



Looking Outward

Dan Glode
Columnist

The Obama legacy

What is also true is that the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow, discrimination in almost every institution of our lives — you know, that, casts a long shadow. And that's still part of our DNA that is passed on. We're not cured of it.
— Barack Obama

I watched President Obama's last State of the Union speech with some regret, as it was his last. I also got angry looking at Paul Ryan's condescending expression throughout the entire speech — or perhaps it was more disdain on his face. It is a take on how far we have come over the past seven years of his presidency, or, perhaps how far in some ways we have regressed as a nation.

It was a reminder to me that, as Obama said, racism is part of our DNA.

I remember the jubilation in some quarters when he got elected in 2008. Even *The Economist*, a conservative weekly British news-magazine said: "America can claim more credibility than any other Western country to have at last become politically colour blind." Over the next seven years their optimism (and mine) has been replaced with the ugly fact that racism does play an important part of the American political process. No one (at least in public) uses the "N" word, for sure, but the disparity in treatment is clear and our ugly past comes to the fore in sometimes-subtle ways when we look at how Obama has been treated.

I guess the layman's way of phrasing Occum's razor is correct: The simplest explanation is usually the correct one. The simplest explanation is the president has been a victim of racism.

After he got elected it seemed the country got increasingly polarized and intolerant. The political dialogue became more ugly. Obama is transformational by any standard, but

the time he has been president shows just how deeply people feel about the barriers we hoped he had erased.

By all objective measures his presidency has been very successful — perhaps the most successful since FDR. He inherited an economic calamity unparalleled since the Great Depression. At no time during Ronald Reagan's presidency was the unemployment rate as low as it is now. Reagan thought a federal deficit of 3.4 per cent of GNP was wonderful when he left office. Ours, under Obama, is better at 2.5 per cent. In addition 17 million people now have healthcare who previously did not. Our military is the strongest in the world. We now have a nuclear treaty with Iran, and we are part of a worldwide agreement

on climate change.

That took real diplomacy, not chest beating arrogance.

I personally applaud his approach to foreign affairs. It's been thoughtful, restrained and not reactive. Watching the Republican candidates be muscular and talk of the need for "boots on the ground" makes me thankful that Obama understands those boots have someone's sons and daughters in them and the use of that force cannot be as a result of some emotional reaction to a perceived slight. We gained back much of the international prestige that George Bush squandered, under Obama.

When Obama took office, Mitch McConnell said it was job number one to get rid of him. The job wasn't to deal with the

economic calamity, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, climate change, job creation, etc. The job was to get rid of the president. One telling incident was when Jan Brewer, the governor of Arizona, shook her finger in Obama's face back in 2012. One Republican representative, in Congress, publicly called him a liar. He has been portrayed as a monkey in one publication. A very sizable percent of the population thinks he is a Muslim from Kenya. The list goes on. These things would not have happened to a white president.

I have not always agreed with him, by any means. His White House has done a terrible job of letting people know of his accomplishments in spite of a recalcitrant Congress. He could have done more to rein in

banks. But he never had the criminality of the Nixon administration, the weakness of the Carter administration, the scandal of Iran Contra of Reagan, the indiscretions of Bill Clinton and the absolutely abysmal presidency of George Bush. He has been decent and honest and straight-forward.

He has borne the challenges, albeit at a lofty level, of racism as it has been a sea anchor he has had to pull the last seven years. He knows it, accepts it, and moves on. That alone makes him remarkable in my book. I think Jon Stewart was right when he said, "We have made enormous progress in teaching everyone racism is bad. Where we seem to have dropped the ball ...is in teaching people what racism actually is."

THANK YOU!

... to the following for making the 2016 Sisters Christian Academy a success. **Your generous support helped raise over \$46,000 this year!**

AAA Oregon- Bill Zingraf
Absolute Horse
Academie de Ballet Classique
Action Air Heating & Cooling
Adair, Patti
Adams, Sherri
Advocare
Alpenhimmel Creative Arts Emporium
Anttila, Bill & Joanne
Anttila, Chelsea
Ast, Jeremy & Michelle
Atlas Cider Co.
Bachmeier, Wendy
Baker Family Farm
Bald Eagle Music Education Station
Banning, Keith & Jennifer
Barlow, Steve & Deb
Barnes & Noble
Barre3 Bend
Bartolotta, Vito & Julie
Bear Mountain Fire
Bend Soap Company
Bennette, Amy
Berg, Carl & Steph
Best Western Ponderosa Lodge
Beterbide, Claude
Black Butte Ranch
Black Butte Stables
Blaser, Greg & Debbie
Blaser, Meri
Bluefish Dental & Orthodontics
Bouncing Off the Walls
Burrer, Phillip & Cheri
Busch, Evelyn
Carol Statton Photography
Casey Gardener's Acrylic Painting
Central Oregon Gymnastics Academy
Central Oregon Symphony Association
Clark's Woodworks
Clearwater Gallery
Clem, Timothy & Cindy
Clymens, Stephanie
Commins, Tim & Heather
Costco
Cowles, Dale & Mary Rae
Crenshaw, Whitney
Crux Fermentation Project
Crystal Peaks
Cuppa Yo
Darst, Donny & Rhonda
Davis, Jeremy & Amy
Depot Cafe
Desperado
Diane's Riding Place
Dixies
Duda, Ben & Stephany
Durham, Justin & Leigh-Anne
Dutch Bros Coffee of Central Oregon
Eagle Crest Stables
Elbers, Jasen & Eryn
Ellis, Andrew & Haley
El Rancho Viejo
Engweiler Family
Erickson, Judie
Essentials Skin Care
Faveur
Five Pine Lodge
Flat Bread
Ford, Barrett & Jodi
Freeman, Jeff
Frye, Chris & Peggy
Ginger's Kitchen
Gilbert, Chris & Lisa
Global Mining Solutions
Golden, Mary
Great Wolf Lodge

