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By Stephen L. Bakke 🏁 January 22, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

A Guest Opinion writer took a "shotgun approach" to all things in America which disgusted him. He's a frequent "letter" writer in the Fort Myers NewsPress, but in this case they elevated him to "Guest Opinion" writer. That stunned me! I actually met the writer following a lengthy interchange we had in the paper early in 2015. I think you'll understand the situation by reading the following account which I submitted immediately to the paper.

Here's my response:

A Short Journey Down the Road to Confusion!

Ron Smiley writes: "Is it time to split up our country or can we work through this mess" – Guest Opinion on Jan 22. As we've often read from Smiley, his disdain for just about everything comes through loud and clear. He associates our problems with racists, educationally challenged people, corporate media, Congress, big business, fossil fuels, SEC, Republican politicians, special government projects in Maine and Mississippi, Wall Street, boldface liar Donald Trump, foreign workers, China...... and the hotel, restaurant and gambling industries. Smiley even notifies readers of some nude pictures of Trump's wife.

Smiley's finale is an energetic endorsement of Bernie Sanders for President. He writes "We need to restore capitalism [to] the way it was intended to operate." Picture that, ladies and gentlemen, the avowed and admitted European style socialist is viewed by Smiley as the only hope for saving capitalism!



Ron Smiley lives in Fort Myers.

We've experienced Smiley's "shotgun" approach to disdain and disgust before in numerous "letters" published in the NewsPress, but the paper elevating his rambling rants to the level of "Guest Opinion" greatly surprises me – especially since this is the man who told me personally that he had cancelled his subscription because the editorial department was "immature."