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What would I do?

By LYNDON ZAITZ

Most people would like to think of themselves as the type of person who come to the aid of the fellow man, even step into harm's way, if necessary.

On Friday, May 26, on a MAX train at the Hollywood Transit Center in Portland, three men—strangers to each other—fell victims to their own good intentions. The three men confronted a man who was verbally abusing two teenage girls, one of whom was wearing a hijab.

Ricky John Best, 53, and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai Meche, 23, were killed. Micah David-Cole Fletcher, 21, was injured.

These men saw what was happening and stepped in to help the young women against the threats of the man. Did they think about their own safety? Did they know that the raving, long-haired man had a knife? Did they consider the possibility of a weapon? In my mind these three men are real heroes, a word that is thrown around too much.

The three men jumped into action to protect the two young women; they saw something and did something. It would seem to be more than a fair fight, three men against one man. But when the element of a close-at-hand weapon is added to the mix, the balance of an altercation can shift.

Too often people will turn away from such scenes, suspecting it is nothing more than the ravings of a person with mental health issues. "Don't get involved" are words that too easily become the default position.

In the world in which we now live, it will be harder for most people to not get involved when another

person is in distress or under attack. There is safety in numbers. The outcome of a one-on-one fight against the perpetrator of evil can go either way. When a group of people band together to stop harassment, assault or threats, the good guys win.

It does not have to be a life-or-death situation for people to do what is right. The time to think someone else's suffering is not our problem is long gone. You can say that Oregon isn't faced with the kind of terrorism other places

in the world face, but there is no other name for what happened on that MAX train. A terrorist doesn't have to be from a certain part of the globe or practice a certain religion. Society suffers from terrorism every day, whether it is a schoolchild that is mercilessly bullied in person and via a social website, or a woman (or a man) who is the victim of domestic violence that can happen at any time.

It is unwise for a lone person to inject themselves into a dangerous situation. Yet, we should solicit assistance from bystanders when someone else is in trouble.

We hope that the tragic events of last week in Portland is an isolated incident, but we can't be sure, so we must always be alert to danger around us, especially when the most vulnerable in our society is its victim.

I would like to think I am the kind of person who will step forward to protect someone. After the MAX train stabbings I'll be more aware of my surroundings and not be afraid to take a call for the help of a stranger. When we band together to help, we are no longer strangers but brothers and sisters in a civilized society.

(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the Keizertimes.)

on my
mind

Trump flexes U.S. muscle

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

President Donald Trump may find Washington a hostile home lurking with political foes who want payback for his harsh rhetoric on the campaign trail. Funny thing, though: On his first foreign trip as president, the one-time isolationist found forgiveness and bonhomie from leaders and nations he trolled during the 2016 campaign.

In Saudi Arabia, King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud Saloman rolled out a red carpet for Trump and hosted meetings with Muslim and Arab leaders. In Israel, Trump had positive talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The Vatican described Trump's audience with Pope Francis as "cordial."

He accused the Saudis of blowing up the World Trade Center. He supported a "total and complete shutdown" on allowing Muslims to enter the United States. Abbas and the Saudi royal family are Muslims. As a candidate, Trump tweeted that the pontiff was "disgraceful" for questioning his faith.

In Washington, there's no getting over 2016. Democrats in Congress are loath to appear publicly with Trump. Party leaders don't want to be seen working with his administration. After spending the last eight years denouncing Republican obstructionism, they've come up with a new word—"resistance"—for the same behavior, which they now find laudable.

They're can't and won't get over

2016, while the Saudi King, Palestinian leader and Catholic Pope can.

Then again, Saudi Arabia and Israel were pretty peeved at President Barack Obama's role in passing the nuclear deal with Iran. Middle Eastern leaders did not appreciate Barack Obama's role

in easing Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak out of power. They appreciate that Trump's "America First" rhetoric means not pushing Middle Eastern leaders to the breaking point.

As Trump put it when he spoke to Arab and Muslim leaders in Riyadh, "We are not here to lecture. We are not here to tell other people how to live, what to do, who to be or how to worship. Instead, we are here to offer partnership—based on shared interests and values—to pursue a better future for us all."

