

# KeizerOpinion

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## There are no small parts

By LYNDON ZAITZ

In my mind, all the world's my stage; I perform on it every day. But sometimes I have a need to appear on an actual theatrical stage. Keizer Homegrown Theatre's (KHT) annual Shakespeare in the Park fits the bill.

Earlier this month, I performed in my fifth consecutive production on the Keizer Rotary Amphitheatre stage at Keizer Rapids Park. This year the show was *Twelfth Night, or What You Will* and the experience was no less exciting and rewarding than any of the previous four shows.

Linda Baker, founder of Keizer Homegrown Theatre, and director of this year's show has a great nose for talent and, year after year, is able to put together a cast of committed people who give up their time for weeks to tread the boards. She recruits former students from her drama teacher days at McNary High School; she recruits from other theatre companies. You know you are under good direction when the right people are cast in the right roles. Actors clamor to return to act with Shakespeare in the Park. And why not?

For those of us who didn't pay as close attention as we should have when studying Shakespeare in high school attain a new level of reverence and understanding of the greatest English language playwright. The way the Bard's plays are edited and staged make it accessible to audiences of all ages—especially the comedies such as *Twelfth Night* and last year's *A Midsum-*

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mer Night's Dream.

The cast and crew meet new people that become friends and have a bonding experience that only comes from performing with and off each other. The audiences get free entertainment that is anything but run-of-the-mill and is performed outside in the fresh air.

Over the past five summers, I have had the privilege of acting in parts both big and small. It is a big responsibility regardless of the size of the role. Fellow actors rely on you knowing your lines and your staging. In community theatre one finds every level of ability—some have acted for years, others are newbies who bring an innocence to the acting company.

The cast and crew of each production spends a lot of time together, either preparing sets or in rehearsals. There is a lot of down time which means we all get to know each other well over a few intense weeks of preparation.

We get together to put on a show in the summer. It's fun, it's creative and it fosters camaraderie between people that don't run in the same circles outside the show. Opening night jitters become second and third night confidence and ends with a melancholy on closing night. Our mid-summer adventure is coming to an end and then we all return our day-to-day lives. But the excitement returns when we think of what we get to do with Shakespeare next summer.

(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the *Keizertimes*.)

## Korean War: 63 years later

To the Editor:

July 27, 2016 marks the 63rd anniversary of the ceasefire of the Korean War (the "Forgotten War" that is technically still going on).

To date, no peace treaty has been signed. A ceasefire went into effect at 10 p.m. July 27, 1953, which required all troops to begin dismantling and vacating their combat positions the following day.

Peace talks had been in progress for many months before agreeing on the ceasefire. A truce happened and an armistice was agreed to but still, no official peace treaty. There were in excess of 37,000 Americans killed in combat during the 37 months from June, 1950 to July, 1953. Equate this to the population of Keizer.

Bob Wickman  
Keizer

## Reply to Don Vowell

To the Editor:

I might agree with a few statements from Don Vowell's column (*Stuck between two extremes*, July 22) but not in whole.

I don't agree that Hillary Clinton is extreme. She offers up mostly middle of the road stands on issues and in some cases very progressive stances. That is not a bad thing. It takes the ability to understand our changing society and what it takes to get things done. Clinton offers experience and the tough attitude to get things accomplished. And to blame Obama for the removal of troops (from Iraq) is inaccurate. He was working on agreements made under the Bush administration.

I, for one, feel very well represented by Hillary Clinton. I may not agree with everything, but tell me anyone that you would agree with 100 percent. Unlike the Democratic candidate, the other side offers up nothing but racism, bigotry and downright hatred for those unlike themselves. Building a wall between the US and

letters

Mexico, deporting all Muslims, taking away the rights of women to decide their own health concerns, taking away rights of the LGBT community and the list goes on. While you and others may see nothing but doom and gloom for our

country, I see a chance for us to continue a path of success that Obama has created and Clinton will build upon. You can't and will not see racial tensions improve under a Trump administration.

Kris Adams  
Keizer

## Mayor is correct

To the Editor:

Mayor Cathy Clark recently brought up the subject of taxes and asked questions about what the city can currently afford and what the future demands may be for additional tax revenue.

A mayor and city governments must ask these questions to be responsible and effective with their leadership. Especially with a growing community with limited resources and a tight tax base.

Since when is raising questions and items for discussion bad government? I have learned from 25 years in state law enforcement, state management and private business ownership that the best decisions come from active discussions and debate. The more determined and varied views the better. The final decision in this case will be debated and decided by the voters. Perfect.

Mayor Clark can't sit on her hands and let the city grow, let infrastructure and service become overwhelmed until it all begins to fail. These issues have to be addressed in the present to prepare for the future. She is exactly right to be raising issues for the future of Keizer including taxes and revenue—that is part of the equation which drives everything else a city government can or cannot do.

