

# KeizerOpinion

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## Isn't outrage exhausting?

The default emotion in American politics seems to be outrage. You can find it all over social media, cable news and talk radio.

The vitriolic responses at Trump rallies is scary—Clinton's remark about deplorables is hard to refute when one views unedited video from rallies where attendees' anger is whipped to new heights that has led to violence.

Outrage knows no ideology and is not limited to any one issue—Trump's positions on immigration and Muslims; Clinton's emails and supposed health issues; Colin Kaepernick's kneeling during the playing of the National Anthem before a football game—all elicit outrage from the populace and pundits alike.

It would seem that all that outrage would quickly become exhausting. It takes a lot of energy to muster up the emotion to spew anger at the first sign of a slight or at what one might consider unAmerican.

All this anger and outrage staves off any serious decision of important issues that the nation faces now and in the future. Is it prudent to be outraged at Kaepernick's response to the National Anthem more than allegations of Russian hacking and interference in a U.S. election? More prudent to be outraged over an Olympians' dance with the truth in Rio than presidential candidates

editorial

who demean minorities and women or is deemed untrustworthy and dishonest.

Outrage is a reaction for those who feel they have no other way to express themselves. It is flamed by incendiary comments on social media and by candidates themselves. The First Amendment gives the right for people to any speech they wish. The Constitution also gives the right of the vote—voting in an election has a most more lasting effect than being outraged.

Our fragmented political landscape has given rise to opposing sides that want to win at all costs. Compromise is treason to many members of Congress. Disagreement has been part of the American discourse from day one; not all the Founding Fathers were in complete agreement on all issues of the day. Government of the people, for the people and by the people has given way to 'government as I see it and nothing else will do.'

We may feel a bit insulated from the current angry political climate here in our little corner of the world, but we are exposed via media, social and otherwise. Outrage expressed by violence, threats and verbal assaults defines our politics today. We can become part of it, ignore it or choose to rise above it and speak with our vote. —LAZ

## Candidate's health fair game

By DON VOWELL

I plumbed the depths of my soul to bring you this piece. Actually the plumbing was hired out to professionals. It was a common maintenance project with which many of you are familiar.

The homeowner's responsibilities are simple enough. You have only to restrict yourself to drinking clear fluids for a day chased by three small bottles of a fairly nasty pseudo-soda. Then you just wait.

After one of the longer nights you've experienced, researching the practicality of sleeping in the bathroom, the rest is easy as the experts take over. You just visit a clinic or hospital and peacefully sleep while every last vestige of your perceived personal space is shredded.

If any reader in Keizer is still reading this by now you would sensibly be wondering why in the hell I would think you need to hear about this.

Exactly. So, why is it we feel entitled to know intimate detail of a presidential candidate's complete medical history? A populace with any sense of decorum would simply expect persons running for president of the United States to appear before a panel of, say, three respected doctors from Walter Reed National Military Center. If, after studying his/her medical history and judging results of a thorough examination this panel agrees that the candidate is in good enough health to serve for four years as president and is not insane, that should be all we have a right to expect.

For my part I suggest only that all candidates are treated the same. Hillary Clinton's health will be subject to screaming demands for her most personal medical records until some more lurid faux crisis jolts the news cycle in a new direction. Donald Trump gets a pass. He released a statement from his

a box of soap

doctor oddly similar to his own syntax: "If elected, Mr. Trump, I can state unequivocally, will be the healthiest individual ever elected to the Presidency." The author of this report got his ego from the same tailor as

The Donald.

Mr. Trump initially tweeted that he was proud to share this report written by the "highly respected Dr. Jacob Bornstein of Lenox Hill Hospital." When it was noted that Dr. Bornstein died in 2010 the tweet was quickly withdrawn. If Hillary Clinton had done this it would have been further proof that she lies, is untrustworthy. Mr. Trump?