The pope had the least to lose from taking on Trump and the least to win from reaching out to the president. The pontiff sees immigration as a moral issue, and he was not afraid to say so last year.

"I honestly don't think Francis gives a hoot about the benefit" of a visit, observed Austin Ruse, Catholic author and president of C-Fam, a family research institute, as well as a member of Trump's council of Catholic advisers.

At a dedication for a memorial of 9/11 and NATO's Article 5, which guarantees mutual defense, Trump hectoring member nations for failing to contribute their "fair share" of NATO's defense. That lecture at least could not be considered a surprise.

Yet then, after fanning expecta-

other
views

A wealthy nation's health problem

By GENE H. MCINTYRE

There are 435 representatives in the U.S. House, each representing close to 733,000 of their fellow Americans. This number is derived from the U.S. population number of 318.9 million by the 2010 census. The roles and duties of each member of Congress are understood to include representation, legislation, and constituent service and education as well as political and electoral activities. This writer expects his representative and all the others to come to grips with the dimensions of their role by developing a lawful approach to their tasks, demonstrating fidelity to those who send them.

What's happened most recently in the U.S. House of Representatives, however, does not embrace the expected standard. Take the example of House Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican from Wisconsin. He was gleeful the other day with the GOP health plan because it's "us keeping our promises." Yet, his statement is only partially true as, while he and his fellow Republicans did pass a regressive health care bill, one has to question how well he's representing his constituents since it's anticipated that at least 23 million Americans will find it financially impossible to afford the premi-

ums, expected to rise by 850 percent.

Then, too, Ryan, Trump and a majority of GOP representatives now find themselves in an awkward place. They made all kinds of specific guarantees tied to their health care legislation and then proceeded to break most of them without explanation which could and

should make their back-home visits before and during 2018 campaign successes no walk in the public park. Here's a condensed overview of what they've done: first, made promises; second, broke promises; and third, hide

the fact they made the promises in the first place. Sadly, Oregon's 2nd District representative, Greg Walden, gleefully joined that GOP chorus.

In each representative's case, there are Americans from every level of the economic ladder, most poor to most wealthy. Without help from the federal government in the form of Medicaid and other federal assistance programs, millions of these people cannot afford health insurance and will only seek medical help, if it's available at all within accessible distance, from emergency care.

What gets to this writer the most is that we are a comparatively wealthy nation that could take much better care

of all our people than we do and that an inordinate amount of everything goes to a small percentage of the population seldom needing more than what they've already got: This being most disgusting in the fact that while the U.S. House-passed bill makes deep cuts to the needy, the bill coincidentally provides millions of dollars in tax relief to the wealthy. The Republican members of the U.S. House thereby defeat the principles of democracy by serving the few and sending the country evermore close to times and circumstances of the late 1800s, when only the wealthy could afford the American Dream—and medical attention when needed.

Meanwhile, the 100-member U.S. Senate has a mere handful of Republican senators, led by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell working on their version of TrumpCare. The cynic here does not see promise for a Senate bill that serves all Americans when the supporters are 16 highly conservative, older, white men (with no female senators included) who have a reputation for putting GOP ideology and big-money contributors before nation and citizens. Hence, from the U.S. Senate a bill is believed on its way that will be without provisions for the nation's middle class and poor.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer.)

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guest
column

Don't best against tax and health reform

By LAWRENCE KUDLOW

If the smart money folks on Wall Street think a special counsel to oversee the Russian probes spells defeat for business tax cuts, they're leaning well over their skis.

While there's never 100 percent probability in forecasting political risk, it seems the likelihood of health care reform by the summer and tax reform by year's end (or early 2018) is quite high.

Paradoxically, special counsel Robert Mueller will provide cover for President Trump, as it will take him many months to complete his investigation. The leaks are going to dry up. By law, information on the probe must be protected. So, whatever the outcome, Trump will have months without the attack headlines in which to sell his tax-cut plan.

And Trump still has the backing of his core base, which is at least 40 percent of the electorate. These disenchanted voters may not agree with everything he says. But they still strongly believe Trump is their best chance to drain the swamp—to overturn the Beltway elites, to deliver border security, to improve trade deals and to cut taxes and regulations to deliver the full-fledged deeply rooted sustainable prosperity we haven't seen in 20 years.

