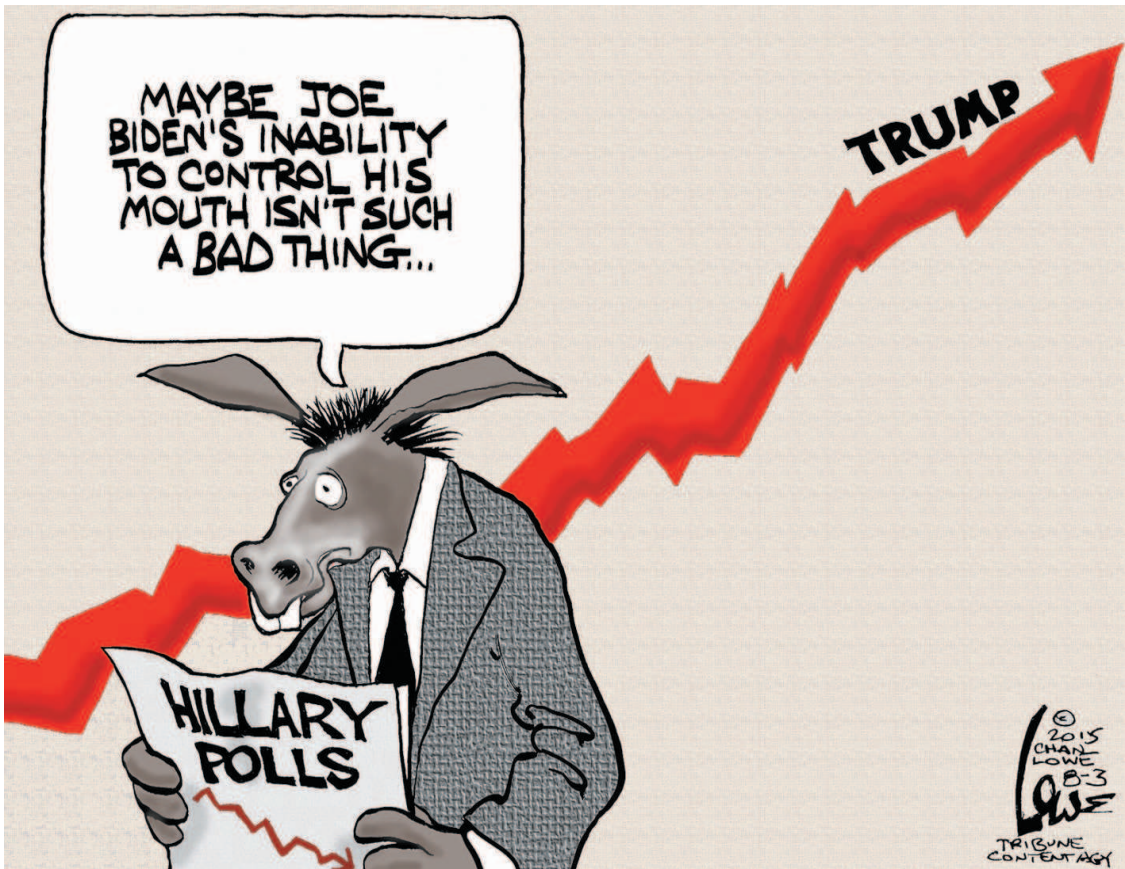


O P I N I O N



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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

I think Hayden Homes should live up to building the high-density housing they promised to build when they started their development.

Sisters needs housing affordable to families with young children if we want to keep our schools open. What do we see as the future of Sisters? A retirement community where everyone who works here has to live in Redmond, or a vibrant mixed-age community with children?

Bruce Berryhill

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

I finally have to write a letter about bike trails.

I have been very disappointed in our community response to this issue. Communities affected like Tollgate and Black Butte Ranch were asked to take a poll vote on the idea of a trail. It passed by a substantial majority, which seems to count for nothing due to the vociferous comments by those opposed for various reasons.

The comment that the voting participation did not represent many of the people doesn't fly. If you don't participate (or read what is going on) then it can be assumed that you don't care. Excellent work was done to mitigate the problems expressed about the trail being too close to Tollgate properties. It seems that voting on the issue doesn't count as much as complaining about it.

See **LETTERS** on page 22

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 79/40	Sunny 81/45	Mostly sunny 84/49	Partly sunny 78/48	Partly sunny 78/48	Mostly sunny 77/na

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Robert B. Reich

American Voices

“He can’t possibly win the nomination,” is the phrase heard most often when Washington insiders mention either Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders.

Yet as enthusiasm for the bombastic billionaire and the socialist senior continues to build within each party, the political establishment is mystified.

Political insiders don’t see that the biggest political phenomenon in America today is a revolt against the “ruling class” of insiders who have dominated Washington for more than three decades.

What’s new is the degree of anger now focused on those who have had power over our economic and political system since the start of the 1980s. Included are presidents and congressional leaders from both parties, along with their retinues of policy advisors, political strategists and spin doctors.

The other half of the ruling class comprises the corporate executives, Wall Street chiefs and multimillionaires who have assisted and enabled these political leaders — and for whom the politicians have provided political favors in return.

America has long had a ruling class, but the public was willing to tolerate it during the three decades after World War II, when prosperity was widely shared and when the Soviet Union posed a palpable threat. Then, the ruling class seemed benevolent and wise.

Yet in the last three decades the ruling class has seemed to pad its own pockets at the expense of the rest of America.

The Supreme Court has opened the floodgates to big money in politics wider than ever. Taxes have been cut on top incomes, tax loopholes have widened, government debt has grown, public services have been cut. And not a single Wall Street executive has gone to jail.

The game seems rigged — riddled with abuses of power, crony capitalism and corporate welfare.

In 1964, Americans agreed by a margin of 64 percent to 29 percent that government was run for the benefit of all the people. By 2012, the response had

reversed, with 79 percent of voters saying that government was “run by a few big interests looking after themselves,” according to American National Election Studies.

Which has made it harder for ordinary people to get ahead. In 2001, a Gallup poll found 77 percent of Americans satisfied with opportunities to get ahead by working hard and 22 percent dissatisfied. By 2014, only 54 percent were satisfied and 45 percent dissatisfied.

The resulting fury at the ruling class has taken two quite different forms.

On the right are the wreckers. The Tea Party, which emerged soon after the Wall Street bailout, has been intent on stopping government in its tracks and overthrowing a ruling class it sees as rotten to the core.

Donald Trump is their human wrecking ball. The more outrageous his rants and putdowns of other politicians, the more popular he becomes among this segment of the public that’s thrilled by a bombastic, racist billionaire who sticks it to the ruling class.

On the left are the rebuilders. The Occupy movement, which also emerged from the Wall Street bailout, was intent on displacing the ruling class and rebuilding our political-economic system from the ground up.

Bernie Sanders personifies this group. The more he advocates a fundamental retooling of our economy and democracy in favor of average working people, the more popular he becomes among those who no longer trust the ruling class to bring about necessary change.

Yet despite the growing revolt against the ruling class, it seems likely that the presidential nominees in 2016 will be Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton. After all, the ruling class still controls America.

But the revolt against the ruling class won’t end with the 2016 election, regardless.

Which means the ruling class will have to change the way it rules America. Or it won’t rule too much longer.

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