

**LETTERS**

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who oppose the administration's repressive tactics and dangerous precedents.

The response from the American people is a disapproval rate of 56 percent — higher than any other new president.

Each day brings a new reason to be concerned. There is a documented uptick in hate crimes since the election and an empowered "nationalist" faction whose goal is supported by Trump's narrative. The "swamp" that he drained is now populated with billionaires, including a treasury secretary who increased his Wall Street fortune by foreclosing on 60,000 middle-class Americans during the housing crisis and another billionaire for education secretary who has spent her inherited money undermining public education, just to name two.

Trump inherited one of the best economies in decades, not a catastrophe. Jobless rates are 4.7 percent, down from 7.8 percent in 2009. The economy has increased 16 percent since 2009 (including adjustments for inflation).

Lastly, the letter gave those of us opposed to this administration an ultimatum. She welcomed us to join the "conservative people of this nation" and "either be American ... or go live in those countries [we love] so much that support terrorism and socialism."

BECAUSE we love our country we will stay right here and resist. We are driven not by negativism, but by a deep concern that the foundations of democracy and American principles are being compromised.

We invite our community to join in a reasonable and informed dialogue, to keep America great.

We are better together — indivisible.  
Sheryl Rudolph and Heidi Fernandez



To the Editor:

Re: February 22 Letter to the Editor by Yvonne Suckow:

Dear Ms. Suckow,

Your patriotism and support of our country is passionately evident from your letter. However, I hear disparagement in your dismissal of Ms. Surmann and the rest of us who indeed see a pattern here that we had hoped was eliminated with World War II. Those of us who saw our fathers, brothers, and other volunteers and draftees go off to fight in that war, knew that something terrible was happening that was called totalitarianism. The liberalism which was claimed to have led to the collapse of the economy was best corrected by a charismatic individual, who claimed to have the answers.

The free press had been co-opted by their

government so that only what the government wanted them to know was allowed. All media was controlled by the State. We could look to Russia or North Korea as examples in today's world.

In my opinion the projection of a scapegoat, making them "other" not "us," keeps people's anger and hatred focused on a particular segment of society, or target, with dire consequences. We can read about that every day: attacks on people who are not white, or are "suspected" of being of a different religion, a direct result of the criteria set forth of "white, speaking English, and Christian," as being the only acceptable citizen.

No, what has energized our society is the fact that we woke up one morning to find that the rules of the game had changed without our permission. We elect a fellow citizen to be our president, we elect someone who will keep our constitution, by-laws, and the rule of law in place.

What we also find disconcerting is what is happening behind the scenes. We found out at the CPAC meeting exactly what the game plan is: "deconstruction of the administrative state." Words spoken by Steve Bannon, whom no one elected, yet who has been given unprecedented power as a civilian.

Protestant Pastor Niemoller (1892-1984) spoke about the cowardice of the German intellectuals who did not speak out with the rise of Hitler and the totalitarian regime he ushered in, "When they came for the Socialists, I did not speak up because I was not a Socialist. When they came for the Trade Unionists, I did not speak up because I was not a Trade Unionist. When they came for the Jews, I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me." He spent 7 years in a Nazi concentration camp.

Speaking up is the essence of Democracy.  
Phyllis Lewis



To the Editor:

I had the privilege of attending the Sisters town hall for United States Senator Ron Wyden.

After hearing him refer to "The Oregon Way" several times, I feel it is important to remind Oregonians that our state is in the bottom five states in the national educational ranking. Our Oregon high school graduation rates are disgraceful. Furthermore, Oregonians are taxed by our state and local governments more per capita than 39 other states. Per the *Bend Bulletin*, one quarter of all Oregonians are on Medicaid! Our state's proposed budget has a \$1.8 billion deficit. The

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PHOTO BY ERIN BORLA

The Cat in the Hat — imagine that!

## Dr. Seuss celebrated at Sisters school

By Erin Borla  
Correspondent

Gadzooks! Students here, students there. Students, we see, are everywhere.

This whole week Sisters will see, kids from you and kids from me. They are in classrooms and they are in chairs, standing in the gym, singing about bears. Wearing costumes of green, hats and mustaches too; crazy socks like they belong in a zoo!

All to celebrate a man, Dr. Seuss that's who — who excited kids to read with creatures like Foo-Foo the Snoo, Cat in the Hat; The Lorax, too. Every year we look in schools all around, and books with his picture can always be found.

His birthday so soon, March 2, it's true — celebrate reading everything, old or new. He'd be 113 this year, they say; we celebrate how he showed so many the way.

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