

A calm, reasonable voice wanted

Will a calm voice ever be heard again in our national politics? This year alone has resulted in so much vitriol from every side.

Anger still lingers about the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and there remain calls for its repeal even after the U.S. Supreme Court let it stand. The same court's ruling on same-sex marriage has brought forth calls for Constitutional amendments to overturn that narrow ruling.

Some quarters are mad about the agreement with Iran about its nuclear program.

Pundits and politicians couldn't respond fast enough to Donald Trump's comments about immigrants being murderers and rapists and Senator John McCain not being a hero because Trump doesn't like "people who are captured."

This summer has also made the Confederated flag a red-hot issue after the shooting deaths in Charleston. Not to mention shootings around the country involving police.

If the public wants to have something to be mad about there are plenty of candidates. The country has been angry for a long time and it's time to allow space for calmer voices. The opportunity is here with the 2016 presidential race heating up. With at least 16 Republicans and five Democrats running to succeed Barack Obama, you'd think there would be one—just one—candidate with the stature to call for lowered voices and set an example of a politician that wants to be president of all Americans, not just those on the left, the right or a particular party.

During the 1968 presidential campaign signs started appearing at

political rally with a simple message: "Bring us together."The victor, Richard Nixon, took up the challenge and governed publicly in a way that seemed to bring us together.

We don't want another Nixonian presidency but we can certainly use a candidate who is more about bringing the many factions of the country together than divide them further with extreme positions.

Presidents are the leader of all Americans, not just their party. Politics is the art of compromise and there has been too little of that recently. When it comes to being president of everyone extremism is not virtue and moderation is no vice.

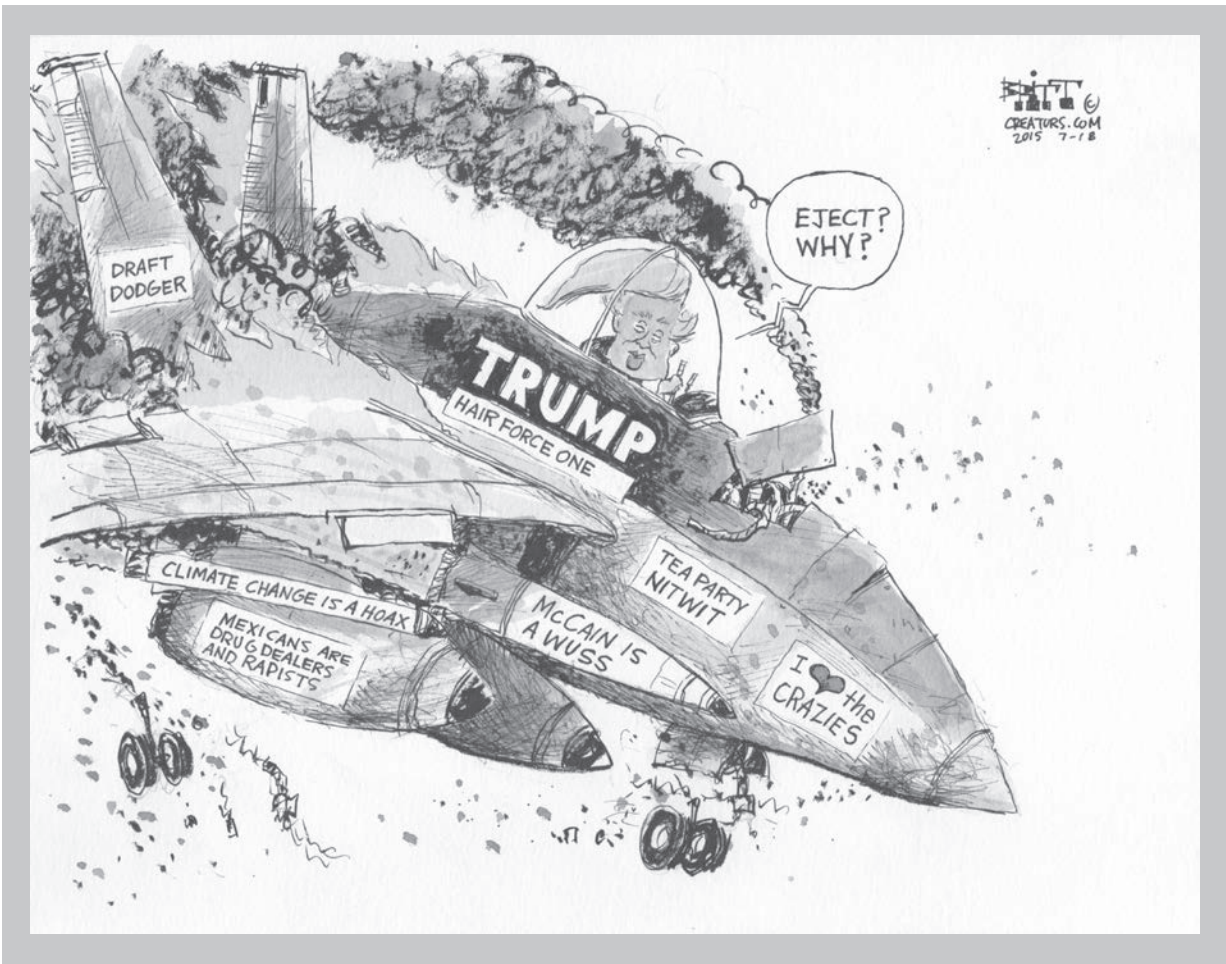
Unfortunately, candidates feel they can't win the nomination without currying favor with their party's fringes. The discourse of the coming presidential campaign would be elevated with at least one candidate calling for lowered voices. We have learned that talking to Iran was better than the alternative of using military force.

