

# KeizerOpinion

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## No Uber, Lyft; fix transit first

To the Editor:

I am writing to voice my objections to Salem Mayor Chuck Bennett's proposal to bring Uber and Lyft into this city without first trying to improve upon the current public transportation.

It is no actual secret that a good chunk of people who live in this city, rely on a currently inadequate transportation system because the council is unable or unwilling to take actual steps to try and improve up on the system as it stands.

Mayor Bennett has worked, it would seem, extremely hard to bring in ride share servers more than he has tried to improve the current system. True, the council is unable to make actual decisions and changes in this system but they are able to help move the conversation in the right direc-

letters

tion and I feel personally that this hasn't been done within the first few weeks of Mayor Bennett's administration.

Mayor Bennett fought hard and long to win election to his current office.

I would hope that he stands for all of his constituents rather than those that rely upon the Chamber of Commerce to promote themselves. I call on Mayor Bennett to do the right thing and actually do something to improve the system—I call on my own elected mayor, Cathy Clark, to try and help improve the system. There has been too much talk of "We will get to it eventually" or "It is what it is." The people have had enough of the upper one percent calling all the shots. If true change is to happen it needs to start at an already established point

**Dakota Saunders  
Keizer**

## Everyone likes to win

By LYNDON ZAITZ

Everyone likes to win—an award, a ribbon, a title, a contest. The recent Academy Awards made me think about the awards and honors I have won. It was my first award that was like winning an Oscar.

I had won a contest or two before my big win on May 19, 1976. In second grade at Keizer Elementary School I won a coupon for a free 19¢ burger at Bob's Burgers for having my poster design chosen as the winner. I can't even remember what the topic was—don't care; I won.

By 1976 I had traded in my academic pursuits for the glory of the stage. By the middle of my junior year I was a part of the drama department; I was no drama geek, per se, I had other interests as well.

By the time my high school career was ending I had trod the boards as Man in Subway in *Bells Are Ringing*, the lead in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and as Lt. Frank Burns in our high school production of *M\*A\*S\*H*—it's hard to picture a school approving it these days. I was the all-singing, all-dancing lifeguard in *No, No Nanette*.

At the end of the school drama class/department held an irreverent awards program, set up in such a way that every graduating senior got some sort of an award. At the awards dinner in my senior year, my classmates won this award and that award, even my younger brother won a best actor award for a role that mirrored Woody Allen.

All the awards had been presented. Except one. Each year the teacher, Al Osburg, gave out The Ozzie, an award he personally gave out. It is still hard to discern what the criteria

was for the award. Mr. Osburg gave a few remarks and said the winner of The Ozzie is...me.

I rose and walked to the dais to thunderous applause from the 40 or so people in attendance. The award was basically a trophy with a rendition of the sad/happy masks on top where the bowler or the batter would normally be.

I was happy to win. I was emotional; I cried and I thanked the people in the room for giving me a home in high school.

Winning never gets old. I didn't win anything again until years later. I was honored with awards from some entries into a state-wide contest by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

I, like everyone else, likes to win things. When I was a Toastmaster with a Salem club, 10 of my required speeches won nine blue ribbons. Just as the theatre department was a welcome fit in my final high school days, Toastmasters filled a need and did help with public speaking. Though I haven't been a member of Toastmasters for a number of years, I do use what I acquired in that organization every day—that was my lasting award.

I don't win every time. There are honors or awards over many years I wish I had received. But like they say at the Oscars and other awards: it nice just to be considered. A segment of the public decries the awarding of green ribbons so everyone feels like a winner and no one is loser.

Well, there are losers. Losing doesn't create losers, it makes one try harder, it keeps one humble. Instead of moping, just think, "I didn't win. This time."

## Urban play stations

The city is surveying utility payers about their level of interest in and support of Keizer's 19 parks. Respondents are asked if they would support an addition of up to \$8 per month to upgrade and maintain them.

Neighborhood and regional parks are a key offering of a city's quality of life. People like parks and they help maintain property values. Parks, both big and small, are the recreation hubs in our neighborhoods.

