

Since Mr. Rooke-Ley has failed to mention the N-word, the nuclear reality that separates Israel as a unique criminal enterprise, his opinion is revealing. He appears to endorse cheating as a fundamental value.

If Mr. Rooke-Ley wasn't so busy playing games, it's possible his sponsors could be taken seriously. The Vatican has shown this to be an effective strategy.

If it's just a game, who cares?

*Jim Guthrie
Eugene*

LACKS INTEGRITY

Val Hoyle is running as a Democrat for secretary of state; she lists herself as the mother of two children and a proven leader in getting results for clean fuels to combat climate change.

One of the most important Democratic planks for 2016 states: "We oppose the development of Oregon Coastal regions for the export of fossil fuels." Remember the Children's Climate Trust lawsuit originating in Eugene? It speaks to the heart of our obligation to this planet for future generations.

Val Hoyle accepted a \$5,000 campaign donation from the Jordan Cove, LLC PAC in December 2015. Jordan Cove is the proposed LNG liquefaction and export facility planned for the Coos County

coast. Jordan Cove will be powered by the South Dunes Power Plant, slated to become the biggest greenhouse gas emitter in the state of Oregon if built. Jordan Cove will be dependent on fracked gas from Canada.

Val Hoyle doesn't represent Democratic Party environmental ideals and is willing to sacrifice our children's future as well as her own kids' by supporting Jordan Cove. She lacks integrity and is not the kind of leader we need and is definitely not someone who can be trusted with Oregon's future!

*Stacey McLaughlin
Myrtle Creek*

FALSE REFORM

With regards to your "Slant" article and the "Take Back The Night" event on April 28:

It's an incredibly sad irony that the very peer group that you'd think would've been Laura Hanson's advocates, the women in and of her sorority, decided that image and "social capital" on the University of Oregon campus were more important than Hanson's life. Add to this the university's lack of integrity and concern after her rape, and Ms. Hanson was victimized again.

In Brenda Tracy's rape case at Oregon State University, she may have received an apology, yet the university "partnered with her to improve how it handles those cases." Does partnering mean giving Ms.

Tracy the "opportunity" to speak to faculty and students about her experience, yet not demanding that the four rapists do the same?! Three were OSU football players, and all four men "gang-raped, robbed, sodomized and then re-victimized" her, according to her account.

This kind of backhanded, insincere attempt to mitigate and "reform" only entrenches the very patriarchy that offers what's passed off as an apology.

The late author Jose Saramago once stated correctly that unless men start speaking out against women's rape and abuse, hence in their defense, then change will be very unlikely.

*Sean S. Doyle
Corvallis*

CORPORATE POWER

On May 9, Judge Charles Carlson of the Lane County Circuit Court will hear a case that threatens the people's initiative power in Lane County and, ultimately, in Oregon at large.

Corporate interests seek to dramatically restrict the people's law-making authority guaranteed by the Oregon and U.S. constitutions. Lane County residents want to put an initiative before the voters to recognize our right to local community self-government, free from corporate interference.

Before signatures could even be collected, corporate interests filed to prevent voters from having a say about the people's right to make decisions in our own community.

To stop the people's effort to limit corporate power, those corporate interests claim there should be greater barriers to the people's exercise of our initiative process. However, advocates of the Community Rights Movement will argue that the courts have no power to interfere with the people's right to pass local laws until after the laws have passed. To do otherwise would significantly weaken the people's initiative power.

Carlson will make a decision that affects our constitutional right to write and pass laws that will protect residents from corporate harms. We must not sit idly by as the last vestige of our so-called democracy is scrapped at the request of corporate interests.

Join us May 9 at 1:30 pm in Courtroom 303, Lane County Circuit Court, and learn more about local efforts to elevate the rights of people and nature over corporate "rights" and privileges. Check out CommunityRightsLaneCounty.org.

*Michele DeLa Cruz
and Michelle Holman
Eugene and Deadwood*

VIEWPOINT

BY JAKE KLONOSKI

The Oregon Way

BERNIE: FROM HAMLET TO THE OREGON TRAIL

"To Bern, or not to Bern?" asked Matthew Keating, a Sanders campaign organizer, eloquently introducing Sen. Sanders before an adoring crowd of thousands in Springfield on Thursday, April 28. "To vote, to Bern. To Bern, perchance to dream. Ay, there is the rub."

