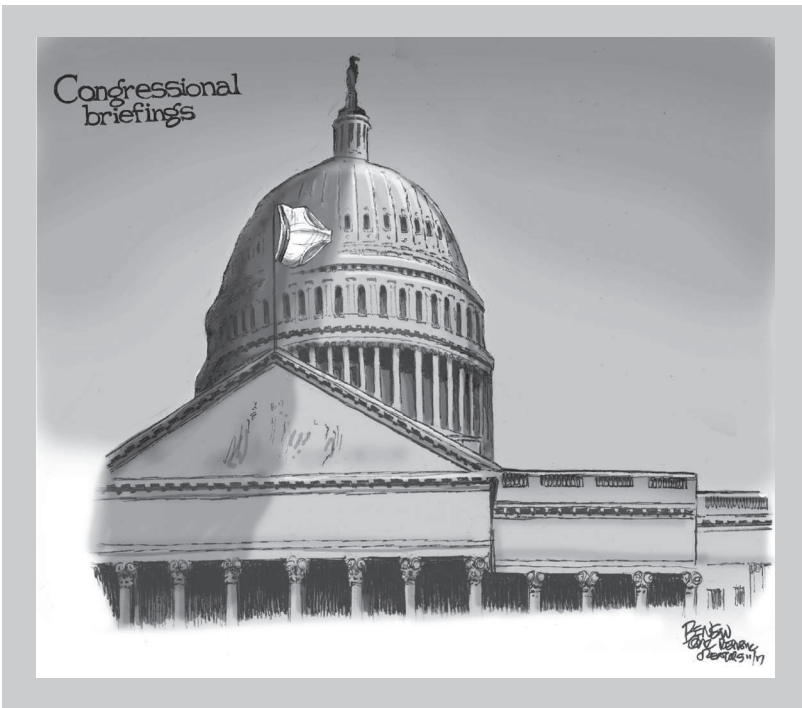


# KeizerOpinion

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## Keep the net neutral

The Federal Communications Commission is on track to end neutrality on the world wide web in December. The public needs to rise up, contact their Congressional representatives and demand that net neutrality be maintained.

Net neutrality may be a term that technical folks understand; the term itself is not Average Joe friendly. What is it? Why does it matter?

Net neutrality is the principle that internet service providers must treat all data on the the same, and not discriminate or charge differently by user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or method of communication

For instance, under these principles, internet service providers are unable to intentionally block, slow down or charge money for specific websites and online content.

Those who get internet service have access to the web and its millions of sites for a monthly fee from a provider. Access speed to any web site is the same regardless of content. This is the way the open internet has worked for more than 10 years.

Under the open internet, the full resources of the internet and means to operate on it is easily accessible to all individuals, companies, and organizations.

If the FCC does away with net neutrality it will open the door for internet providers to block or censor sites they don't like or they can charge a premium for access. Currently users have unfettered access to every type of site imaginable—some don't like that because it allows some very ugly speech and viewpoints. But that is no reason to do away with neutrality—every disagreeable viewpoint can be countered with acceptable views. No single ideology dominates the web; in our current political climate people will always find a site that reinforces their own opinions.

Aside from censorship, doing away with net neutrality would allow providers to charge whatever they wish for access to popular sites. You could pay for basic internet (much like

basic cable television) and then pay additional for things like social media sites, sports sites and all the most popular sites on the net.

Millions of Americans have already signed petitions and logged complaints about the end of net neutrality, and yet the FCC seems bent on doing away with it. If it goes away, as expected, on Dec. 14, the public has several avenues of recourse.

The providers of internet service must get municipal approval to operate in a city. The city can certainly dictate terms of operations: give our citizens net neutrality or we'll go our own way. That own way could very well be a consortium of local governments (counties and cities) to create their own fiber optic network. Some in the free market don't want to see internet classified as a utility such as electricity or water, but isn't that what it is?

Cable television subscriptions leveled off and are now falling as more households 'cut the cable' and use the internet to watch their favorite shows. One day that may seem like a futile plan.

Aside from contacting Congressional representatives to stop any move to end neutrality there most likely will be a court challenge in the near future. As long as the plaintiffs have standing, such a case would be one of the most important to be decided, as one expects it to eventually land at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Nobody and no organization owns the internet. Every user already pays a monthly fee for access. The net is here and will remain here and it has changed the way we live and communicate. The millions of internet users in the United States should not wake up one day in late December and find their favorite sites blocked or slowed or available only for an extra charge.

