

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

Reading Jeff Mackey's letter in the March 30 *Nugget News* I thought I had accidentally happened upon that famous Monte Python skit: "Why, we were so poor we lived in a shoe box by the side of the road. Luxury! We dreamed of living in a shoe box. We were so poor the 12 of us had to live in a sardine can and walk six miles barefoot through the snow..."

Then Mr. Mackey tells us about his minimum-wage jobs that he had ... wait for it ... "over 50 years ago." Right, Mr. Mackey.

From 1960 to 1964 I worked my way through college by completely supporting myself on a job which paid \$1.75 per hour though I had to work 50 hours a week. But my tuition was \$250 per semester. My roommate and I paid \$90 per month for a two-bedroom apartment. Gasoline was 30-something cents a gallon and I could get a complete meal at my favorite pub for \$1.25 and chase it with a glass of beer for a quarter. Ever heard of inflation, Mr. Mackey?

Two states have now agreed to phase in a \$15-an-hour minimum wage over the next four years. Two states, Oregon not included. As for Mr. Mackey's assumption that people earning a minimum wage expect that to be the apotheosis of their earning life is just Conservative blather. If you want to get riled up over such things, why not complain about oil companies that get billions in government subsidies. Or rich farmers and big agribusiness living off the public trough. Maybe you're OK with giant defense contractors like GE raking in millions in Pentagon largess while paying virtually no income taxes.

Do you even read *The Nugget*? The same issue has an article about the crisis of unaffordable housing in Sisters. Minimum-wage workers need a "living" wage in order to have a place to sleep and food to eat. That doesn't seem unreasonable to me.

R.T. Tihista



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### Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 74/38	Sunny 77/40	Slt. chance showers 70/36	Partly sunny 61/31	Partly sunny 60/32	Partly sunny 60/na

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**John Kass**

**American Voices**

Hush, young Bernie Sanders supporters. Shhh.

Hillary Clinton's campaign wants you to change your tone. And when you've changed it, tone it down.

I don't mind you making noise. But Clinton's advisers don't like it, and they talk as if you're still in those pajamas with the feet. The message?

Be still. Good night. Hush. Go to sleep.

Why would Hillary whisper "hush" to young people feeling the Bern?

Because she wants to be president of the United States and rule the world, and fulfill her destiny as queen of the new American political establishment.

And she doesn't need Sanders supporters ruining things.

Sanders is the candidate with the momentum on the Democratic side. His voters believe that he believes in something. And I think he does. I disagree with his views, but he does stand for something.

And Hillary Clinton? What does she stand for? What does she believe in?

Herself. Power. That's about it. She's like Frank Underwood in pantsuits.

She'll play the gender card, she'll pander to race, she'll force you to parse her sentences. These are tactics, not core principles.

But she is the candidate with establishment support, with her Wall Street friends and those neoconservative war hawks leaving the Republicans and rushing up to her for great big hugs.

And though Sanders wants to debate her in New York, the Clinton campaign has explained the rules of silence. For weeks now, liberal pundits and Democratic senators have been telling Sanders voters to hush, to give up Bernie, just close your eyes, roll over and join Team Hillary.

They whisper in the voice of reason in the dark — the way all establishment whispers begin — saying that for the sake of party unity, just dump Bernie. Then you may curl up in Hillary's lap for a bedtime story.

What you may come to realize is that establishment Democrats and establishment Republicans are quite similar. They're the two horns on the head of the same goat. But don't think about this now. You'll never get to sleep.

There is something that may make you shut your eyes. It's that monster hiding under your bed: Donald Trump. Trump is the bogeyman now. And if you insist on staying awake, Hillary would like you to focus on The Donald.

Trump says crazy things, so crazy lately that I wonder if he really wants to be president, or if the pressure has finally gotten to him. He allows stupidity to whoosh past his lips almost daily now. Perhaps he just wants out of the campaign.

A bipartisan public freakout over a crazy man saying crazy things is sometimes entertaining, and Trump's nonsense helps us forget the monster hiding under Clinton's own bed:

The FBI. Her top aides from her time as secretary of state may soon be questioned by FBI agents investigating how top secret and other classified documents came to be kept on her private server. And after they're questioned, it will be her turn.

There's no assurance that her private server wasn't hacked by foreign intelligence. At issue was whether she was merely negligent or willful, and either puts her in real legal and political jeopardy.

And so what she needs is for Democrats to have nightmares about Trump, the better to ignore whether their leading candidate may very well be implicated in a criminal probe. And with so much stress on her, we might as well put Hillary back on the comfy chair in the quiet room:

"Goodnight comb and goodnight brush. Goodnight nobody. Goodnight mush.

"And goodnight to the old lady whispering, 'hush.'"

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