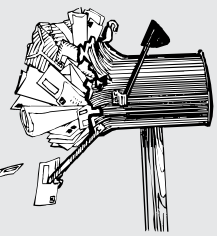


Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post
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Putting America first may sound like a noble, patriotic idea...

Abraham Lincoln once said: "My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of earth."

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Donald J. Trump's inaugural address offered us exactly the opposite vision, one of a selfish, insulated America responsible only to itself.

The new president is committed only to fixing the supposed "carnage" here but unconcerned about global poverty, Earth's deteriorating environment and ecosystem, and human rights here and everywhere.

President Trump made all the usual, and unfulfillable, promises about jobs, terrorism, and corruption—and avoided all the problems he has always avoided, such as health care for all, equal opportunity for all, his own record of irresponsible behavior, and "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind."

Trump doesn't understand the difference between patriotism and nationalism.

Charles de Gaulle did: "Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first; nationalism, when hate for people other than your own comes first."

Trump's "American First" doctrine was falsely presented as the former when it clearly is the latter.

Putting America first may sound like a noble, patriotic idea, but in reality it reflects a careless, ultimately dangerous world view.

Walling America off from Mexico, keeping out Muslims fleeing war and oppression, denigrating China, and undermining our European allies have nothing to do with love of country.

These promised policies exemplify

narrow nationalism of the sort that will reduce respect for the United States and undermine national security.

"There are seasons in every country," Alexander Hamilton said, "when noise and impudence pass current for worth; and in popular commotions especially, the clamors of interested and factious men are often

mistaken for patriotism."

This is such a time, and Donald Trump is such a man.

Mel Gurtov
Portland

Editor's Note: Mel Gurtov is professor emeritus of political science at Portland State University.



Women's March on Portland a test of willingness to be cold and drenched for hours

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

I hurried Saturday morning, Jan. 21, to gear up for the Women's March on Portland. The temperature was around 40 degrees but the weather forecast was for sporadic showers.

After parking in a garage on Southwest Third Avenue and Alder Street, I followed the crowd and made my way as close as I could get to the main stage near the Morrison Bridge at Waterfront Park.

It wasn't long before I was stuck in an ocean of demonstrators waiting for the march to begin.

It was around noon that it really started raining hard.

By 2 p.m. I had gotten to know my immediate neighbors in the demonstration. A woman ahead of me several feet was breastfeeding a hungry infant.

A young female school teacher and a mother with three young children in tow were very nice and we enjoyed chatting while we waited. And waited.

People waved signs. Drummers kept on drumming. People started chanting, "Let us march, let us march, let us march, let us march!"

Umbrellas became a serious issue as they blocked vision and it was difficult to avoid being hit by them.

(Continued on Page 6)

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