

KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Rumor vs. news

By LYNDON ZAITZ

There are friends and colleagues I know who do not watch TV news nor read any newspapers. Media has been so dominated by negative, divisive news that some people have turned a blind eye to anything resembling news.

Some non-news people get their information from internet sites such as Facebook, Yahoo and others. Or, they ask their friends about some big story they have heard about.

The concern with that is the real possibility—especially with local events—of getting incorrect facts and then spreading erroneous news. There are thousands of outlets and professional journalists across this country who gather news and present it with fairness, honesty and integrity. Unfortunately there are those few with big megaphones that spout off conspiracies and untruths (i.e., the massacre at Sandy Hook was a hoax).

Our president says that the news media is an enemy of the people. Unfortunately there are many people who agree with that view. It is important to remember that statements like that from the president are little more than politics. If a public official thought the press was the enemy of the people wouldn't that officer avoid the "enemy"? That's not the case with this president.

Neither publishers of newspapers nor producers of broadcast and cable news wake in the morning and decide to disseminate falsehoods and wrong news just to play with the American people. The people who choose to make news gathering their careers are dedicated to their profession; they work diligently to cover the news and information the public wants. At times the news is upsetting but that is no reason to question the integrity of all journalists.

This is especially true at small, community-based newspapers. As publisher of the *Keizertimes* it is my responsibility to assure that the news is provided without favor or foul,

Move Over law in spotlight

The very professionals who earn a living from highway accidents are now taking to the streets to promote highway safety and help safeguard the lives of fellow first responders. The American Towman Spirit Ride is continuing on its journey, relaying a colorful, ceremonial casket from tow truck to tow truck across the nation. The casket honors first responders who have been killed on the roadside and carries the message: *Slow Down, Move Over*.

About 300 towing companies across the country are relaying the casket to promote their state's *Move Over* law with processions involving 10,000 tow trucks and emergency service vehicles.

The Ride, which began in June 2017, will pass through Salem with the Spirit casket being relayed to Affordable Towing. A ceremony will take place at 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 3 in the Pavilion at the Oregon State Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Following the ceremony a procession of tow trucks and emergency service vehicles will drive through Salem.

The *Move Over* law is unknown to many motorists. According to the

just the facts. As at most newspapers, our job is to report the news as it happened as well as do investigative reporting on subjects concerning Keizer. Our peers in other states have bestowed on our paper many first place awards over the years in competition with other Oregon newspapers. Last month the *Keizertimes* was honored with 13 awards including first place for enterprise reporting, educational coverage, lifestyle and government coverage.

The president uses a term for news he doesn't like (a term I find offensive and will never use). As some say, you can pick your opinions but you can't pick your facts. There is no such thing as an alternative fact— $2+2=4$ is a fact; $2+2=5$ is not an alternative fact, it is just flat out wrong.

In an earlier time the people who didn't pay attention to news cited the bad news such as war abroad and crime at home. Then, as today, there are four or five positive articles for every 'bad' piece of news. News is in the eye of the beholder, some see it as all bad, some see it as all untruthful and some see it as indispensable.

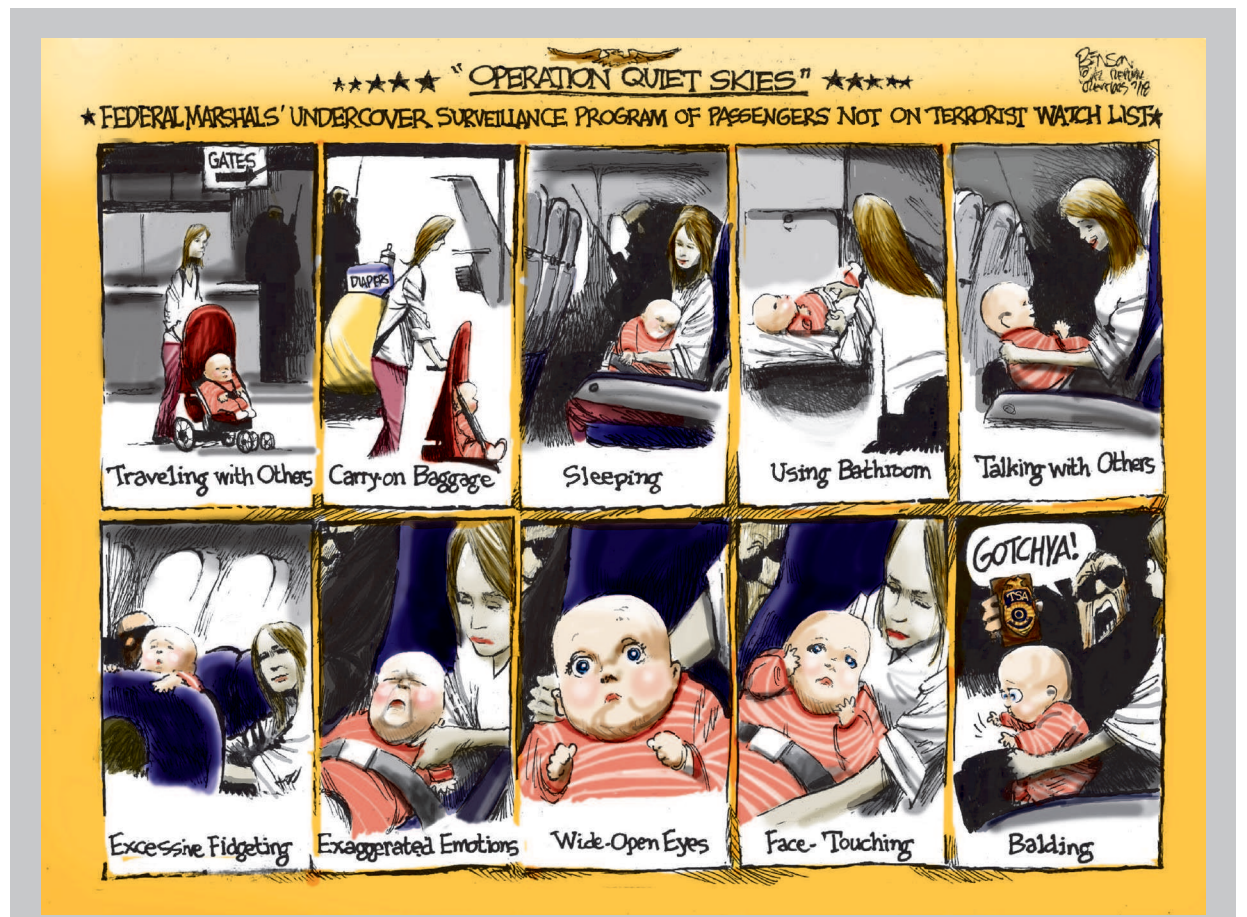
I am with the latter. Though I must admit that the daily barrage of news coming from the nation's capital is wearying. Even a political news junkie such as myself can feel overburdened with yet another story about an embattled official or policy. But I will remain resolute, I have to. If we all turned away from the news it could lead to some unexpected consequences. It is the press that must hold governments to task and assure that the public is informed about what their public officials are doing in their name.

