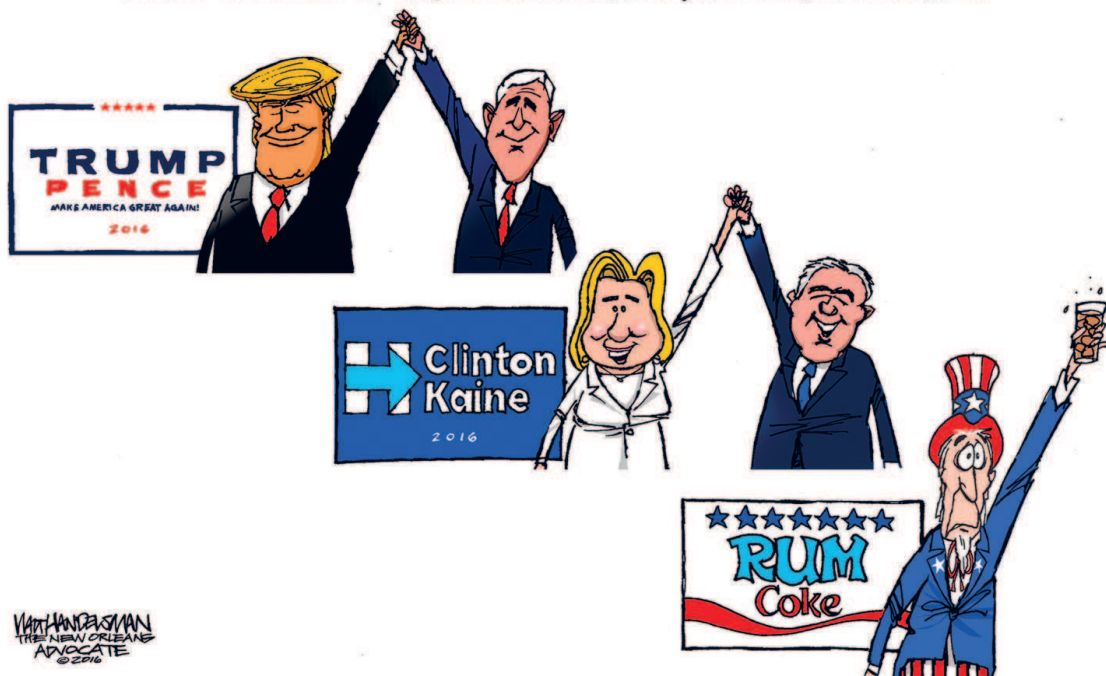


O P I N I O N

WITH 100 DAYS OF CAMPAIGNING TO GO, THE TEAMS ARE SET...



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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

"Complainers, whiny, narrow-minded, curmudgeons, NIMBY attitude..."—just a few phrases from recent letters regarding the increased airplane noise.

It's fine to say the noise doesn't disturb you. You can say that you are willing to trade quiet for economic development. This is a personal decision that every Sisters resident should be allowed to make.

But why the name-calling? Do we need to demonize each other? Wanting a peaceful backyard or a quiet bedtime for your kids does not equal being "anti-growth," and business development doesn't have to mean "anti-environment."

Are we really unable to listen to each other's concerns and come to some kind of compromise?

Whether the noise bothers you or not ... the name-calling should.

Sarah Moulton

To the Editor:

This has nothing to do with noise pollution or airport controversy, this has to do with a local business stepping up in true Sisters fashion.

As you may or may not know, Justin Veloso is battling cancer and we are hosting a fundraiser for him at The Belfry on September 15 at 6 p.m.

In addition to music, drinks and food, we are hosting a live auction.

I have been seeking donations to put together some amazing packages for the auction.

One such item is an adventure package. I contacted Skydive Awesome to see if they might be willing to assist us in some way.

Without a moment of hesitation, Cara at Skydive Awesome donated two tandem skydives for our cause.

This is what it's all about, being in business in Sisters, Oregon — stepping up to the plate

See **LETTERS** on page 14

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 83/43	Sunny 86/49	Slt. chance t-storm 83/47	Mostly sunny 79/45	Sunny 78/46	Sunny 79/na

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Robert B. Reich

American Voices

In her speech accepting the Democratic nomination for president, Hillary Clinton said the nation was at "a moment of reckoning."

She's right, but the reckoning is not simply the choice voters face this fall between her and Donald Trump. The real reckoning is larger, and it will extend beyond Election Day.

Yet Washington insiders expect a return to politics as usual.

I'm already hearing Republicans dismiss Donald Trump as a weird aberration. "Ordinarily, Trump wouldn't have stood a chance," a Republican operative told me. "He won because he didn't have a clear opponent until the very end."

I get a similar story from Democrats trying to explain Bernie Sanders. "His campaign was a freak," a long-time Democratic adviser told me. "Hillary will be elected and then Washington will go on as if nothing happened."

They want to return to business as usual because many of them make their bread on that business — working for big corporations, Wall Street or wealthy individuals as political consultants, lobbyists, corporate lawyers, government-relations specialists, public-relations specialists, trade association staff and paid experts.

But Trump isn't just an aberration, and Sanders wasn't just a flash in the pan. Both of them, in very different ways, reflect a crisis in our political economy.

In a Gallup poll taken in mid-July, before the conventions, 82 percent said America was on the wrong track. In an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll just before that, 56 percent said they preferred a candidate who would bring sweeping changes to the way the government functioned, no matter how unpredictable those changes might be.

The major issue the public is reacting to isn't terrorism or racism. We didn't see these numbers after 9/11. We didn't even get these sorts of responses in the late 1960s, when American cities were torn by riots and when the Vietnam War was raging.

It's the rigging of our

economy — the increasingly tight nexus between wealth and political power. Big money has been buying political clout to get laws and regulations that make big money even bigger. As Clinton said in her acceptance speech, "I believe that our economy isn't working the way it should because our democracy isn't working the way it should."

She's correct, but she didn't finish the logic. Democracy is not working the way it should because it's being corrupted by big money. That big money is altering the rules of the game to generate even bigger money.

Americans now pay more for pharmaceuticals than the citizens of any other advanced nation because Big Pharma is setting the rules. We pay more for Internet service, health insurance, airline tickets and banking services because the increasing market power of key players in these industries lets them raise prices. Antitrust enforcement has been systematically weakened.

The biggest Wall Street banks continue to reap the financial benefits of being too big to fail. Hedge fund partners make bundles from confidential information, trading on which used to be illegal.

CEOs cash in their stock options and grants just when they pump up the value of their company's stocks with buybacks. It's allowed because laws and regulations have been loosened. Trade agreements are now designed to protect the intellectual property and foreign assets of giant corporations, but nothing is done to protect the incomes of Americans who lose their jobs to foreign competition.

This is business as usual in Washington. Clinton has a long list of good proposals for helping average working people, but none of them will go anywhere if Washington stays the same and the economic game remains rigged.

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