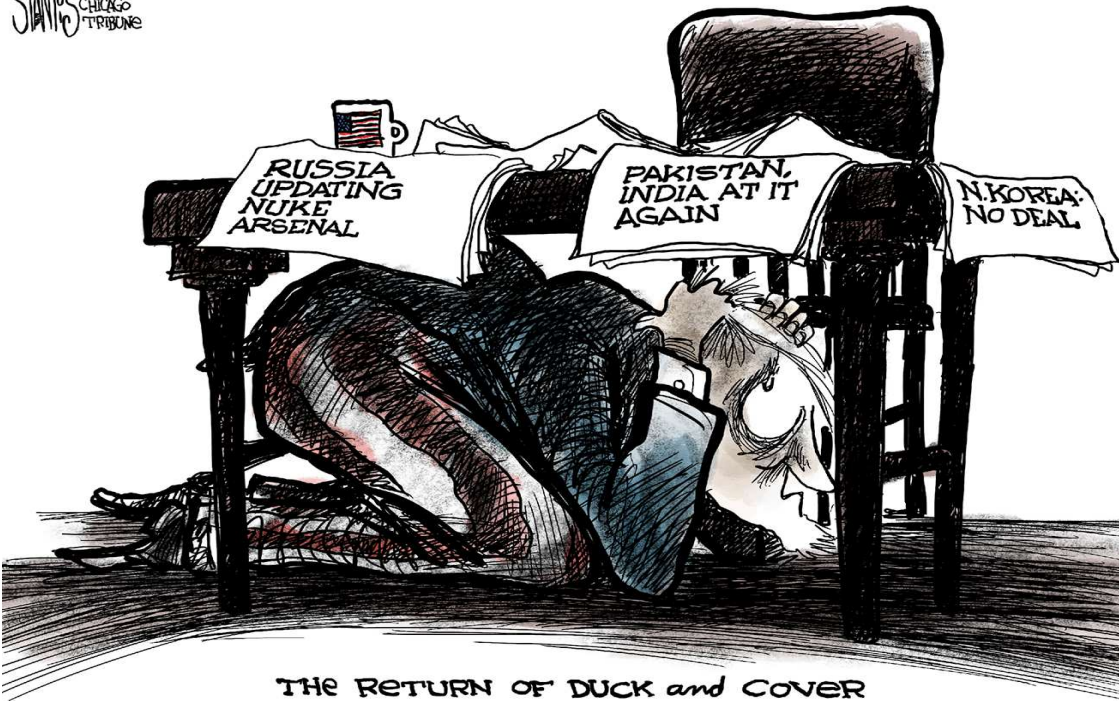


O P I N I O N

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THE RETURN OF DUCK and COVER

## 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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

Re: the letter in the February 27 edition from Lane Jacobsen about customers buying from local, independently owned businesses: I agree with him wholeheartedly. I have been doing that for years with the simple belief, as I have long been telling people, "What would you rather support, a literally 'Mom and Pop' family-owned-and-operated business or some soulless corporation?"

As Mr. Jacobsen pointed out, local businesses keep tax dollars in the community whereas corporations like Amazon, as was very recently pointed out in the news, pay zero. As a final point (to be clear, I have nothing to do with his store and live in the L.A. area), go to the store's website, click on the "Community" link and read the "We Share A Community" part. Sums it all up quite nicely.

Rodney Gregson



To the Editor:

One of my favorite straight-talking

comedians is the late Joan Rivers. Given that, "Can we talk?" What's with the racist party-of-slavery extreme leap to Socialism — many ideologies similar to Communism? They and their co-merchants of hate in the FAKE news propaganda machine obviously detest Trump more than they care for America. Live news from Venezuela gives a clear picture of what their agenda offers: a historically proven failure.

All the new Democratic candidates for president seem to be jumping on the extreme socialist bandwagon in one form or another.

The new "boss" of the Democratic Party, AOC, even has the hate Trump FAKE journalist at CNN squeamish at her outrageous rhetoric. In a way I feel sad for her; now the brunt of jokes on social media.

I don't think extreme is rare for the racist party of slavery. Racism has been their tool of choice in pushing their agenda as long as I can remember. It was only a couple days ago that Will Smith was targeted for not being

See **LETTERS** on page 21

### Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Partly Cloudy 42/21	Cloudy 43/26	Mostly Sunny 49/30	Cloudy 50/32	Sunny 53/30	Partly Cloudy 53/32

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## Jonah Goldberg

The Democratic Party is having a rough time condemning anti-Semitism. Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota has, on several occasions, made classically anti-Semitic claims about American Jews, and the effort to formally denounce those statements in the House ruined a week in which the Democrats were supposed to talk about their agenda.

The gist of Omar's complaints is that the perfidious, string-pulling Hebraic hordes control Congress with their shady shekels, Israel has hypnotized the world, and American Jews are guilty of dual loyalty.

The controversies have been compounded by the fact that her apologies suggest she's not actually apologetic. Omar has claimed that the anti-Semitism charge is an effort to silence her because she wants to talk about the Jewish scheme to "push for allegiance to a foreign country." In an earlier sorry-not-sorry episode, she apologized for hurting anyone's feelings, which is not quite the same thing as recanting.

The whole issue of hurt feelings is a red herring — which is precisely why so many Democrats want to focus on feelings rather than on the relevant facts. Indeed, if Omar had better facts on her side, she wouldn't be in this mess.

For instance, Omar seems to think the American Israel Public Affairs Committee is a political action committee that funds candidates on behalf of Israel. Inconveniently for Omar, AIPAC isn't a PAC, doesn't work for Israel and doesn't donate to political campaigns.

More interesting, however, is the Democratic leadership's fact problem — namely the fact Omar simply isn't a fan of Jews, or at least Jews who support Israel. It's fine to be a critic of Israel, by the way. But when you hate the country so much that you can't explain criticism of Israel without resorting to bigotry, you have a problem. Or rather, the Democratic Party does.

Because it's not just Omar. If Omar had no sympathizers, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi would probably have thrown her under the bus already. The

younger, fresher and more radical fringe of the party led by New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez doesn't think Omar should be singled out for criticism or censure. In fairness, the primary reason is not that they all share Omar's hang-up with the Jews. Some are just anti-Israel. Others think it's unfair that Omar should be criticized when Donald Trump or other Republicans have said bigoted things.

Ocasio-Cortez called efforts to censure Omar "hurtful" because statements by other politicians, most obviously Trump, aren't similarly condemned. She has something of a point. I certainly wish Republicans did more to condemn many of the things Trump has said. But she seems to have forgotten that Republicans did condemn and punish Iowa Rep. Steve King recently for his on-brand racist blather.

The effort to avoid singling out Omar is putting Democrats in knots they will be hard-pressed to untie anytime soon. Pelosi has said Omar wasn't "intentionally anti-Semitic."

South Carolina's James Clyburn, the No. 3 Democrat in the House, offered a baffling defense of Omar by talking about—surprise!—her feelings. He says Omar's experience as a refugee from Somalia who spent time in a Kenyan refugee camp has to be taken into account.

Leave aside the fact that whatever happened to Omar in Kenya or Somalia, it has nothing to do with Israel or Jews. Are we going to have greater tolerance for bigotry based on a time-since-victimhood score? Slavery was even longer ago than the Holocaust. Does that make racist comments less outrageous than anti-Semitic comments?

On Thursday, Pelosi announced that the House would vote on a resolution condemning all forms of "hate." It might do the trick to turn the page. But it will almost surely be a temporary respite, because Omar (and others) come to their anti-Semitism honestly, and they're inclined to be honest about it. So we'll be here again.

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