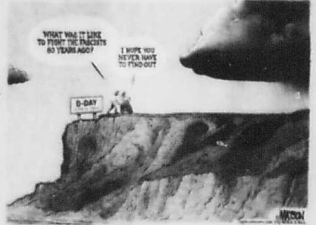


DRAWN & QUARTERED



THE PUBLIC FORUM

All commentary, letters and cartoons on The Salt Lake Tribune Opinion pages represent the views of the identified writers and artists and are not necessarily those of The Salt Lake Tribune. The Salt Lake Tribune Editorial Board, which is separate from the newsroom.

Chuck the Constitution

You know better, Mike Leel. How dare you attempt to protest our legal system, albeit not always perfect, by refusing to do your job on behalf of the people who elected you. Instead of finding solutions, you create problems.

Furthermore, how dare you and your elected Republican colleagues continue to support a man who lies about everything, including all his recent convictions, and especially an election he lost by 7 million popular votes and 74 electoral college votes. You know he lost. He filed 62 federal lawsuits to no avail. You are an attorney. You know better. Yet you continue to pay homage to him. You "Captain Moroni."

Now you and your unwhetted fellow Republican public servants (that includes you, Burgess Owens) continue to rile up your followers by supporting the ratings of a former president of the United States, a recently convicted sex abuser (by a jury of his peers), and now a convicted felon (also via a jury of his peers). Not to mention an outright traitor to his own country who would do anything to have power, including luring into his un-democratic, anti-American scheme to fix the Constitution to his own liking. You, who flirted with the idea that fake Republican electoral votes could replace the real ones and turn the last presidential election. You know better.

Please remove that copy of the Constitution you say carry in your front pocket and don't ever refer to it again because you simply do not understand it. You would rather support a dictator who would overturn the rule of law and excuse himself from all his crimes! And extinguish democracy. You've gone too far when members of your party start calling for blood in the streets. I think you know that. I think you know better.

Maybe you can say you are merely a voice for your constituency. But you cannot say you are a voice of reason. Or valor.

Mike Snarr
Salt Lake City

CONNECT WITH THE OPINION PAGES ONLINE

The Tribune's online Opinion section includes all the editorials, columns, cartoons and letters found in the print edition, plus additional commentary, cartoons and features. See strib.com/opinion/

To appear in the Opinion section

The Salt Lake Tribune encourages readers to submit their own commentaries for publication. These essays should address timely topics of general interest and should not exceed 800 words.

Authors should include a recent photograph and a sentence or two of biographical information that includes any experience or expertise in the subject matter addressed. They may be sent to Sara Weber, Voices editor, at aweber@sltrib.com.

Sending text in the body of an email is preferred, as attachments do not always arrive in a usable form. We accept one commentary per person in any 45-day period.

Submissions may also be mailed to The Salt Lake Tribune, Editorial Page, 90 South 400 West, Suite 600, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.



Hockey fans celebrate the introduction of the Utah NHL team at the Delta Center on April 24.

Publicly financed stadiums don't benefit the local economy

The recent interview with the Salt Lake City mayor was abysmal. Her responses were vague and mere platitudes. I wish Erin Mendenhall would speak in a straightforward, transparent manner. Instead, she prioritizes private interest groups and gaslights her constituents on issue after issue.

The residents of Salt Lake did not get a say in this bill. We didn't get to vote on the .5% sales tax increase that will cost each one of us \$220.87 each year. This could have been executed as a bond like most other large public investments. However, Utah politicians thought they knew better.

Time after time, it's been proven, through research, that publicly financed sports stadiums and districts do not benefit the local economy. It's just a transfer of wealth, and in this case, I believe it will be just that. SB272 is the perfect example of welfare for the rich. Who are the parties that benefit from it? Ryan Smith (a billionaire) and the LDS Church (a billionaire business) that owns all the adjacent properties.

Additionally, the current Jazz game attendees are mostly families and Mormons. I live right by the Delta Center. They go to the game and afterwards head right back home to Draper, Lehi, Kaysville, (insert generic suburban town here). They're not going to bars. Frankly, we have enough bars, albeit trendy, private ones.

We are in the middle of the worst housing affordability and homelessness crises of the last 50 years (if not since the Great Depression). These issues should be of the utmost importance to our state and city leaders. This bill alone will cost the state \$1 billion, and I'm not including the separate MLB bill (HB562) costing \$900 million.

I'm a capitalist. I am absolutely for bringing the NHL to Salt Lake City, but until we can resolve the serious issues facing our city, state and country, citizens will not benefit from an infusion of money into the downtown area.