The lack of entertainment and recreation options in Keizer have always ranked high on the livability surveys. Kids, especially teens, are notoriously hard to keep busy and engaged. Let's face it, sometimes it is hard to keep grown-ups busy and engaged. Parks can go only so far. What if you are a household without access to a mountain or coastal cabin? What

if you not a school or club sportsman? What can we do for those who live in Keizer, want to stay in Keizer, but need something fun to do? We should get whimsical.

We envision play stations throughout Keizer, along River Road, at the Civic Center, at Keizer Station and other public spaces.

our opinion

What's a play station? It can be a huge checkers board. It can be permanent chess tables throughout the city's core (how about three at the McGee-Newton focal point at the corner of River and Chemawa Roads. It can

be an over-sized Tic Tac Toe game. It can be brain teaser puzzles that make passers-by stop and try to solve it.

Establishing components of an urban play station can be part of any renewed River Road Renaissance—if a

business wants to get a city loan to upgrade their commercial property they must add a play station.

How would a series of urban play stations throughout the city be paid for? For starters, each station would have a fitness, educational, historical or art facet. Those are four areas in which grant money is available from a myriad of public and private sources. For stations situated in our parks, it can be funded with money added to the city's utility bills (if that comes to pass).

A renewed River Road Renaissance would have money available for stations along Keizer's main thoroughfare.

The addition of urban play stations would be a project that maintains Keizer's urban livability while helping to solve the issue of few entertainment and recreation choices for our kids and grown-ups alike.

—LAZ

## As Trump unmuzzles the economy, a rosy scenario will become reality

By LAWRENCE KUDLOW

Virtually the whole world is beating up on the Trump administration for daring to predict that low marginal tax rates, regulatory rollbacks and the repeal of Obamacare will generate 3 to 3.5 percent economic growth in the years ahead.

In a CNBC interview last week, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin held the line on this forecast. He also argued the need for dynamic budget scoring to capture the effects of faster growth. Good for him.

But what's so interesting about all the economic growth naysaying today is that former President Obama's first budget forecast roughly eight years ago was much rosier than President Trump's. And there was nary a peep of criticism from the mainstream media outlets and the consensus of economists.

Strategas Research Partners policy analyst Dan Clifton printed up a chart of the Obama plan that predicted real economic growth of roughly 3 percent in 2010, nearly 4 percent in 2011, over 4 percent in 2012 and nearly 4 percent in 2013.

But it turned out that actual growth ran below 2 percent during this period. Was there any howling about this result among the economic consensus? Of course not. It seems it has saved all its grumbling for the Trump forecast.

And what's really interesting is that the Obama policy didn't include a single economic growth incentive. Not one. Instead, there was a massive

\$850 billion so-called spending stimulus (Whatever became of those spending multipliers?), a bunch of public works programs that never got off the ground and, finally, Obamacare, which really was one giant tax increase.

Remember when Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts ruled that the health-care mandate was in fact a tax? But it wasn't just a tax. It was a tax hike. And added to that were a 3.8 percent investment tax hike, a proposed tax hike on so-called Cadillac insurance plans and yet another tax increase on medical equipment.

So eight years ago, tax-and-spend was perfectly OK. And the projection that it would produce a 4 percent growth rate perfectly satisfied the economic consensus.

Make sense? No, it does not.

So here's President Trump reaching back through history for a commonsense growth policy that worked in the 1960s, when President John F. Kennedy slashed marginal tax rates on individuals and corporations, and again in the 1980s, when President Ronald Reagan slashed tax rates across the board and sparked a two-decade boom of roughly 4 percent real annual growth.

But the economic consensus won't buy Trump's plan.

One after another, Trump critics argue that because we've had 2 percent growth over the past 10 years or so, we are doomed to continue that forever. This is nonsense.

Most of them point to the decline

in productivity over the past 15 years. They say that unless productivity jumps to 2.5 percent or so, and unless labor-force participation rises, we can't possibly have 3 to 4 percent growth.

Stanford University economics professor John Taylor, who's also a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, is one of the nation's top academic economists. He released a chart on productivity growth that shows that productivity declines can be followed by productivity increases, which unfortunately can be followed again by productivity declines.

In his widely read blog, *Economics One*, Taylor wrote one post titled "Take Off the Muzzle and the Economy Will Roar." He notes that bad economic policy leads to slumping productivity, living standards, real wages and growth.