Journalists separate rumor from fact. As some wise sage once said, a rumor zips around the globe before the truth gets its boots on. News is what is, rumor is what people think it is.

We in the press know the difference.

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

on my mind



The human side of JROTC

By TED SPINK

I want to talk about the AFJROTC unit at McNary High School.

AFJROTC stands for *Air Force Junior Officer Training Corps*. Currently our JROTC unit is getting ready for the new year and this is the time to become part of our outstanding program. I am writing to tell you why you should join JROTC, my experiences with joining, informing you about the program, and some common misconceptions about the class.

When I was in 8th grade, deciding what my classes would be, I knew right away that I wanted to be in the JROTC program. At the time I did not know much about it but I saw the color guard and drill team at the assemblies at Claggett Creek Middle School and there was something about tossing a rifle up in the air and managing to catch it which appealed to me and seemed like fun.

I was having a hard time deciding whether or not I wanted to join though because I thought it might be too hard for me, or too strict. To be honest I was scared of what it might be like. During summer I went to Basic Cadet Training (BCT), which is a quick introduction hosted by the AFJROTC unit. I thought that it would

be a daunting task but it wasn't. It was actually a lot of fun and the connections I made with others in the program made transitioning from middle to high school much easier.

Along with that, participating in BCT gave me a ribbon to put on my uniform. As the year progressed I began to get closer to the people within my JROTC unit. I don't know if it was intended, but I began to see JROTC less as a class and more like a family. As my second year of high school

came on I decided I would try to join one of our five teams, Unarmed/Armed Drill, Color Guard, Physical Training, and Precision Air Rifle. Drill would definitely seem like a challenge for me, but I was up for it. While I was practicing Drill Major Robert Gracia saw me and recommended I do Color Guard. I was hesitant at first, but then I finally decided to join which was a great decision. Because of this I had the privilege to march in the Color Guard for the 2018 Iris Parade.

Now that I have shared my experience with you I hope this has inspired you to join JROTC. If not, let me clear up a few misconceptions that you might still have. First, and one of the most common misconceptions, is that JROTC recruits for the military, this is not true in any way. JROTC

will not pressure or hold you to any obligation of any military service no matter how long you stay with us. The second misconception is harsh treatment, in all of my time within the corps I have never been put down by an instructor or fellow cadet. I have never been screamed at or treated unfairly, the cadets in JROTC are some of the nicest people I have ever met. A third JROTC stereotype is that the JROTC program is boring. This is not true, JROTC is fun and educational, and challenges you to be your best. Give it a try for a year, you'll be glad you did.

In conclusion, we ask any parents or guardians to talk to their kids about joining JROTC at McNary High School. Our unit is currently in need of cadets to keep our corps running strong so we can benefit both McNary High Schools students and our community. Because of this please consider putting JROTC in heavy consideration, not only does it teach you and prepare you for the future but it also looks great when applying for a job.

If you have any questions you can contact Major Garcia through McNary High school or Email him at garcia_robert@salkeiz.k12.or.us. Also be sure to check out our Facebook page at MAF Cadet Page. I look forward to seeing you.