Caroline Carr
Salt Lake City

Here's how Rome's democracy would have dealt with Trump

How would ancient Rome's brilliant democracy have dealt with Donald Trump? Rome frequently exercised its democratic responsibility to impeach public officials, even after they left office. Those convicted of bad behavior were exiled from the country.

Rome also had public officials known as censors, one of whose functions was to manage the census rolls of citizens.

When any citizen including the president of Rome (the "Consul"), was convicted of a crime or came under civil action like defamation, bankruptcy, or military dishonor, the censor would enter a mark of "infamy" (Latin: "nota censoria") into the record by his name.

This was a severe dent in his social

reputation that attended him wherever he went. It was a later version of the very ancient Biblical "mark of Cain," and an earlier version of our own sexual offender registry today.

When found to be "infamous," public officials would lose the privilege of office-holding and would also lose their "place" as members of the senate or the equestrian order.

Rome acted quickly and decisively when there was misbehavior by those in positions of public trust.

That's why Rome's democracy lasted 500 years and ours is almost gone after only 250.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross

LETTER POLICY

The Salt Lake Tribune welcomes letters of up to 300 words on a single topic of general interest. If published, they become the sole property of the newspaper, may be edited for length, grammar, accuracy or clarity, and be stored or reproduced by electronic means. Letters must include the writer's full name, street address and daytime telephone number, though only the name and the city of residence will be published. Letters by email are encouraged.

They should have the word "letter" in the subject line and not include attachments. Only one letter per writer can be published in any 30-day period.

Send letters to letters@sltrib.com or mail to The Public Forum, 90 S. 400 West, Salt Lake City, Suite 600, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Some things Biden didn't do

Here are a few things that Joe Biden didn't do.

Joe Biden didn't call our fallen warriors suckers and losers. Joe Biden didn't have sex with a pornstar and pay her hush money so she wouldn't expose him. Joe Biden didn't commit a felony of financial fraud by attempting to pay a pornstar off. Joe Biden didn't have a nearly year-long affair with a Playboy model while he was married.

Joe Biden didn't pay a doctor off to help him avoid the draft and serve in the military. Joe Biden didn't have a professor at the college he went to call him the dumbest SOB that had ever been in his classroom. Joe Biden didn't have the CEO of ExxonMobil call him a moron. Joe Biden didn't tell people to drink bleach and insert magic wands into their rectum to cure the coronavirus.

Joe Biden didn't have the feds sue him and his father for racial discrimination. Joe Biden didn't declare bankruptcy five times. Joe Biden didn't start up a fake University and destroy the hopes and dreams of thousands of young people along with taking thousands of dollars from each of them. Joe Biden didn't have over 4,000 legal cases brought against him by former vendors and employees.

Joe Biden didn't have his wife that was killed in an automobile accident buried on private property so he could claim significant tax credits and write offs.

Joe Biden didn't open up casinos in Atlantic City and then declare bankruptcy and close them putting thousands of people out of work.

Joe Biden didn't call the United States a third world country and a banana republic. Joe Biden didn't call judges, juries and prosecutors deranged and paid off. Joe Biden didn't lose two nationwide elections by over 7 million votes each time. Joe Biden didn't use phrases in his speeches and rallies he learned from Adolf Hitler.

These are just a few of the things Joe Biden didn't do. The list could go on for some time.

Jackson Lader
Herriman

LDS Church and Trump

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the silence of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) on the conduct of former President Donald Trump.

As an institution known for its high moral standards and commitment to principles such as honesty, fidelity, and integrity, it is perplexing to see a lack of official stance on an individual whose actions starkly contrast these values.

President Trump's history of adultery, lascivious behavior, greed, dishonesty and repeated violations of the law are well-documented. These actions seem fundamentally at odds with the teachings of the LDS Church, which emphasizes moral rectitude and ethical conduct. The church has historically taken stands on various social and moral issues, advocating for positions it believes align with its doctrines. Given this background, why has the church not publicly addressed the significant moral discrepancies in Trump's behavior?

By remaining silent, there is a risk of implying tacit approval or, at the very least, indifference to conduct that many members find troubling and inconsistent with their faith. I believe it is important for the LDS Church to clarify its position on this matter.

Doing so would not only reaffirm its commitment to its core principles but also provide guidance to its members who are grappling with the moral implications of supporting a figure like Trump. Thank you for considering my perspective on this critical issue. I look forward to the church's response and hope for the restoration of the values that many of us hold dear.

Elana Lewis
Salt Lake City

POOR