John P. Rizzo  
Keizer

## Clinton's Philly vs. Trump's Cleveland

By E.J. DIONNE JR.

After a raucous Republican convention nominated the very conservative Barry Goldwater in 1964, President Lyndon Johnson's campaign ran an advertisement quoting William Scranton, Pennsylvania's moderate governor, describing "Goldwaterism" as a "crazy-quilt collection of absurd and dangerous positions."

This is the week in which Clinton tried to nail down the support of the nation's Latino and African-American voters while sowing deep doubts about Trump among what is likely to be the election's key target group: college-educated white voters.

She reinforced her appeal to them by picking Tim Kaine as her running mate. He's thoughtful, experienced and respected, broadly progressive yet with a moderate, conciliatory demeanor.

But Clinton has real work to do on her own behalf, which is why the Democrats' conclave will be far more positive and upbeat than the GOP's gloomy attack-fest. One objective will be to boost Clinton's favorable ratings after a rocky period during which FBI Director James Comey's verbal excommunication of her use of a private email server set her up for a polling tumble.

Democrats will be battling what they see as a false equivalency in the media that casts both major party candidates in the same light because of surveys giving each of them historically high negative scores. Clinton's campaign wants Democrats (who will form a large part of the television audience) to come away with new enthusiasm for their candidate, and swing voters to see Clinton as far more ready than Trump, by experience and tem-

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perament, to be president.

Accentuating the positive will also be important because Trump has bet his candidacy

on his ability to persuade a sufficient share of the electorate that the nation really is in the midst of a catastrophic crisis.

Here is where the minority of Americans who pay close attention to both conventions will suffer from an acute case of whiplash: Democrats will not only be arguing that Clinton offers a better future; they will be vigorously defending President Obama's legacy.

Republicans may thus come to regret their decision to harness Clinton and Obama together as twin authors of national apocalypse. At a time when the president's approval ratings have been healthy, the GOP helped lock in Obama's strongest supporters behind the woman who had once been his political adversary.

The ferocity of Trump's attacks on Obama paradoxically make it easier for Clinton to advance the dual-track case she needs to make: that she will build on rather than demolish the president's achievements while also tending to long-standing problems that predated the Obama years. The GOP's picture of Obama is a wildly distorted parody, and parodies are more vulnerable to the facts than are honest descriptions of reality.

And this convention will also be an opportunity to offer a gentle reminder that the last time someone named Clinton was president, the nation

enjoyed a run of peace and prosperity. During the GOP gathering, Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., declared that incomes had not recovered since their high in 1999. Trump made the same point using the year 2000. Neither mentioned who was president back then.

But the Philadelphia Democrats also have a moral obligation: They cannot concede the white working-class to Donald Trump.

Bernie Sanders, Clinton's primary rival, will play a vital role in seeing that they don't, and shrewd vote counters know that surrendering this constituency could endanger Clinton in states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. But more than calculation is involved. Democrats have a responsibility to unite a fractured nation. The pain faced by those who work for wages transcends the lines of race and ethnicity.

There are also the party's oldest commitments to defend. When the Democrats last met in Philadelphia in 1948, President Harry Truman insisted it was their party that had served as "the haven of the ordinary people of this land and not of the favored classes or the powerful few." It was here 12 years earlier that Franklin Roosevelt declared: "Liberty requires opportunity to make a living—a living decent according to the standard of the time, a living which gives man not only enough to live by, but something to live for."

Clinton has to cut through the static surrounding her to persuade those whom Trump is wooing with the politics of fear that she and her party still offer a credible politics of hope. (Washington Post Writers Group)

## Astoria Column is a summer must-see

gene h.  
mcintyre

Thoughts about my home town were inspired a few days ago by way of a short article in *The Oregonian* about one of Astoria's landmarks. The Astoria Column's official dedication occurred 90 years ago on July 22, 1926.

The column was built at the instigation of the president of the Great Northern Railway, Ralph Budd, who held a high opinion of America's west coast pioneers and heartily felt they deserved a monument equal to their intrepid efforts to spread the U.S. to the Pacific Ocean. Interestingly, Astoria Column is 125 feet high and exactly equal in height to Emperor Trajan's column in Rome after which its design was duplicated. Rome's version continues standing though it is well over 2,000 years old: It commemorates Trajan's two military campaigns in Dacia—modern day Romania.

Trajan's column is covered with figures carved in low relief on 19 drums of Italian marble that provide a narrative of 155 key scenes from the Roman campaign in Dacia. Astoria Column presents a painted pictorial frieze on the exterior in mural form that spirals along for 525 feet from bottom to top, displaying significant events in the early history of Oregon with representations, among others, of

Native American tribes that lived in the area, the exploration of the Columbia River by Captain Robert Gray, Lewis and Clark's expedition, the founding of Fort Astoria in 1811, and the ship *Tonquin's* journey from New York to Astoria.