Warts and all, Trump and his policies is still their vote. (He needs to go out there and rally these folks.)

And all this talk of impeachment

based on obstruction of justice is just Democratic political pap. George Washington University law professor Jonathan Turley, who is no partisan, calls it "an awfully thin soup." Acting FBI director Andrew McCabe told Congress there's been no interference in the FBI's investigations and no request for additional funding.

And if Comey did write a memo about obstruction of justice, he is legally obligated to report it to the highest levels of the Justice Department. Failure to do so could invoke criminal charges.

Yet behind all this mess, House Speaker Paul Ryan keeps telling people that Congress can walk and chew gum at the same time.

He's right.

And that opens the door for taxes. House Ways and Means Committee chair Kevin Brady just began expert tax hearings. After the recess, Brady will likely convene a markup session.

Rep. Peter Roskam, who chairs the congressional tax policy subcommittee, said last week, "I'm of the view that 2017 is the year." He thinks tax reform is easier than replacing Obamacare.

So, following a markup, Ways and Means can report out a bill. And because prosperity is America's No. 1 issue, it will pass the floor relatively easily. And that will put pressure on the Senate to get moving.

It's likely that a tax cut working group will again convene to hash

out important details. The border-adjusted tax, or BAT, will have to go. But the very core of the tax bill is a simple three steps: a deep corporate tax-rate cut, immediate expensing for new equipment of all kinds and the repatriation of offshore cash. This is the tonic that will restore capital formation, productivity, real wages and growth.

Both Senate and House leaders have to understand how flexible reconciliation is. It can be nearly anything you want it to be. The key player is Senate President Mike Pence, who can overrule the parliamentarian.

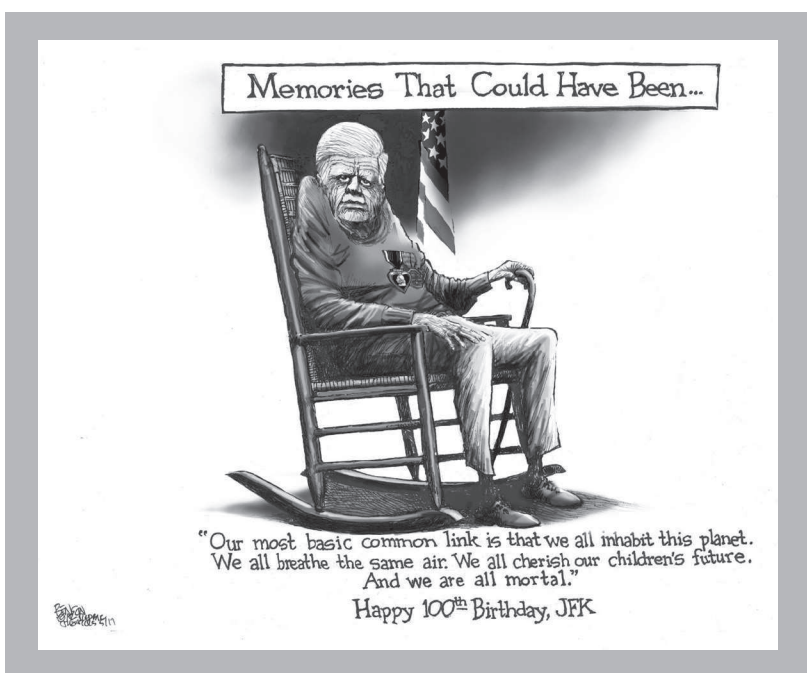
Congressional leaders should heed the words of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who has become the administration's leading spokesperson for economic growth and lower tax rates. He told the Senate Banking Committee last week, "What I have said repeatedly is that any plan we put forward we believe should be paid for with economic growth."

He is estimating a 3 percent growth rate by 2021. I suspect it will arrive faster. And the difference between growth of less than 2 percent from the Congressional Budget Office and 3 percent growth is well over \$3 trillion in additional revenue. It's the mother of all pay-fors.

And lowering marginal tax rates across the board, especially on large and small businesses, will foster the mother of all prosperities -- the one for which middle-class Americans in all those red counties that voted for Trump have been yearning.

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