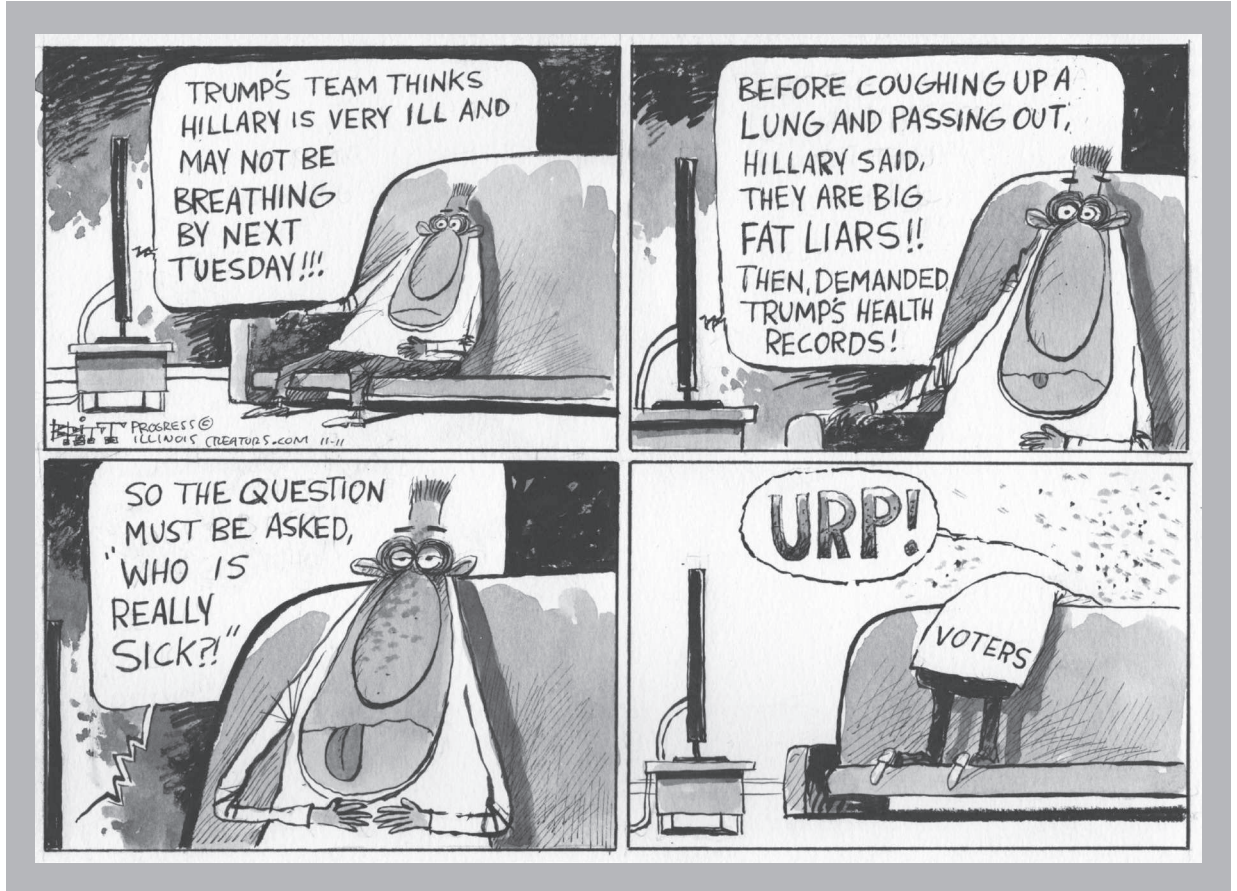
Few of us in Keizer have had any personal dealings with either candidate. Everything we know about either candidate has come from whatever media we have chosen. When I was young we all got news from Walter Cronkite or the Huntley-Brinkley Report and trusted it. Now we can learn about the candidates by choosing whatever news source fits our pre-conceived notions and distrusting those that don't.

So be it. All I ask is that everybody plays by the same rules. I fear that a candidate named Harold Clinton would have advantage over a Hillary Clinton. Nothing else explains to me the ignoring of Donald Trump's routine lying, factual error, shady business ethic, and bullying while Hillary Clinton is viewed as dishonest.

If you feel you must choose a candidate by knowing them personally then judge them by their documented records rather than accusations against them.

In other news the billion dollar diet industry will be destroyed if people find the efficacy of a 98 cent bottle of magnesium citrate.

(Don Vowell gets on his soapbox regularly in the *Keizertimes*.)



## The unhealthy political climate

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

Is a presidential candidate with Hillary Clinton's health problems—pneumonia now, but also for some time deep vein thrombosis and a history of blood clots—healthy enough to be president? Most probably, yes, but her weekend health issues make you wonder if Clinton is covering up bigger health problems than her team has revealed to date. After all, her campaign initially told the press Clinton left a 9/11 ceremony early because she "felt overheated." Only after a video revealed Clinton's legs buckling as secret service agents spirited her into a van, did Camp Clinton release a statement that revealed she had been diagnosed with pneumonia Friday.

You can't watch the video of the back of Clinton's head as others tried to prop her up and not feel for the former secretary of state and first lady. She's always been an all-out campaigner, and even the healthiest politicians get sick. But as you think about the campaign's attempt to gloss over this incident, you start to wonder what her team is not telling you. You recall Clinton's many misrepresentations—that she was told her use of a home-brew server was "allowed," that she had handed "all my work-related email" to authorities, that she

other views

was cooperating fully with officials when she refused to talk to the Office of Inspector General—made before the Democrat-

ic primary was settled.

Clinton, 68, doesn't just mislead others about herself. During an interview with NBC's Matt Lauer last week, Clinton said, "we are not putting ground troops into Iraq ever again, and we're not putting ground troops into Syria. We're going to defeat ISIS (Islamic State) without committing American ground troops." Surely Clinton is aware of the more than 4,000 U.S. troops risking their lives in a bid to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria as I write this. Yet she talks as if there are no boots on the ground.