Electus D. Litchfield and Atilio Pusteria painted the exterior mural on the column in Astoria which is built of concrete on a foundation 12 feet deep and found atop the city's highest point, Coxcomb Hill, at a cost of \$27,133.96 or \$363,000 in today's dollars. Due to coastal weather conditions, the Column's mural has been re-finished a few times since 1926. Astoria Column can be climbed by a spiral staircase of 164 steps for a glorious view of the city and its surroundings with Tillamook Head to the south, the state of Washington to the north, the Columbia River bar to the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Columbia River and forested areas to the east.

What's much more interesting than the column itself and the years it has stood is what it stands for in terms

of the men and women who risked and sometimes gave their lives for the establishment of the United States further west than its boundaries in the early 1800s. The German-American who invested in the outfittings, ships and land-based structures, John Jacob Astor, never visited his investment. The Oregon Territory waxed and waned between British and U.S. claims until a treaty in 1846 between the United States and Great Britain that established the U.S. boundary at the 49th parallel, our northern border with British Columbia.

A trip by car to Astoria from Keizer requires about three hours travel time so, visiting that famous column and the many other sites of historical significance in Clatsop County like Fort Stevens, plus a recommended side trip over the no-toll Astoria-Megler Bridge to the North Head Lighthouse and Washington's famous rebuilt-to-authentic-original Fort Columbia, are best enjoyed by at least one night overnight. For those persons who prefer knowing something about what they're seeing on such a trip, Peter Stark's book, *Astoria*, and Stephen E. Ambrose's *Undaunted Courage*, are recommended reading.

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

## I got to go to the Disneyland of politics

from the  
capitol

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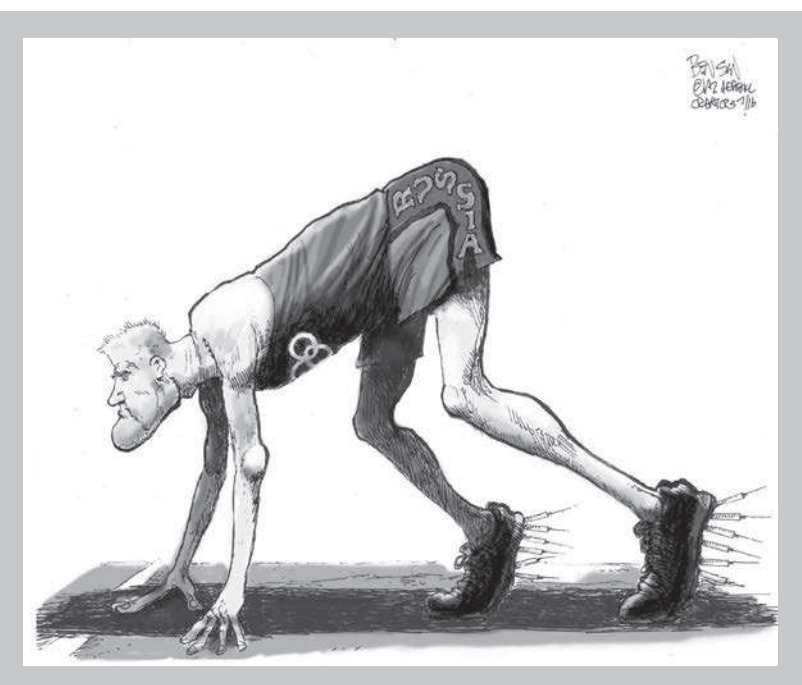
I was proud to stand and pledge allegiance and sing the National Anthem every night. I was proud of the prominence of the American flag throughout the building. Most of all, I was so proud of the men and women who wear the "blue" who worked so hard to keep us safe just as they do every day of their lives from all over the na-

I thought this month I would give to you my thoughts on my experiences as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

I was honored to be elected as an "at large" delegate, one of only 10 from Oregon. I attended the 2012 convention in Tampa as a media person so I had some experience in a convention but nothing like being a delegate on the floor of the convention. It was exciting and exhilarating.

Being a long-time political junkie (well let's be honest, a "geek"), it was like going to political Disneyland for me. I was thrilled to meet some of my personal political "stars" like Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, Phyllis Schlafly of National Right to Life, Col. Allen West, Charlie Kirk of Turning Point USA, Gov. Haley Barbour and so many more. As a delegate, you have a "free pass" to roam the floor when not voting and the floor is where all of the action is for a photo or autograph seeker.

The real work, though, was the forming of and completion of the party platform and I am so proud of our Oregon delegation's heavy involvement in forming one of the most conservative and complete platforms in Republican history. Later, as the evenings went on, we heard from all kinds of people from all walks of life who spoke from the stage. I was fascinated by their speeches. From combat veterans to mothers to long time politicians to sons and daughters. All of them had a story to tell of the greatness of American and the freedom and liberty that this nation affords us.



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