Sanders praised Keating, remarking that in all his campaigning, Keating's was the first Shakespearean introduction he had heard.

Ballots have now been mailed out for Oregon voters and must be returned by May 17. Given Oregon's proclivities, its racial breakdown and its idealistic nature, Sanders will likely do well in the state, despite being effectively precluded from becoming the 2016 Democratic nominee for president.

Keating's impassioned introduction, inspired by Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, points to a valuable lesson on which Oregon voters should reflect. The play, an epic tragedy, involves a protagonist so driven by (justified) rage and hallucinations that he ends up not only destroying the target of his rage but also his closest friends, his love and himself, and in the process wipes out his country's leadership such that an impulsive and hot-headed invader snatches control of the nation.

Moreover, *Hamlet* contains just two female characters, each largely stripped of agency and mere vehicles for the desires, jealousies and tragedies of the male characters. The destruction of Hamlet's on-again, off-again partner Ophelia following Hamlet's much-regretted condemnation of her, is allegory for the silencing of strong women by an

oppressive, patriarchal world.

It is a storyline that should encourage Oregon voters to think hard about their ballot choice.

Sanders famously finds inspiration in Scandinavia, as does anyone who has visited that part of the world. But his supporters in the Oregon primary might better find dire warning in the prince of Denmark. Hillary Clinton has won 25 states and 12.3 million primary votes, over 3 million more than votes for Sanders. She is guaranteed to capture enough delegates to become the Democratic answer to Donald Trump's misogynistic, xenophobic, know-nothing campaign.

That recognized, a wise Oregon voter might hesitate to mail in a vote for Sanders and instead strengthen the hand of the woman we need to win the presidency in November. That is what inspired me to mail in my vote for Clinton after watching Sanders' Springfield rally.

Having thought long and hard about it, I recognize the 2016 election season is a more Oregonian tale than *Hamlet*. Whether from history class or from the computer game, we all know the Oregon Trail. The trek from Missouri to the fabled Willamette Valley is a far better metaphor for this long march of an election.

Starting from Saint Louis, pioneers disappointed in the overcrowded, stratified East set out shining with idealism, promised a rich, virgin land ready to fulfill the Manifest Destiny of America, a new Eden. Over thousands of dusty miles — through bloody hunting, terrible bouts of disease and treacherous river fording — that shine would no doubt dim.

Along the trail, at the historic "Parting of the Ways" in eastern Idaho, wagon trains were presented with the

apocryphal markers: a pile of iron pyrite marking one path, fool's gold, leading the way to California and a sign on the other that read "To Oregon."

Those who could read, it is said, stayed on the path to Oregon. Those distracted by worthless glitz, those who perhaps might have benefited from more time acquiring knowledge, headed to California.

The parting is a fitting metaphor for those who tire of the Democratic race and chase the false promise of the Trump candidacy.

For those who continued on to Oregon, the realization upon arrival in the Willamette Valley is that there was no virgin land, no Garden of Eden. Instead, there was a land with promise, but already full of rapacious traders, suffering terrible spring floods and with a culture of bigoted views that still haunt our state. Far from idealism, those who survived and thrived in Oregon did so through grit and stubborn determination. Even two centuries later, Oregonians struggle hard, through policy argument after rezoning battle, to create their Eden.

There is no doubt that Sanders will do well in Oregon this May; it is Oregonians' nature to set out inspired by ideals. However, for a people born from an idealistic starting point, who persevere past the seduction of false promises, but who remain committed to steady, cumulative progress despite disappointment — fighting through greed and mud and prejudice — the candidate who fits our state is Hillary Clinton.

For those who vote this May for Sanders "perchance to dream," just remember that when you wake up this fall, we are in a real fight to protect our state and our country. The Clinton campaign needs your support to win.

Ignore those who would falsely encourage sitting out the election, maliciously whispering as they did in *Hamlet*, "This above all: to thine own self be true." Consider the needs of your community and your nation.

Hillary Clinton should win Oregon this November and she should win with a YUGE margin.

Jake Klonoski was born in Springfield and is a fifth-generation Oregonian.