

O P I N I O N

Happy Holidays from The Nugget!

During the holiday season, please be mindful of our deadlines and special closings that allow our staff time with family (while still delivering *The Nugget* to each of you every week).

Tuesday, December 24 ... Closing Early
Thursday, December 26 ... Closed
Tuesday, December 31 ... Closing Early

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Due to adjusted press times in December, we are unable to accept advertising or content past deadline.

Display Advertising, Announcements, Events, Meeting Calendar ... 5 p.m. on Friday
Classifieds, Letters to the Editor ... 12 noon on Monday

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

I like growth.

We have lived here part-time since 1962. I guess there were 500-600 people in town then, and the main industry — logging — was ending. In my opinion, Sisters needs to grow to 4,000-5,000 people in the next 5-10 years for the following reasons:

- Schools. My barometer for growth is school system enrollment. The Sisters School District has been struggling for years with no student growth. According to the Sisters School District office, they now enroll 1,126 children, and I'm told they need about 1,250 to thrive.

- A multigenerational community. A reference was made to retirees. I'm "retired." If you want to fossilize Sisters because there are too many young people here, then move to Del Webb's Sun City — gated communities, no one under 55 allowed — it's perfect.

I love the mix of generations, it keeps me young. Friday night lights (football), *The*

Nugget with pages and pictures of our next generation playing sports, and competing and learning all manner of new things. What's more Americana than being served by our young kids at the Sno Cap or Sisters Coffee Co.? They are the future and they're learning how to work and save money for their future. (By the way, where was your first job?)

- Healthcare. We need an urgent-care center here, we all agree. If not 24/7 service then at least seven days a week, 8 to 5 p.m. St. Charles can't afford to offer this vital service without a larger client base: i.e., more people living here.

- Commercial. We're fine in this department, but I'd like to see a full-service dry cleaning service here with on-premises cleaning.

We've seen the growth here for nearly 60 years and it's been great. So many new and interesting people from everywhere. It's not quite "Our Town" yet, but we're getting there.

Bruce Rognlien



Jonah Goldberg

Stop me if you've heard this one before. An Asian guy, two black guys, three white women (one of whom spent much of her life claiming to be Native American), a Pacific Islander woman, a gay guy, a Hispanic guy, two elderly Caucasian Jews (one a billionaire, the other a socialist), a self-styled Irishman and a few nondescript white guys walk into a bar, and the bartender yells, "Get the hell out! We value diversity here!"

I didn't say it was a good joke, but it's kind of funny all the same, because some folks in the press and the Democratic Party are freaking out over the shrinking diversity of the Democratic field.

The diversity panic was set off by the withdrawal of California Sen. Kamala Harris on December 3. In the words of Chicago Tribune columnist Clarence Page, "the famously inclusive party wasn't looking very inclusive anymore."

The real issue is that not many people of color qualified for the December 19 debate in Los Angeles. As New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, an African American, complained, "There are more billionaires than black people who've made the December debate stage — that's a problem."

It's debatable whether it's a problem for anyone other than Booker himself, which is why he's been raising this alarm vociferously.

Perhaps a broader perspective would help. All of the first 43 presidents were white men. About half were Episcopalian or Presbyterian, most of the rest belonged to other prominent denominations, and three were Christians of no formal affiliation. Then, in 2008, Barack Obama became the first African American president, winning two terms. In 2016, Hillary Clinton became the Democrats' first female nominee. She won the popular vote but lost the election to Donald Trump.

Given these facts, it's hard for me to see a diversity crisis. The top four candidates right now are Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Pete Buttigieg and Elizabeth Warren. Biden would be

only the second Catholic president. Sanders would be the first Jewish president and the first socialist one. Buttigieg would be the first openly gay (and youngest) president. Warren would be the first female president.

What a devastating blow to diversity!

It got dumber. Partisan supporters of various candidates weaponized the whiteness of white candidates. I think that's gross, but there's at least an internal logic for, say, Booker, Castro or Yang supporters to play that game. But supporters of white candidates attacked other white candidates for their whiteness.

The Twitter hashtag #PrimariesSoWhite started trending. A Warren supporter tweeted "#PrimariesSoWhite because Joe Biden kept a very strong plurality of black support that eliminated the paths for Cory Booker and Kamala Harris."

Huh. Did Biden force black voters to support him? Did he refuse to tell them to back a black candidate? Are those black people at fault for liking Biden? If those black voters swung their support to the equally white Warren, would she suddenly be at fault?

Lots of Democrats are talking about the "structural racism" of the primary system. But none of the non-white candidates complained about the rules at the beginning. Is it only structurally racist if Democratic voters support white candidates?

No doubt many of these activists are sincere in their beliefs. But some are just grabbing the most convenient weapon they can to tear down other candidates or get more oxygen for their candidates.

The bigger problem for these activists — and for the journalists who hype them — is that they don't speak for most Democrats. In April, a Monmouth poll found that 87 percent of likely Democratic voters don't think the race of the nominee matters.

In the historical sweep of America's struggle with racism, that should be cheered as unequivocally great news. But these are strange times.

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Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Partly cloudy 43/35	Rain 44/42	Showers 48/36	Showers 46/32	Rain/snow 41/29	Snow showers 39/24

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