

O P I N I O N

Remember...



November 11, 1918 — November 11, 2018

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

The October 24 *Nugget* published a guest editorial by Jeff Mackey declaring that Donald J. Trump is the "right person for the job" based on the premise that Trump is a successful businessman and that the United States should be run like a corporation with the President as its CEO. This strikes me as a simplistic and absurd assumption.

Trump would hardly be a smart choice to run a business as complex as the United States. Trump companies have filed for bankruptcy six times, leaving bond-holders and lenders to foot the bill. More recently, he has demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of fiscal policy and the role of the Federal Reserve. According to the CBO (Congressional Budget Office) the recently passed tax-cut bill signed by Trump is estimated to add 1.4 trillion to the federal deficit by 2027. No business gets an unlimited line of credit like that.

Running a government is fundamentally different than running a corporation. A company's sole purpose is to make a profit for its owners. Period. The purpose of our Federal Government, as found in the Preamble of the Constitution, is to "establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Doesn't sound much like running a company, does it?

Candidate Trump promised to drain the swamp. Instead Robert Mueller has multiple indictments, and guilty pleas and plea deals from Trump's lawyers and aides. Obama had none.

Integrity starts at the top, and the current leader seems sadly lacking. I will be voting for a change of course with my ballot.

Karen Lord

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 48/24	Sunny 51/24	Mostly Sunny 57/26	Partly Cloudy 53/30	Mostly Sunny 52/28	Partly Cloudy 50/32

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None of this is winning

By Margaret Wood

Guest Columnist

Last spring I had the privilege of touring the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC. It was a deeply emotional and disturbing experience and a testament to our shameful past. In one exhibit, etched into glass on a case that displayed a vicious leather bullwhip that was used on slaves was a quote:

"O, ye nominal Christians! Might not an African ask you—Learned you this from your God, who says unto you, Do unto all men as would men should do unto you?"

— Olaudah Equiano, 1789

We should be asking ourselves the same question implored by a slave nearly 230 years ago. Our country is in a moral crisis, where decency and empathy are set aside for a "win."

It is not a win when our president uses words that incite violence against detractors, political opponents, Jewish people, immigrants and people of color. It is not a win when 11 Jewish worshippers are killed in a synagogue and the president attends a rally rather than comforting a frightened, grieving nation.

It is not a win when our president refuses to admonish Vladimir Putin, or claims that he "fell in love" because of "beautiful" letters received from a North Korean dictator whose people are starving, murdered and silenced.

It is not a win when a Saudi journalist (U.S. resident) is slaughtered and dismembered in a consulate and our government does not respond definitively and immediately. It is not winning when a president claims there were "fine people on both sides" in Charlottesville, where a young woman was killed by a white supremacist and the torch-bearing alt-right walked chanting "Jews will not replace us." It is not a win when a super supporter of Trump mails bombs to two former presidents, a

former secretary of state, a former vice-president and other victims, and the president says he'll "take a pass" on calling the intended victims to assure them that he will do everything he can to protect them.

It is not winning when migrant children are separated from their parents, kept in tents and cages or sent thousands of miles away from the only people they know. It is not winning when a president talks about women as if they are objects, calls them derogatory names and mocks a victim of sexual assault. It is not winning to imitate a disabled journalist or praise the assault of another by a congressman. It is not winning to say that immigrants are "infesting" our country, that a "caravan" of "bad people" are coming to "invade" us or that our constitutionally supported free press is "the enemy of the people."

None of this is winning. This is losing. Losing a moral compass.

Let us not forget the time when a McCain supporter at a campaign rally approached the senator and said, "I can't trust Obama. I have read about him, and ... he's an Arab." McCain immediately shook his head and took the microphone from her. "No ma'am," McCain said. "He's a decent family man, a citizen that I just happen to have disagreements with on fundamental issues, and that's what this campaign is all about." Candidate McCain would not let that lie go any further.

It is winning when we remember that we are better than this, stronger than this and more compassionate than this. When we stop feeling good about name-calling at rallies, about separating families, about fearing the "other" or blaming the less fortunate for their situation. It is winning when we realize that our children will inherit this earth and we have an obligation to future generations. It is winning when we stand up for facts, truth, justice, human dignity and the values that this country was founded upon.

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