Green Ridge Physical Therapy
Griffiths, Pamela
Gulick, Chris & Kristy
Hallmark Inns
Haugen, Phil & Mandy
Hen's Tooth
High Country Disposal
High Desert Museum
Hoodoo Ski Resort
Hop n' Brew
Hudson, Ryan & Jennifer
Ida's Cupcakes
Jaqua, Jim & Mary
Jeppsen, Monte & Jillian
Just Joe's
Jolly, Tod & Kristina
Jones, Adam & Mary Claire
Kalac, Trudy
KC's Recovery Room & Upholstery Shop
Keeton, Leah
Kimball, Daniel & Kellie
Kimberly Manley Photography
Knirk, Eric & Julies
Lamoureux, Pat
Latigo
Larimore, Karen
Leading Edge Aviation
Lidell, Eric & Trisha
Lisa May Art
Lohdahl, Emma
Long Hollow Ranch
Lookabaugh, Bill & Jennifer
Love it Styling
Manley, Jeff & Kim
Mary Kay
Maryhill Winery
May, Lisa
McDonald's
McKay Cottage
McMenamins Old St. Francis School
Melvin's Fir Street Market
Metamorphosis
Miller, Kevin & Eden
Morzov, Mark & Brie
Mo's Lincoln City on Siletz Bay
Mo's Restaurant in Newport
Muir, Randy & Anne
Nehalem Bay Wine Company
Newport Market
Newport Tradewinds
Newton, Kristin
Northwest Window Tinting
Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Paper Place
PC Friendly
Peterson, Stan & Cheryl
Peyree, Tom & Sally
Phelps Creek Vineyards
Pilot Butte Drive In
Pine Tavern
Ponderosa Press
Pronold, Erik & Lucie
Purkey, Chrys
Rainwater, Matthew & Melanie
Rancho Viejo
Rawlins, Paul & Shauna
Ray's Food Place
Remax
Redmond Speech and Language
Reynolds, Gayle
Reynolds, Joelle
Rio Mexican Restaurant
Roberts, Dave & Regan
Robb, Shirley
Robinson & Owen Construction/Sisters Rental

Robinson, Rod & Susan
Ryder, Grant & Erin
Salisbury, Scott & Dena
Salon Renaissance
Sampson, Paula
Schiller, Kevin & Danielle
Sea Lion Caves
Shields, Jeremy & Lauren
Silverwood Theme Park
Simpson, Kassandra
Singleton, Ryan & Bryn
Sisters Acupuncture Center
Sisters Bakery
Sisters Christian Academy
Sisters Coffee Company
Sisters Dental
Sisters Drug & Gift
Sisters Feed
Sisters Motor Lodge
Sisters Movie House
Sisters of the Heart
Sisters Rodeo Association
Sisters Vet Clinic
Sitz, Shad & Amber
Sky High Sports
Statton, Randy & Carol
Steinthal, Ron & Lori
Sticka, Jo
Storton, Jeremy & Andrea
Storton, Peter & Janet
Struble Orthodontics
StudioGearbox.com
Style and Organize
Sunday Guitars
Sun Mountain Fun Center
Sundance Shoes
Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory
Sunriver Resort
Talus, Eric & Johanna
Tandem Music School- Eric Himbert
Taylor, Wendy
The Greens at Redmond
The Hair Cache
The Open Door
The Porch
The Red Chair
Thomas R. Rheuben DMD, FAGD, LLC
Three Creeks Brewing Company
Three Sisters Shell
Top Guides NW LLC
Totes for Water
Trader Joes
Trailer World
Tri County Paving, LLC
Tumalo Feed Co.
U of O Duck Store
Van Handel Automotive
Vahdat, Eddie & Valerie
Vantassel, Nick
Vialovos, Ryan & Shana
Vogt, Jared & Crystal
Von Pohle, Kathleen
Von Pohle, Ross & Erinn
Wander + NW
Wildlife Safari
Willamalane Water Park
Williams, Bruce & Claudia
Williams, Jason & Kim
Womack, McKibben & Lindsay
X-press Printing
Yo Bean
Your Store

Also, thanks to Auctioneer: Dennis Turmon, Ringmen: Jeremy Storton & Scout Miller,
Co-chairs: Joanne Anttila & Lauren Shields, Auction committee, volunteers & staff!

