

# KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## A million pennies

Does anyone reach down to pick up a penny anymore? In earlier days when a kid found a penny (or a nickle or a quarter) it was like finding treasure. Nowadays an errant penny is passed over with nary a glance.

One can only guess the value of all the pennies laying on the ground in Keizer. More importantly, one can only imagine the value of the all change in all the vehicles in Keizer. That can add up to some serious money, which would be good for the Keizer Community Food Bank which is holding a fundraiser starting Oct. 1.

Originally conceived as "12 Miles of Pennies," an effort to raise more than \$10,000 in the month of October. But, \$10,000 equals more than 1million pennies, that's unweildly. The food bank is still seeking to raise the money to help fill its shelves, which today are woefully sparse.

Keizer kids are being asked to pick up a penny if they find one on the ground and put them in any number of collection cans that will be popping up around town late next week. Keizer drivers are asked to clean out the change cache in their vehicles and donate to the food bank, too.

In one day Keizer generosity with its 'car change' could raise the money that is needed by the food bank. Food donations are accepted by community pantries but they are able to leverage cash donations in

editorial

a way that public is not able.

Food donations are always needed at food banks, not just during the holiday season. There are expansive food baskets distributed by a number of organizations in the

area including the Keizer Network of Women, Marion County Fire District #1 and the Keizer Elks Club. Those gift baskets of food are delivered during the holidays. The Keizer Community Food Bank serves people throughout the year; not all their clients are recipients of gift food baskets.

People think of donating food during the holidays or during a food drive by a club or organization. Unfortunately the need is constant. Food insecurity is a shameful condition for any resident a country as rich as the United States to face. If there is a solution to eradicating hunger in the world, let alone in our own background, it has not been presented yet. Until that happens we must be our brother's keeper and give a hand to those who need it.

The coinage sitting in our cars is often overlooked. Let's put it to good use and assure that the shelves at our local food bank are filled now and going into the holiday season. And next spring, do the same thing, we can all donate and we'll barely miss the pennies, nickles, dimes and quarters that now just rattle around in the ashtray or cup holder.

—LAZ

## KFD equipment bond request

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Measure 24-389, the Keizer Fire District's request for a 20-year bond to replace aging fire apparatus and ambulances.

The staff at Keizer Fire District has spent extra dollars and manpower in an effort to maintain an aging fleet of vehicles. It is time to continue supporting our emergency service providers by providing the monies necessary to purchase new firefighting apparatus, new ambulances and associated equipment to fully furnish these new units.

You may see the KFD apparatus go by and say to yourself, "that looks new" when in reality the newest engine is now 11 years old, and our newest ambulance is seven years old. Recently one of the three ambulances was towed for repair, putting it out of service to respond.

By approving this bond request the Keizer Fire District will be able to establish and maintain a schedule of vehicle replacement that will provide years of service to the constituents of Keizer Fire.

From me personally, I support this worthy effort. I look at it as very inex-

letters

pensive insurance to have adequate and advanced equipment available if I am ever in need of fire or EMS services.

Please join me in voting YES for Measure 24-389, the Keizer Fire District equipment bond measure.

Greg Ego  
Keizer

## Church's 25th anniversary

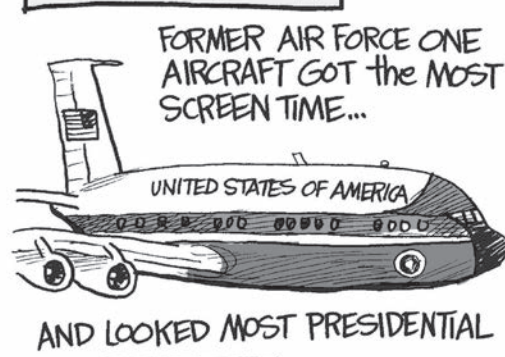
To the Editor:

Truth Tabernacle Church of Keizer would like to formally invite the public to come and celebrate their 25-year anniversary services on Sept. 25, 26 and 27. Service times will be Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at noon, and Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Truth Tabernacle is located at 3795 Pleasant View Dr. N.E., in Keizer. Transportation is available. Phone 503-393-1352. Guest speakers will be Pastors Danny Perdew (Greeley, CO), Russell Frazier (Fontana, CA), and Robert Davis (Wheelersburg, OH).

