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Editor

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To The Editor:

Sam Prentice doesn't seem to realize that an accurate label is much more than a slur.

There's a reason that people call Donald Trump and his cronies "fascists"; it's not because such is the go-to slur for the left. It's because they actually *are* fascists. Yes, the club that includes Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, Pinochet, Suharto, etc., now includes our so-called president. And his followers.

In 2003, Laurence Britt wrote what has become the definitive list of clear signs of fascism. These were written long before Trump's political career, but most are incredibly apt:

1. Powerful and continuing expressions of nationalism.

2. Disdain for the importance of human rights.

3. Identification of enemies / scapegoats as a unifying cause.

4. The supremacy of the military / avid militarism.

5. Rampant sexism.

6. A controlled mass media.

7. Obsession with national security.

8. Religion and ruling elite tied together.

9. Power of corporations protected.

10. Power of labor suppressed or eliminated.

11. Disdain and suppression of intellectuals and the arts.

12. Obsession with crime and punishment.

13. Rampant cronyism and corruption.

14. Fraudulent elections.

(See http://link.sauyet.com/140.)

We haven't seen too much of #8 yet. Nor of #14, although that's clearly coming. The other twelve practically define Trumpism.

I hope this doesn't affect local elections too badly. Few local candidates are wanna-be dictators. But anyone running as a Republican owes us an assurance that they oppose this destruction of our democracy. I haven't seen that, not from any of them. No Republican candidates have publicly disavowed what Trump stands for. So we cannot in good conscience vote for any of them. (Well, maybe for the cross-endorsed Sharon St. Rock!)

Mr. Prentice wants to restore America, to "what she was meant to be". America was meant to be a beacon of freedom, an exercise in self-government, with an intricate set of checks and balances to prevent any person or institution amassing too much power. It was from the start a nation of immigrants, and over time it enfranchised more and more of its residents. If that's what he wants to restore, then by all means, let's join together blocking the MAGA movement's attempt to destroy the nation we love.

Finally, if he thinks Fascism is an empty slur, then why did he use it in 2015 to (strangely) describe Progressivism and in 2022 to describe me?

Sincerely,

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