The end of net neutrality will affect every aspect of modern life and the public should be aware of it and fight it any way they can.

—LAZ

our opinion

other voices

## The capacity for moral renewal

By MICHAEL GERSON

Even in a political season of routine marvels, few developments are more spectacularly incongruous than this: America has seen a swift, dramatic shift in attitudes toward sexual harassment with Donald Trump as president.

It is sometimes assumed (including by me) that the presidency sets a moral tone for the nation, influencing what society considers normal and acceptable in a kind of trickle-down ethics. But the sexual harassment revolution emerged from society in spite of -- or even in defiance of -- a president who has boasted of exploiting women and who stands accused of harassing more than a dozen.

This is a reminder that the moral dynamics of a nation are complex, which should come as no surprise to conservatives (at least of the Burkean variety). This is a big country, capable of making up its own collective mind. Politics only reaches the light zone of a deep ocean. It is a sign of hope that moral and ethical standards can assert themselves largely unaided by political, entertainment and media leaders -- except when they serve as cautionary tales of egregious behavior.

We are seeing an example of how social change often (and increasingly) takes place. Advocates of a cause can push for a long time with little apparent effect. Then, in a historical blink, what seemed incredible becomes inevitable. Over a period of years, this is what happened with the gay marriage movement. A type of inclusion that initially appeared radical and frightening became an obvious form of fairness to a majority of Americans. Politicians, in-

cluding President Obama, were left catching up to the new social consensus.

Over a period of weeks, this is the story of the revolt against sexual harassment. What seemed for generations the prerogative of powerful men has been fully revealed as a pernicious form of dehumanization. Men such as Bill O'Reilly, Harvey Weinstein and Charlie Rose have been exposed at their moments of maximum cruelty and creepiness—just as their alleged victims (on credible testimony) experienced them. An ethical light switch was flipped. Moral outrage—the appropriate response -- now seems obvious.

Such rapid shifts in social norms should be encouraging to social reformers of various stripes. Attitudes and beliefs do not move on a linear trajectory. A period of lightning clarity can change the assumptions and direction of a culture. The movement against capital punishment, for example, may be reaching such a point. Advocates of gun control, in contrast, seem to have an endless wait. But the record of our times counsels against despair.

On sexual harassment, our country is now in a much better ethical place. And how we got here is instructive. Conservatives have sometimes predicted that moral relativism would render Americans broadly incapable of moral judgment. But people, at some deep level, know that rules and norms are needed. They understand that character—rooted in empathy and respect for the rights and dignity of others—is essential in every realm of life, including the workplace.

And where did this urgent assertion of moral principle come from?

Not from the advocates of “family values.” On the contrary, Franklin Graham, son of Billy, chose to side with GOP Senate candidate Roy Moore of Alabama against his highly credible accusers. “The hypocrisy of Washington has no bounds,” Graham said. “So many denouncing Roy Moore when they are guilty of doing much worse than what he has been accused of supposedly doing.”

It is as if Graham set out to justify every feminist critique of the religious right. Instead of standing against injustice and exploitation—as the Christian gospel demands—Graham sided with patriarchal oppression in the cause of political power. This is beyond hypocrisy. It is the solidarity of scary, judgmental old men. It is the ideology of white male dominance dressed up as religion.

This is how low some religious conservatives have sunk: They have left me sounding like an English professor at Sarah Lawrence College.

Conservatives need to be clear and honest in this circumstance. The strong, moral commitment to the dignity of women and children recently asserting itself in our common life has mainly come from feminism, not the “family values” movement. In this case, religious conservatives have largely been bystanders or obstacles. This indicates a group of people for whom the dignity of girls and women has become secondary to other political goals.

We are a nation with vast resources of moral renewal. It is a shame and a scandal that so many religious conservatives have made themselves irrelevant to that task.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

## The effects of the Kitzhaber years

By GENE H. MCINTYRE

It's a big stretch to believe that former Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber and his partner, Cylvia Hayes, did not use their public positions for profit and only inadvertently failed to disclose conflicts of interest and inappropriately accepted gifts. Kitzhaber, now wandering about the land as though he's done nothing wrong, even reluctantly admits he violated state ethics laws but without intent.

He stands by his pleas of ignorance and multiple unintentionals so much so that any Oregonian who's been around this state for the years he was in the legislature and governor's office can only wonder at how, he, a man who matriculated successfully through education and training to become a medical doctor, could have achieved such notable success, and served in Oregon's highest political office, but learned nothing much about Oregon law and professional ethics.