It is never a wrong step to talk to our global adversaries or to our political rivals. Through polite conversation we are able to hear each other and hopefully hear the good points our opponents make.

Every side wants to be heard and understood which is hard when the conversation is overheated and loud.

America needs a presidential candidate who can make a rational case for their policies and proposals in a manner that is more welcoming than divisive. At this point in our history it doesn't matter if that candidate is Democrat, Republican or Independent.

—LAZ



Jeb Bush wants to share

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

The most recent time I had seen Jeb Bush speak in San Francisco was in January, when he addressed the National Automobile Dealers Association. It is hard to imagine a group more invested in the old-school economy. It was a friendly crowd. The former Florida governor seemed comfortable—and boring. I left feeling as if I'd spent an hour listening to a human BarcaLounge.

The Jeb Bush I saw Thursday morning was a different candidate. He had shed some 30 pounds on the Paleo Diet. His campaign had pulled the dynasty name from the campaign logo and added an exclamation point. Now he's "Jeb!" In this trip to San Fran, Bush ventured away from the stolid GOP base to address the young workforce of Thumbtack, a 6-year-old digital service that links consumers to painters, DJs, dog walkers and other contractors. Bush arrived in a Toyota Camry ordered via Uber—the ride-hailing company that runs roughshod over the single-occupant vehicle model dear to car dealers.

It's hard to think of a clearer contrast to Hillary Clinton. In 2014, she told NADA, "The last time I actually drove a car myself was 1996." The former first lady, who has Secret Service protection for life, has no reason to use Uber.

In a recent speech, the former secretary of state took Uber to task—without, and this is so Clinton-like, naming Uber. She said: "Many Americans are making extra money renting out a spare room, designing websites, selling products they design themselves at home or even driving their own car. This on-demand, or so-called gig, economy is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation. But it's also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good

other views

job will look like in the future."

According to *The New York Times*, Team Hillary "diplomatically contacted

top officials at Uber to let them know about the passage in her speech that would draw attention to the service, according to people told of the conversations." That passage probably was: "I'll crack down on bosses who exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors or even steal their wages."

Clinton clearly is on the side of politicians who want to cripple ride-hailing startups that allow individuals to drive their cars at their own discretion. These outfits truly reflect market demand. If consumers don't like a service, they won't use it. If drivers don't like the terms, they will stop offering rides. Competition improves the outcome—but Clinton wants to impose more regulation.

In contrast, the son and brother of former presidents embraced the benefits of "disrupting the old order." Bush started the day extolling businesses such as Thumbtack on a LinkedIn post. "I love learning about these kinds of companies precisely because before they existed, their market didn't exist either," he wrote. Startups, he added, "cause mental dissonance for people who think they can plan the future of the economy from Washington D.C. — people like Hillary Clinton."

"He's got a good grasp of the way tech is changing the workforce," Thumbtack economist Jon Lieber told me after the talk.

2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney extolled "creative destruction" as an essential element of free en-

terprise. He was right, but those words mean nothing to kids used to summoning wheels with their phones. They just know what they want. Perhaps 2016 will be the year capitalism finally clicks for millennial voters.