We can see "huge swings in productivity growth in recent years," he says. "These movements ... are closely related to shifts in economic policy, and economic theory indicates that the relationship is causal."

He concludes, "To turn the economy around we need to take the muzzle off, and that means regulatory reform, tax reform, budget reform, and monetary reform." Well, aren't those exactly the reforms that President Trump is promoting?

Get rid of the state-sponsored barriers to growth. Then watch how these common-sense incentive-minded policies turn a rosy scenario into economic reality.

(Creators Syndicate)

## The American ideal will not be disrupted

By MICHAEL GERSON

Two sets of remarks, a day apart, by two men more accustomed to being behind the scenes.

Stephen Bannon, appearing at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), made the case for "economic nationalism" and called President Trump's withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership "one of the most pivotal moments in modern American history." The passage of the Civil Rights Act and the defeat of the Soviet Union finally have some company.

As the ideologist in Trump's inner circle, Bannon is a practitioner of Newt Gingrich's mystic arts. Take some partially valid insight at the crossroads of pop economics, pop history and pop psychology; declare it an inexorable world-historic force; and, by implication, take credit for being the only one who sees the inner workings of reality.

For Bannon, it has something to do with "the fourth turning," or maybe it is the fifth progression, or the third cataclysm. At any rate, it apparently involves cycles of discontent and disruption. Lots of disruption. Across the West, as Bannon sees it, the victims of globalization—the victims of immigration, free trade and internationalism in general—are rising against their cosmopolitan oppressors. Institutions will crash and rise in new forms. And this restless world spirit takes human form in... Nigel Farage and Donald Trump.

Like many philosophies that can be derived entirely from an airport bookstore, this one has an element of truth. The beneficiaries of the liberal international order have not paid sufficient attention to the human costs of rapid economic change. (Just as the critics of internationalism have not paid sufficient attention to the nearly 1 billion

people who have left extreme poverty during the last two decades.)

michael gerson

But there is a problem with the response of economic nationalism and ethno-nationalism. It is morally degraded and dangerous to the country.

Which brings us to the second set of remarks, at a State Department retirement party, complete with cake. This speech was from one of the most distinguished diplomats our nation has recently produced, Ambassador Dan Fried. Fried was on diplomatic duty for 40 years, focusing mainly on Europe. He was ambassador to Poland and pulled into the White House as a special adviser on Central and Eastern Europe to both Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Most populists would probably view Fried as the pin-striped enemy. I came to know him in the Bush administration as a freedom fighter, deeply and personally offended by oppression. He had been an enemy—not an opponent, but an enemy—of the Soviet Union, and remains a committed friend to 100 million liberated Europeans.

Fried used his retirement remarks to describe "America's Grand Strategy." For decades, the U.S. has stood for "an open, rules-based world, with a united West at its core." Despite occasional failures and blunders, "the world America made after 1945 and 1989 has enjoyed the longest period of general peace in the West since Roman times."

What would happen if America were to leave the global order and pursue its own ethno-national greatness? This is the proposal that the populists have placed on the table, in which blowing up the TPP is a sign of things to come. "By abandoning our American Grand Strategy," argued Fried, "we would diminish to being

just another zero-sum great power." This would result in a system entirely based on "spheres of influence," which are "admired by those who don't have to suffer the consequences." And accepting spheres of influence would "mean our acquiescence when great powers, starting with China and Russia, dominated their neighbors through force and fear."

"Some so-called realists," said Fried, "might accept such a world as making the best of a harsh world, but it is not realistic to expect that it would be peaceful or stable. Rather the reverse: A sphere of influence system would lead to cycles of rebellion and repression, and, if the past 1,000 years is any guide, lead to war between the great powers, because no power would be satisfied with its sphere. They never are."

This is a foreign policy cycle more substantial than the "fourth turning." The disrupters of international order—the liberal democratic order built and defended by FDR, Truman, Kennedy and Reagan—are thoughtless, careless and reckless. And they must be resisted.

The founding fathers of the ethno-state are also in violation of the country's defining values. The United States was summoned into existence by the clear bell of unifying aspirations, not by the primal scream of blood and soil. And this great ideal of universal freedom and dignity is not disrupted; it disrupts.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

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