While the facts stack up against Kitzhaber, it would appear that he has done his best at trying to weasel out of any financial consequence for all the waywardness he's accused of causing, resulting in a wrist slap \$1,000 fine to resolve the complaints against him. Now, then, those with grit enough to stand up to this guy as the Oregon Government Ethics Commission recently voted 7 to 1 to deny him that ridiculous settlement Kitzhaber thinks is equal to his unlawful behavior.

His partner, Cylvia Hayes, is generally believed to have contributed her fair share to Kitzhaber's shameful condition. She, of worse-than-just-shady past behaviors apparently tried and succeeded to shape and influence state policy to her suspected financial benefit in amounts of tens of thousands of dollars while obviously and deftly manipulating the governor. Ugly as it was, she also threw her weight against state employees who questioned her tactics and practices, resulting in Kitzhaber's terminating them without cause. Whatever her efforts at dodging guilt, she was and should continue to be held to state ethics law.

But let's recall some of the other presumed taxpayer costs that arguably can be attributed to Kitzhaber with possible help from Sylvia Hayes. How about the Seattle-

based energy consultant, and the state employee he's accused of bribing, that became charges of corruption at the Department of Energy. One rogue employee there enabled consultant Martin Shain to acquire \$12 million in green energy tax credits for solar projects that should have failed to qualify for them. It has been widely reported that the DOE was a virtual cauldron of corruption with several former employees who walked away without being charged with complicity. Meanwhile, this question festers: Where was Kitzhaber when this economic disaster was underway and what personally did he gain?

Then, also, what's viewed as the Port of Portland fiasco where things went from thriving there to sick, dying and dead. *The Oregonian* reported by the numbers there that 53 percent of containerized Oregon exports flowed through the Port of Portland in 2014; today, December, 2017, zero percent of containerized Oregon exports are handled there. That means that there is now a \$400- to \$450-per container increase in transportation costs for most Oregon shippers after the Hanjin company departed and we Oregonians pay for it by added consumer costs. A \$15.1 million added annual cost must be absorbed after the loss of Terminal 6. Was it not Kitzhaber's pal, former chief of staff and political crony, Bill Wyatt, former Port of Portland director, now conveniently, and most likely wealthy, in retirement? So, again, where was Kitzhaber when this economic disaster was underway and what might he have pocketed from it?

Adding to the list of Kitzhaber wreckage during his tenure, 2011 was a fateful year for Oregon public education as the former governor pushed

through monumental changes to Oregon's K-12 grades. He persuaded lawmakers into a replacement for the elected state superintendent of public instruction with an education czar appointed by and reporting to him. That czar was Rudy Crew, who, at the time of his appointment, was the second-highest paid state employee at a salary of \$280,000. Oregon taxpayers learned later that Kitzhaber managed little oversight over Crew who billed the state for thousands of dollars in personal travel expenses, took six weeks of paid vacation, traveled by first-class plane ticket to honor a pal in Santa Fe and attended a special course in Los Angeles. A best guess regarding Crew was that he cost Oregon's taxpayers an amount possibly exceeding \$1,000,000 while accomplishing nothing for the state's schools.

So, here we are today, Kitzhaber running around the state presumably collecting large speaker and consulting fees while he ought to be at least responsible for returning to the Oregon treasury a whole lot more than a \$1,000 fine—and that goes for his partner, too. Guess work surmised that Kitzhaber has been cashing in on political debts and probably hopeful, too, that he can reclaim his power and big money accessibility with partner Hayes at his side. The least the Oregon Government Ethics Commission can do is to hit this guy in the pocket book—like he hit me and tens of thousands like me through our taxes—starting at \$100,000 and going stratospheric from there.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in .)

guest column

## The music of the season

During December there are many choices to hear holiday music in Keizer and from Keizerites.

The music programs at Keizer's schools are recognized as some of the finest in the state of Oregon. Their concerts are sophisticated and approachable.

Whether or not your household has a child in any school music program, it is an inexpensive evening of holiday entertainment. Attending the concert of the McNary High School choirs will leave one with chills at the excellence and mastery of the stu-

dents. The same can be said of both Whiteaker and Claggett Creek middle schools.

Outside of the schools, the annual Keizer Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 5, will be filled with carols everyone knows and can sing along with.

You might be lucky enough this season to be serenaded by wandering carolers. At the least you can brave the winter night air on Dec. 9 to watch the Keizer Holiday Lights Parade.

There's music in the air. Enjoy it.

# Keizertimes

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