If so, Bush is ready. When a reporter asked him about Uber, Bush talked about a college student he met who graduated without crippling debt—because he drove for Uber. A Thumbtacker asked Bush about Obamacare. He turned "repealing Obamacare" into an act of disruption that would free consumers to "opt out of these old models."

When a Thumbtack worker asked Bush what he thinks of new FCC net neutrality regulation dear to the South of Market crowd, Bush did not pander. He answered, "The unintended consequence of these top-down proven rules is always negative."

Unlike the man I saw in January, I think, I maybe could vote for this Jeb Bush. CEO Marco Zappacosta, 30, seemed to be enjoying Thumbtack's first presidential hopeful meet-and-greet, so I asked him: Would you vote for Bush? Zappacosta answered, "I don't know."

It's not clear at all that feeling the love for the sharing economy can win Bush young voters. During the Thumbtack town hall, no one asked Bush about Uber or Clinton or niggling regulations. Other than the net neutrality query, Thumbtackers asked about equal pay for women, about gun control, whether Bush supports state laws to protect gays from discrimination in housing and the workplace — social issues where, as with net neutrality, young voters like government regulation. And really, they're not all that impressed when a Republican uses Uber.

(Creators Syndicate)

Not all welcome at concerts

To the Editor:

We have enjoyed the summer concerts at Keizer Rapids Park for some time but we had a bad experience Saturday, July 18.

Several members of our Wood Carvers Club showed up as usual to enjoy the evening of music, food, fun and to do a little wood carving. As we set up in the back of the seating area we were informed that we were not welcome since we make too much of a mess with our wood chips. We were invited to leave.

Our wood chips amount to about a quart of bio-degradable chips similar in size to, or smaller than, the existing wood mulch. The chips blend right in. They blend in better than the paper and food waste created by users of the food cart.

It is a disappointment that our club, which frequents and supports Keizer events and businesses, is not welcome at the Park.

We are welcome at the Salem concerts and will continue to attend these events.

Bob Curtis
Salem

letters

To the Editor:

I had the most embarrassing experience at the City of Keizer-sponsored concert at the amphitheatre at Keizer Rapids Park.

I was asked to leave the park because I was going to do my woodcarving and leave chips from the carving.

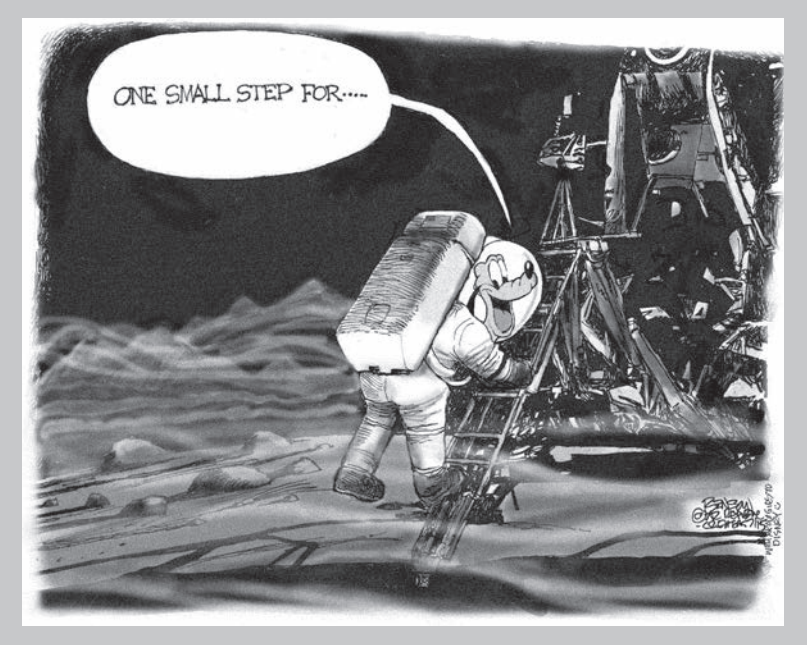
Not only was I asked to leave, but a fellow carver (Everett Koontz) was also asked to leave.

I have been coming to the concerts in the park since they started and have always done my woodcarving during the shows. I have also carved at other events in the valley over the years and have *never* had any problem with the wood chips left—until this year.

The small wood chips blow away in the wind and are not a problem—except for this year by one person from the Keizer Rotary.

This is most embarrassing and not necessary. It will be some time before I for one will attend another function; and, I am sure other wood carvers will not be attending any functions as we are obviously not welcome.

Dave Disselbrett
Salem



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