



Columnists

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Paul W. Smith

America answers call for Haitians in despair

Outta' my mind on a Saturday moanin':

The world's eyes (and hearts) are focusing on the devastation of Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake. And the world, so often at odds for good and bad reasons, is doing the right thing.

Anyone who tries to turn this situation into anything other than what it is -- a natural disaster of immeasurable consequences -- or who tries to politicize the immediate rescue and relief efforts or attempts to exploit the innocent sufferers for personal gain should be run out of town on a rail.

It's worth noting how American corporations, regardless of the economic difficulties they have been through, lead the way with immediate greenbacks and services already on the ground in Haiti.

And we the people, Americans of all means, are answering the call for help in every way we can.

This is a part of what makes America great.

I wish I could list here every company worldwide that has stepped up without hesitation to help the people of Haiti.

I wish I could list here every individual who has answered the call in the best way he or she can.

You can go to wjv.com for "Detroit Helping Haiti," where a onetime gift of \$60 provides a disaster relief "care package" for the victims in Haiti, thanks to the joint efforts of Cross International, Project Medishare, Forgotten Harvest and WJR NewsTalk 760.

The focus must be on immediately offering comfort, food and water as well as the most basic of life-saving medicines and first aid and procedures. Diverting attention from this effort by politicizing the tragedy is an affront to what has always made America great. Unfortunately, the situation is going to get worse in Haiti. Our help right now really matters.

Paul W. Smith is host of "The Paul W. Smith Show" on WJR (760 AM) from 5:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday. Please write him at letters@detnews.com. His column runs on Saturdays.

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