(Ted Spinks is a junior at McNary High School.)

guest column

Women can change the world

Some of the finest, most helpful and brightest people I have known are women. As a rule, for me, women tend to be more thoughtful, generous and caring than so many of the macho-burdened guys I've known. This bias of mine began with my mother who I could depend on for anything and everything no matter what, while my wife of 45 years is my best friend, confidant, love interest and mother to our children.

In the history of our planet, the length of my life has been nothing more than an innocuous hiccup. However, when I was in high school, a mere five decades ago, the women in my class were mainly relegated to motherhood, librarian, nurse or teacher. Then, too, teachers were often required lifelong spinster status. A few women actually held public office but usually got there when a famous husband passed and sentimentality demanded it.

Having kids and trying for public office was not only considered an impediment throughout the America of yesteryear but comparable to women as blacksmith or street car conductor. Like it or not, and there remain many who don't like it, several women are running for office and claiming active motherhood as a political asset. For example, in Maryland, a candidate there for governor, Krish Vignarajah, made her case for the job in a 30-second ad showing her breastfeeding her baby daughter with photos of her family and select moments from her political career.

Many female candidates are doing something similar or the same. Vignarajah has been joined by Kelda Roys who is running for governor of Wisconsin and has openly breastfed her child as well as made efforts to ban a potentially harmful chemical in children's products. M. J. Hegar, a congressional candidate in Texas, has

displayed her own take on motherhood when she announced, "I'm an Air Force combat veteran and a mom." Hegar wants her constituents to know that she has opened several formerly closed doors to women by building a career while being a mom.

Others who've written on this subject argue that we've moved into a new outsider role after the 2016 political election. They say that the mothers in the public office movement is the result of an abnormal political era where more voters prefer people who've not been long-serving in office, the kind of office holder who repeats the same tired refrains and stands pat on the status quo, no matter the breadth and depth of problems screaming for attention.

What's been a typical point of view was in the double standard category where men running for office could have a wife and children while seen as wholesome and normal. Wives were expected to serve as primary child-care providers for their families and thereby not suited to hold public office. In the past, women were directed to assume major responsibility for the children while a common comment on those who dared was: "Well! She's not looking after the kids (in Salem, Washington, D.C. or wherever), when she should be doing so!"

Men can do more about raising families. When my wife and I returned from years working overseas we brought a newborn

home with us. We had no jobs to return to and my wife had always wanted to try her hand at a line of work of considerable interest to her. I took care of our infant daughter and our other child from dawn to dusk every day and thereby acquired a personal appreciation for the amount of time, effort and patience involved. Bottom line was I succeeded as Mr. Mom while my wife and I learned we were "diaper-brigade" interchangeable in raising our children.

More power to those women in Oregon who chose to run for public office. I've noticed over the years of my life that women often do better than the guys because so many of them have a knack and talent for effective communication and problem-solving cooperation, resulting in getting along with other people and compromising at middle ground points to get things done. There have been many a trail blazer at all levels of government and the gate's wide open so expect more young mothers to run for office while some will be pregnant and some will be breastfeeding. May we encourage them and applaud their efforts and achievements in a new social order where no one is held back by outmoded and unnecessary restraints.

(Gene H. McIntyre shares his opinion each week in the *Keizertimes*.)

guest

letters

For undecided voters in Keizer

To the Editor:

Imagine a friend comes to you with an opportunity to go in on an investment together. Your friend gives you the background information and makes a convincing, passionate pitch. It's a bit risky and would require a big commitment, but your friend urges you to invest. So you do.

It turns out to be the worst investment possible. You've sunk your resources into something that was completely misrepresented. Nothing

your friend said was true, and things are going really poorly for everyone that invested.

The same Oregonians that spent their vote in November 2016 on Donald Trump are now urging you to spend your vote in November 2018 on Knute Buehler.

Please don't invest your vote this fall based on advice from people who gave us Trump.

Think about that when you fill your ballot this fall.

Andrew Hickey Keizer

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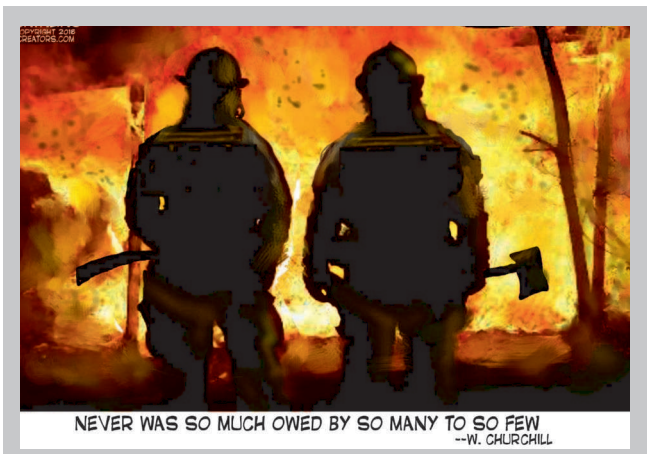
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NEVER WAS SO MUCH OWED BY SO MANY TO SO FEW
—W. CHURCHILL