

outside terrorist mercenaries recruited with Saudi/Qatar funding, U.S. Special Forces training, Israel lobby pressure in Washington and Turkish logistic support.

A terrible drought struck Syria in 2006, forcing some 1.5 million rural residents into cities already overwhelmed by providing sanctuary to nearly 2 million Iraqi and Palestinian refugees created by the U.S. and Israel. As conditions worsened, Assad requested U.S. help, which was ignored by Hillary Clinton's State Department, which instead assembled forces to opportunistically attack a crippled state innocent of any aggression against us.

After NATO's destruction of Libya urged by Clinton's State Department, its arsenals were looted and shipped from Benghazi to arm more than 100,000 mercenaries to launch yet another so-called "civil war."

Please vote to protect the many Syrians, Ukrainians and others abroad in our imperial crosshairs who cannot vote. Cancel the coronation. Jill Stein will be an honest, rational and ethical woman chief executive.

Jack Dresser
Al-Nakba Awareness Project
Springfield

ELK HUNTER

I want to be close to that thing which is unattainable. The grandest, the most beautiful.

At having of such elation the flow of my blood becomes audible. It needs to last. It's all I want.

Getting closer is my dream, but I'm afraid you will run. What I did wrong and what I should have done haunt me.

I'm sorry. I thought I was doing good. I practiced not to sin, to praise and honor you. Was I wrong?

Let's find a new way. I'm tired of waiting and hiding and cutting you to pieces. Trembling in your presence, The Elk Hunter.

Ken Wages
Eugene

POLITICAL HACKERS

On hacking the election: A question is, which hackers will win and what side will that group favor? It is expected they will have the most fun hacking the computers back and forth in the U.S. state of Georgia,

which uses old computers without any paper trail.

Helen Woodford
Eugene

PRAGMATIC PROGRESSIVE

In response to a recent letter which hammered Mrs. Clinton and endorsed the Green Party's idealistic Dr. Jill Stein: We are preparing to elect a working president, not the paradigm of a platonic republic. That means in real-life politics (and in profound consequences) either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump.

Clinton has made mistakes (admitted), changed her mind (explained) and switched many tracks in a long career bombarded by the Fox-Koch-Limbaugh defamation machine. They hate her because she has survived as a committed, pragmatic progressive.

FDR was also a zig-zagging but positive "opportunist," and in an initially skeptical piece (Sept. *New Republic*) Jeet Heer concluded that "Clinton may yet wind up in the history books as an FDR for our times."

Our first and greatly experienced female president will have Sanders, Kaine, Warren, Biden, the Obamas, Dean, Buffett, Kerry, Steinem, etc., to help her stay true as a constructive leader (also a savvy ex-president who can make his final contribution).

Her only serious if not credible opponent is Trump, a malignant mutant of egomania, a truth-killing con man. He has pitched his gaudy circus tent over angry, scared, ignorant, often bigoted people who crave a subversive spectacle, not a viable leader. This confirms Norman Mailer's insight (1960) that most political slummers are "in the game not to make history but to be diverted from the history which is being made."

You can cast a futurist "protest" vote for Stein or Gary Johnson. Or, facing urgent reality, you can vote for our common benefit. Clinton may not light up the stars of your dreams, but she will do a great deal that we absolutely need.

The necessary work begins on Nov. 8 by electing Clinton and ending the sham and shame of Trump.

D.C. Elliott
Eugene

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*Research study funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, grant #2R44HD075499.

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