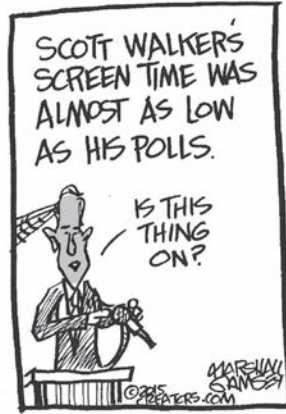
Michael R. Hearn  
Truth Tabernacle Church  
Keizer

## DEBATE NOTEBOOK



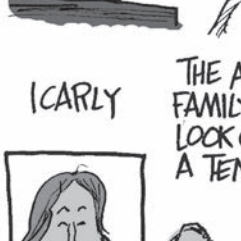
HUCKABEE PICKED A RUNNING MATE

I SMOKED POT 40 YEARS AGO



I'LL BUILD A BORDER WALL TO KEEP CANADIAN-BORN PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SENATOR.

IF YOU DRANK EVERYTIME A MODERATOR SAID "TRUMP," YOU'D PASS OUT BY THE FIRST COMMERCIAL.



THE ADDAMS FAMILY WOULD LOOK GOOD ON A TEN.



## Republicans stoke fire of bigotry

By MICHAEL GERSON

What is the proper response from a prospective president to the question: Is being a Muslim disqualifying for the presidency?

Ben Carson answered that he "would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of this nation" because Islam is incompatible with the Constitution. The Constitution offers a different reply: "No religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

What is the right answer from a presidential candidate to the question: Is being an adherent of Hinduism—which in some nationalist versions is politically oppressive and anti-Muslim disqualifying for the presidency? The proper response: "No religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

What of practicing Buddhism, a faith that has Theravada followers in Myanmar who stoke ethnic and religious hatred? What of following Mormonism, a faith that once had semi-theocratic dominance of Utah and was in armed revolution against the federal government from May 1857 until July 1858? What of Catholicism, a version of which was employed to justify the murder of Protestants in Ireland?

The proper answer to all these: While voters can make individual judgments about qualifications for the presidency, no one can be barred from running or serving because of his or her religion. No religious test shall ever be required.

And what of an evangelical Christian who rejects evolution and traces the roots of radical Islam back to "the battle between Jacob and Esau"? This

other views

is where Carson and some other evangelicals show an astounding lack of self-consciousness. Carson argues that Muslims are unfit for

high office because they hold a conception of divine law that is inconsistent with a liberal, democratic order. A significant portion of the country would disqualify Carson for exactly the same reason.

Because of the Supreme Court's decision on same-sex marriage, conservative Christians are currently (and appropriately) focused on the defense of religious liberty. But how is it psychologically possible to combine a zeal for pluralism with such overt prejudice against one faith? Imagine an evangelical participating in a protest against the siting of a mosque. Now imagine him going across the street to a rally in favor of religious freedom. Wouldn't the sign he carries have to be altered pretty dramatically?

The response of some evangelicals is that Islam is different—that it is inherently oriented toward violent jihad and the imposition of a seventh-century version of Shariah law. This is a theological claim, which is also made by al-Qaeda and the Islamic State.

I sincerely doubt that Ben Carson and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi are the best authorities to interpret 1,400 years of Islamic theological reflection and political practice. The overwhelming majority of Muslim scholars and Muslims in the world would disagree with their interpretation, as would nearly all American Muslims.

Yet American Muslims see candi-

dates on the main stage of American politics asserting that the worst, most ugly interpretation of their faith is the only correct one. The same could be done to Hindus, Buddhists, Mormons, Catholics or evangelicals. It would be unfair in every case.

This is not to deny that some religious traditions have a more difficult history when it comes to the separation of divine law from human law. It is, on balance, easier to have a healthy suspicion of the state when your founder was a judicially murdered itinerant preacher who said to turn the other cheek. But even this did not prevent the wars of religion following the Protestant Reformation that flattened much of Europe (and were the bloodiest until World War I). Every religious tradition has the temptation of tribalism. It is overcome by calling people to the best of their traditions, including respect for the other.

