

Guest Opinion

Feelin' the Bern

Story / photos by Hayden Perkins

Needless to say, I write this as a young person who supports Bernie Sanders for president. So this is not a correspondent report -- it is a submission by a voter with an opinion.

The event was at Taco Bell Arena in Boise Monday. I went with Eltrym employees Xander Schott and Koby Hansen, and a friend of theirs named Blake. We arrived at about 6:15 a.m. MTN time and that was just in time; not long after we arrived the line was well around the corner of the building. Doors opened at about 9 a.m.-- some brought chairs, others (like us) stood and chatted. Although there was a bit of wind and brief light rain, we survived!

Once inside, we had arrived early enough to stand on the bottom floor along the railing, right next to where Sanders would speak. He wasn't scheduled to come out until noon. The stands filled up quickly. Areas that had been taped off were opened up for the incoming attendees.

Although we were on our feet for a long, excruciating time, not wanting to lose our spot, it was well worth it. A local organizer came out to speak about the campaign a bit before noon, and the issues that had impacted her team. It was a reminder of how truly reliant on local volunteers a grassroots campaign of this nature is; I was instantly reminded of events organized by enthusiastic young people for Obama's 2008 campaign.



Actress, Susan Sarandon

To my (and many others') surprise, actress Susan Sarandon introduced Sanders. The two of them have known each other for a long time, and she testified to her personal experience of Sanders's efforts over the years. Sarandon made clear the importance of this particular time in history -- that if we are going to act on such immense income inequality and other important issues, this is

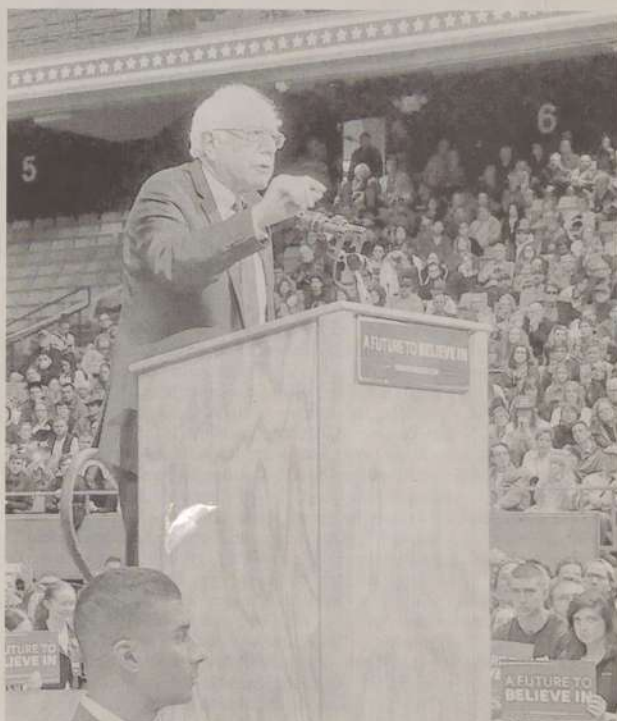
our best chance. Sarandon's speech was eloquent and heartfelt.

Out came Sanders. The supporters' cheers were deafening. After a quick greeting, Sanders got down to business. He interacted with the audience regularly, quizzing and polling us about our own experiences with student loan debt, income, or his famously repeated (and now a bit funny) line that his average campaign contribution is \$27.

Sanders addressed the major issues I care about. He examined income inequality, a single-player healthcare system, our nonsensical prison system, important civil rights issues, and the perilous influence Super-PACs have on candidates. I also heard him discuss a new issue: native American rights.

Sanders was a superb orator. And he was funny. I will long remember his comments on Hillary Clinton's wildly high-paying speeches, saying they must be written in "Shakespearean prose".

I can say without a doubt that the wait was worth it. Although I am currently registered as an unaffiliated voter, I will be registering as a Democrat to vote for Bernie in the Oregon primary. My hope is that other young people will join me in turning out to vote, whatever their inclination. With such terrifying talk being thrown around -- building ridiculous walls, mass deportation, banning Muslims -- it is paramount that the future of our country is built by those who will come to inhabit this century. Now is the time for progressive action and the American dream I was promised growing up. I believe Sanders is our best hope for a modern America that cares for its people and delivers on the rights enumerated in the Constitution.



Bernie Sanders, presidential candidate

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Letters

Happy Easter

To the Editor:

March 27, we will celebrate Easter, which to the Christian nation will be Super Sunday! Polls show this nation still has around 80 percent of the people believing in Jesus Christ and it would be great if we all showed up to honor him on that day! Polls also show that around 45 percent of those are "born again believers in Christ." That is we not only believe He is God manifested in flesh, but we try to follow after his teaching. We read the Bible daily, go to church on a regular basis and learn Bible verses that help tell others about Him, and also learn how to live a life that not only honors Him, but teaches us to love others. We realize we are no better than others, and endeavor to help others who are in need. Not just family and

friends, but the unlovely, those that out of their shortcomings harm themselves or others. There are plenty of people in Baker County who need help.

