

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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 the November 23 *Nugget*, guest columnist Terry Weygandt discusses a Facebook posting on grieving; which I'm assuming is about the presidential election results. Weygandt blames Republican-leaning news "controlling the narrative for 30 years" as the reason for Trump's win.

Really?! I think that an objective review of ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, *New York Times*, Huffington Post, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Houston Chronicle*, *The L.A. Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, etc. coverage of the election paint a much different view of who was actually trying to control the narrative!

Weygandt then discusses the Benghazi investigation. The fact is she lied, over and over, causing it to drag out till the discovery of her own email finally revealed what

difference it does make; SHE LIED. She also lied to the families of those killed in Benghazi as flag-draped coffins where being unloaded from the aircraft returning home. You can't blame her own actions on Republican character assassination; it was a revelation of her true character.

As for the email discussion, I can only surmise that Terry Weygandt never handled classified material or would realize the extent of corruption resulting in a "reprimand" for Hillary that would have meant certain jail-time for anyone else. And the FACT is she lied over and over about that, too.

For Weygandt's last argument, is it going to be the "race card" or the "Nazi card"? Yep, the Nazi card came out to explain why Hillary lost the election, in spite of all the liberal news

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Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Chance rain/snow 41/24	Slt. chance snow 40/21	Slt. chance rain 42/31	Cloudy 46/32	Chance rain 42/24	Chance snow shower 35/na

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What will resolve our division?

By Scott Miller
Correspondent

There's so much hostility and injustice in this world. It came to another head following the recent presidential election, as protests turned violent. Suspicion proliferates about our president-elect and, arguably, our society as a whole. I was probably just as angry and anxious as any average American, leading me to the common question: What will resolve this division?

Answer: Our leader would have to die for us.

No, I'm not encouraging assassination, but let's face it: it's hard to believe that any of our leaders genuinely care about us. Politicians, special-interest group heads, and religious leaders grapple for the microphone, seeking to justify and sustain their own positions, rather than truly seeking the benefit of everyone in our country. With occasional exceptions, these supposed leaders exploit the divisive drama to foster greater dependency on themselves by their constituents, donors, and congregational members.

The media, also, happily profit from the anger and fear of one party feeling victimized by another. Their audiences go from fear and anger to lengthening moments of disgust and apathy. Consequently, profiteering media compete to find or create more sensational drama; otherwise, they will lose their viewership and its dependency upon them. Supposed leaders also must stir still more negative emotion, driven to maintain a sense of urgency, lest their sycophants and various stakeholders move on to someone else. And so on.

Something about one's death on behalf of others breaks through all of this. The value of a person giving his/her life for another, or for a group of persons, demands a certain reverence. Disgust and apathy dissipate. Suddenly, whatever that person stated before death becomes meaningful—even compelling. Why? Because to die for someone is an irrefutable demonstration of love, the absence of which seems to drive so much of our hostility and unrest.

The origin of our

condition, however, lies not merely within or between us humans. It resides within the human heart — the deepest parts of what we think and feel about our origin, our identity, and our purpose in this universe — and it's fundamentally flawed. That's why we will never eradicate our divisiveness through taxes, legal wrangling, or utopic fantasies. We can try to change our circumstances, but that only goes so far in resolving the condition of our hearts.

The prevailing narratives — at least those most often supported through mainstream media and public academia — say we originated from some "big bang." This story makes humans the lucky ones in the cosmic gene pool, as we miraculously evolved into our current state of being. Our highest purpose from this narrative might be construed as a grand campout, as people aspire to leave their campsites better than they found them.

Another narrative persists, though not immune to its own distortions and disappointments. The most compelling thread of this narrative begins and ends in the same utopia we all seem to long for (Eden, Heaven), except God fulfills the role of protagonist. Humans, as the recipients of God's grace, find their identity in a special relationship with this God, seeking to love one another as he first loved us.

This love was ultimately demonstrated in the death of God incarnate. He lived a radical life of love and service, and it was followed by his willing death on behalf of each of us. He provided the ultimate solution to our injustice and hostility. As the risen Savior, he invites each of us to accept his death to resolve the guilt and shame that perpetuates division and hostility. When we surrender our futile attempts otherwise, and submit to a life that loves and honors Christ, these hearts of ours begin to change.

This time of year naturally fosters reflection upon our narratives, individually and corporately. Beyond the romanticized Nativity scenes and consumerism, maybe it's time to reconsider what we really believe and why. For me, however imperfectly, I've chosen the path of love and peace found in Christ.

Opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or The Nugget Newspaper.