one should reveal the structure of the questions on the survey. Many times surveys are not valid just because of that reason.

From a letter of April 22 by E. Paul Janssen:

"...the incidence of close calls at the Highway 20 and Barclay Road intersection seemed to me to be less with the temporary traffic lights in place." That is certainly true but it does not address what the safety of the

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Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Mostly sunny 59/29	Sunny 67/033	Mostly sunny 67/35	Mostly sunny 64/31	Mostly sunny 70/32	Mostly sunny 66/na

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Rachel Marsden

American Voices

PARIS — As U.S. political focus turns to declarations of presidential candidacies, there needs to be a deliberate effort to avoid a repeat of the "Obama adventure."

Remember how Obama was supposed to be some kind of benign political homemaker who, unlike his predecessor, George W. Bush, was going to wrap up overseas military engagements, bring the troops home and focus on tidying up the house? The so-called "domestic" president instead ended up being dragged into the international arena, armed with little more than his preemptive Nobel Peace Prize, and now faces the distinct possibility of ending his tenure with the Middle East afire and the Cold War revived.

Presidential primary season usually means that both Democratic and Republican bases start evaluating their candidates against a wish list of largely social values. Given the current global climate, that's like arguing over wallpaper while a bulldozer is revving up outside to demolish the entire house. America's domestic security — both military and economic — is totally dependent on its president's understanding of the endlessly shifting global puzzle, the effects of which trickle down to impact every American's checkbook.

Take the recent example of the Iranian nuclear negotiations, which U.S. President Barack Obama seems to think he's leading, based on White House statements. It's a bit like watching a child "pulling" on the handrail of an escalator, thinking that he's moving all the people up to the top.

Russia has just leveraged the pending detente between Iran and the P5+1, agreeing to ship Iran an \$800 million S-300 defensive missile system, whose delivery had previously been cancelled due to Western sanctions pressure. Russia also has been negotiating an arrangement with Iran for the sale of Russian goods to the Iranian market, compensating for the hit that Russia would take from

post-sanctions Iranian oil coming to the global market and potentially cutting into Russia's market share.

A true statesman would read the tea leaves beyond the Iranian nuclear deal and pinpoint Turkey as the next economic and political battlefield. Here's why that matters.

America and Europe are no doubt counting on establishing an economic foothold (that could translate to political influence) via Iran's participation as a gas supplier to the Trans-Anatolian gas pipeline, set for 2018 completion. The pipeline would supply gas to Europe via Turkey. Except that this would cut into Russia's gas exports to Europe. So Russia is pushing back with the new Turkish Stream pipeline, running into Turkey and Greece.

If you're keeping score at home, this means that if all goes as planned, Russia may cede leverage in Ukraine by opting for gas transit to Europe via Greece instead of the traditional Ukraine route. But Russia would gain market share and influence in Europe as a result of the pivot. Turkey gets asked to the prom by two different pipelines — one controlled by Russia and the other by the West — and feels torn, so it cries on the phone while the offers ramp up. And Iran ends up getting seduced for its gas supply by the West's new pipeline initiative, all while fully understanding that Russia has long remained its only friend in everything from diplomacy to nuclear knowhow.

The outcome of this maneuvering will determine how much America spends or saves — which in turn will impact the economic situation at home.

How many of the U.S. presidential candidates actually understand these critical issues? It's like the computer strategy game "Empire: Total War" on steroids. Meanwhile, the presidential candidates are busy playing "Hungry Hungry Hippos."

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