There are another 35 percent of believers who don't read their Bible daily, seldom go to church, never thank the Lord even for all He gives us daily. They look after the health and educational and well being of their children but overlook their spiritual well being. The only memory verse they ever memorized was, "Judge not, lest ye be judged!" This is not to say they don't know the Lord, because I believe most of them do. It's just that He is not yet the Lord of their life. These are the people the "born again" pray for mostly because you are our children, our brothers, our sisters, our parents, our friends and we love you. Because this great nation was started by Chris-

tians, we have been taught about Jesus from childhood, so some of us know it with our head but have not accepted Him with our heart.

Now, for you other 20 percent that don't think as we do, you not only have the right, but protection under the law to believe differently. You can believe there is no God. You can believe in a different God, or many gods. We all should show respect to you and your thoughts, no matter for what reason you hold them. However, you should respect our thoughts, also.

So on March 27, and from now on, I want 100 percent of the people in Baker City, Oregon in the United States of America to know we "born again believers in Christ" love you!

And have a great day. That is, if you want to.

George Wilder, Baker City

Tactical Team has Need to Add Robot

The Northeast Oregon Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team is comprised of Officers and Deputies from the Baker City and La Grande Police Departments and the Baker and Union County Sheriff's Offices. It covers multiple counties in Northeast Oregon. The team has been used successfully on multiple occasions to bring a peaceful resolution to incidents with a high potential for violence.

The team is well trained and meets the highest level of certification from the National Tactical Officers Association. It is supported by the budgets of the above-named departments, the financial contributions of individual team members, and has benefited from some equipment distributions via the federal excess property program.

There is one vital item of equipment, commonly referred to as a "robot," which the team lacks. Funding for it via the aforementioned sources is not available. The team is asking businesses and individuals in the region to consider a tax deductible donation to offset the cost of this device (\$28,000). Tax deductible donations may be made by check payable to "Baker City Police-SWAT Fund" c/o Baker City Police Department, 1768 Auburn Ave. Baker City, OR 97814. The Robot will be maintained by the Baker City Police Department for immediate use by law enforcement agencies (and the SWAT Team) in our region.

Remote devices (robot) allow non-human entry into locations where armed suspects may be barricaded. They enable officers, via audio-video links, to observe whether or not a suspect is armed. The robot enables crisis negotiators to communicate with suspects or potentially despondent persons and to observe their body language which is often critical to peacefully resolve serious incidents. If needed, the device allows for the remote deployment of non-lethal devices such as chemical agents. The robot also has use in assessing suspicious packages which may or may not be explosive devices.

We live in a peaceful, low crime region. Experience has shown, however, that incidents best resolved by SWAT teams and equipment like this device do occur here. The "track record" of Northeast Oregon SWAT has been one in which every incident it has responded to has been peacefully resolved without injury to anyone. The acquisition of a robot will enable us to keep it that way.

Further information regarding this project and fund raising effort may be obtained from La Grande Police Sergeant Gary Bell (gbell@cityoflagrande.org 541-963-1017) who is the Team Commander or from Jerry Boyd (541-519-8309 jboyd@bakercity.com) of the Baker City Police Department.

Eagles Holding Dinner and Easter Egg Hunt

The Eagles Past President's Club is having a dinner on Friday, March 25 from 6-8 p.m., at 2935 "H" St in Baker City. Dinner is Spaghetti, green bean, salad and garlic bread for \$7. Members and their guests welcome.

The Eagles Auxiliary is hosting an Easter Egg hunt at 2935 "H" St in Baker City Sunday, March 27, 2016 at 1 p.m. Members and their guests welcome.

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My name is "Cowgirl Dot" and I'm a real cutie. I was recently taken out of the impound facility and boy am I glad to have my freedom. I am probably just under one year old. I have short hair. I am underweight at about 30 pounds and should be a little heavier. I was timid at first, but am now friendly and doing very well. I am looking for an active family that will take me for daily walks, have patience with me while I learn my manners, and allow me to become a family pet and not a fenced up backyard or kennel dog. I am very smart and would love to find an activity such as Fly Ball, Agility, Herding or Obedience competition. I do require a fenced yard for my safety and exercise when I need to be outside. I would like to

find a home real soon so I can be settled in for the summer fun with a new family. Please call Carmen at 541-519-4530 or Best Friends of Baker, Inc. for more information or an adoption application.

Call Best Friends of Baker, Inc.
541-519-7387