Carson, Donald Trump and other Republican candidates need to step back a moment and consider what they are doing. By targeting various groups for suspicion—calling Muslims a danger to the Constitution or attacking undocumented immigrants as rapists and murderers—they are opening up a space for some of the worst elements of our society. A questioner at the Trump town hall began, "We have a problem in this country. It's called Muslims." People once on the political fringes now feel part of the national conversation. Trump will look into their views. Carson concurs with their fears.

What gain or goal is worth the cost of breathing life into bigotry?

(Washington Post Writers Group)

## Expenses force college tuition to spiral

It's an expression that may not be commonly heard these days: "Those were the good old days." There are a few instances, however, where it would seem that its use is appropriate.

What's in mind are the costs associated with matriculating the number of years required of college or university course work to prepare one's self for a choice of vocation. A mere 50 years ago, it was my turn to decide for or against more formal education beyond the 12th grade. The first question was whether I wanted to work full time, for what was considered living wage money among the abundance of job choices back then, or prepare for a profession that required at least a four-year college degree.

My mother viewed the future as one that would more and more often require a college degree to obtain a good job. I found full-time work after my senior year and earned enough money that first summer to pay all the expenses of my frosh year. I repeated the summer job routine for three more years and completed my college degree on time with grades and know-how sufficient to obtain an Oregon teaching certificate and apply successfully for a teaching position in the Beaverton School District.

Now I can look back and appreciate the fact that those were the good old days because I was able to pay my own way through college and walk away debt free. In fact, having worked at the university in dorm management for four years, while earning scholarships, I had money enough left over from all expenses to pay my living costs that first summer after graduation until a check was issued by my school district employer in September.

As most of us know, anyone these days able to do what I did straight out

gene h. mcintyre

of high school is nearly unknown. Our society has become expensive in the extreme in almost every way and that includes the costs associated with completing the course work required for a degree. Here's a big part of the reason: The president of Pacific University was paid a modest amount when I attended while the current salary of the president there, Leslie Hallick, is paid \$567,167 per year. Number one honor for pay goes to the new president at the University of Oregon, Michael Schill, at \$660,000. Ed Ray at OSU comes in third place at \$485,088 (plus PERS retirement for Schill and Ray and perks like free housing and a car).

Paying these people what is demanded nowadays is just one of the reasons that no child save he or she comes from a wealthy family, one that's willing and able to foot the bills, can even think of a college education under the terms of yesteryear. Meanwhile, too, many of the classroom instructors are adjunct or part-time workers whose pay is low due to abbreviated weekly hours and who must do other things to survive economically. The other distractions mean that classroom presentations suffer and student learning and development are marginalized. Further, the professors in our universities too often use graduate assistants to do the work they should be doing in classrooms and student meetings of all kinds and that results in short-sheeting student educations.

The point of all this is that, yes, inflation has caused prices of everything to rise, while costs in public and private universities have gone

stratospheric, mainly because of the costs of paying those who run these places the salaries and benefits of what may be fairly categorized as modern day potentates. By personal observation of what these people typically do is that they do very little other than appear for "celebrity" functions, make e-mail and phone calls to solicit money, and hire subordinates at high wages to do the real work.

What's happening is that we taxpayers and the parents of those who want to attend college or university are paying excessively large, crippling, debt-resulting amounts so that Oregon's university administrators can live lavishly. The money we pay has become a keep-up-with-the-Joneses craziness so that when a new head is hired at UO, OSU, or wherever in higher education here, we parents and taxpayers end up paying ridiculously high dollar amounts to hire the "best" people who contribute practically nothing to the good of society. They just make the big bucks and then leave to retire in a gated community, typically out-of-state, and are replaced by someone who's paid even more.

Those who have bright children should consider having them compete for admission to a school with an impressive reputation such as Stanford, Notre Dame or Yale which are also known to pay their instructors well in full-time positions. Here we pay exceedingly well only those in the top administrative jobs and the coaches. Meanwhile, our university students can attend football games but accumulate more debt by high fees so UO, OSU and others can give jocks, not from Oregon, but from California and Hawaii, a free college degree.

(Gene H. McIntyre's column appears weekly in the Keizertimes.)



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