Critics pounced on Libertarian Party nominee Gary Johnson—a fitness buff, who says he runs two to three hours every day he does not campaign—for fumbling when asked what he would do about Aleppo. Johnson didn't think immediately "Syria" when he heard the name Aleppo, as one steeped in foreign af-

fairs would. He said he thought Aleppo was an acronym. What's Clinton's excuse for her off-the-mark answer on ISIS?

This would be an ideal time for Donald Trump, 70, to release comprehensive medical records. (The rushed letter in which his doctor wrote that Trump could be "the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency" was more a stunt than the result of close examination.) Trump now says he will release detailed records Thursday on The Dr. Oz Show. And yet, I remain skeptical—because one always should be skeptical when Trump says he will do something. Donald Trump, after all, repeatedly told the press he would release his personal tax returns.

I appreciate how Clinton's drive led her to push herself to attend the 9/11 memorial event on Sunday. But after she collapsed, I think she should have gone to a hospital, where given the state of her health that day, she could be given diagnostic tests. Instead, she went to her daughter's home for enough recovery time to stage a comeback photo op with a little girl. Not for the first time, Hillary Clinton's first instinct was to cover up the basic facts of her situation.

(Creators Syndicate)

## Saga of Cylvia Hayes continues

Which metaphor seems best-suited to describe Cylvia Hayes' life? Among possible choices are wrecking yard, destruction derby, train wreck, hurricane-force and man-eater; although it's possible no one of these fits her, perhaps, all of them do. Whatever the case, *The Oregonian* in its Sept. 3 edition reported that "Eighteen months after Oregon first lady Cylvia Hayes left the governor's mansion, she's in the thick of a career reboot and image overhaul that include regular blog and website postings."

I'm mainly a pedestrian in the matter of Cylvia Hayes. Nevertheless, as a lifelong Oregonian, I continue my interest in a woman who, with direct help from former Oregon Governor, also her fiancé, John Kitzhaber, was on her way, it appeared, to taking control of the governor's office before the loudest of whistles was blown. Then, after he resigned, the two of them slunk away, into a disappearing act that now presents actions on her part to rehabilitate herself. Then, suddenly, Kitzhaber himself is scheduled to deliver a speech during a Sept. 28 health convention in Portland while he is also known to be providing consultation services to Oregon health care organizations.

A bit difficult, it would seem, for her to simply assume that a couple of years out of the limelight will make her return on an obstacle-free path. Personal reaction: It will always be difficult for me to trust Hayes or Kitzhaber again. There remain so many allegations against her, so many like the one month in her life where she divorced her second husband, married an Ethiopian, Abraham B. Abraham, so he could obtain a green card while she received \$5,000 for doing so, and bought a pot farm in Washington when pot growing up there was still against the law.

Those who have written comprehensive stories about Hayes depict her life story as a kind of fairy tale: poor girl, poor girl falls in love with powerful man, poor girl and strong man get together to bring new life and opportunity to earthlings. How-

gene h. mcintyre

ever, some have observed that her story is more like a Greek tragedy: She's described as a woman with a desperate long-

ing for recognition and status, always searching for another opportunity at others' expense. As a result, she's perceived as a person who lacks insight as to how she turns others off, caring only for herself and willing to do anything to realize wealth and power.

Getting Kitzhaber to grant her free reign to govern as Oregon's governor more and more often in his place, she apparently intimidated staff to the point where only the most intrepid among them had enough wherewithal to call her on her actions.

Staff was further driven into what looked like abject subservience when Kitzhaber's communications director, Nkenge Harmon Johnson, was fired in 2014 for standing up to Hayes who, without holding office in Oregon government, got Johnson fired. Based on what was known by individuals like myself, other taxpayer-paid staff were apparently willing to let everything against law and order pass without protest in order to keep their jobs.

Johnson, just one among the al-

leged many abused, charged that there were "myriad improprieties" and "abuse of authority" by Kitzhaber and staffers who directed other staff to help with his re-election campaign. Johnson says she was ordered to manage then-first-lady Cylvia Hayes' communications and appearances which was outside her duties. Johnson now seeks damages for lost wages and benefits as well as undetermined punitive damages and attorney fees. Presumably, much of the cost of all this will end up paid by taxpayers but was caused by the no-restraints status Kitzhaber allowed Hayes.

The bottom line on the two of them is that they continue to face state criminal and ethics inquiries while nausea befalls me whenever I think of either one of them in charge or having even a modicum of control over public money in any form or in any place. I have a hunch that, if their fate is left to Gov. Kate Brown, she will pull a Gerald Ford and pardon them. Without experience outside oncology, I have no idea how well Bud Pierce would do as 'top gun' in Oregon government, but I harbor hope that he would not just slap their wrists and give them jobs where taxpayer money pays their way.

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



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