

Opinion

Questioning our leaders

Some people identify as liberal, some as conservative. The definition of those labels have drastically shifted over the past 40 years. What was conservative in the early 1980s is now considered inexcusably moderate. Some Democrats want their party to move further left; some Republicans want to see their party move further right. That has created what we all see across the nation today: two sides with little compromise, entrenched in their points of view.

Politics in America today is not completely broken regardless of what some pundits, news anchors and columnists would have us believe. The reality is there is work being completed by government bodies at every level, from Congress down to the smallest city council.

Congress passes legislation every week but that pales in comparison to the sexier news of constant embattlement between the two parties. In Keizer, population 39,000, one can find people of every ideological stripe, though most of the city's councilors have been right of center. The city council gets the people's business done when it comes to setting policy and approving budgets, all without rancor.

Our democracy allows for citizens to express their displeasure with decisions their government leaders make, be it via public testimony, letters or protests. That is all part of our civic discourse. That includes the press. It is not treasonous to question political

leaders about their policies. Nor is it treasonous to say or write critically of our leaders. We do not live in a country built on the cult of personalities. We don't have Dear Leader or Glorious Leader in America. Our leaders are elected by the people; if we don't like what they are doing we can vote them out.

Not all liberals loathe the current president, not all conservatives embrace him. Voters knew what they were getting when they supported him with their votes. The fact that he trailed his opponent by three million votes fades in the face of his Electoral College victory. Hate his policies and his behavior or support him, it is important to remember a keystone of military life: respect (or salute) the rank, not the man. That is something big media forgets—it spends too much time on the president's tweets rather than on the news items that affect most Americans.

Neither the people nor the press should follow a president blindly. The ability to oppose our leaders is as American as apple pie. It is democracy gone off the rails when people are accused of being unAmerican when they don't support their leader. It is democracy functioning well when people use their words and actions to persuade others to their side regardless if it is a conservative view or a liberal view.

There is room in this big country for all points of view. A person is not horrible just because they disagree—that is unAmerican. —LAZ

our opinion

Codes need to be enforced

To the Editor:

Keizer has some rules to keep our neighborhoods livable: seventy-two hour parking limits on streets, prompt graffiti remediation, house maintenance, vision clearance at intersections, vegetation heights over roads and walkways, to name a few.

On November 2, I spoke to a female officer on Allendale Way while we looked at four vehicles illegally parked. All had been there at least 30 days. The Harley had no plate and the clutch lever has been stolen. The Ford Escape had plates that expired January, 2017. The Ford van in front of that never moves. The Honda in front of that had no plate, tags or temporary. I told her about an abandoned Jimmy with expired plates two blocks further down the street. I told her of a black pickup with no engine and expired plates across the street from that. She indicated she was aware of

the location and would coordinate with Code Enforcement. I took her at her word.

Nothing happened. On November 10, I took pictures of the vehicles as well as three more with expired plates within one mile.

On November 13, I took the pictures to the police station and reported the violations again.

It's November 21 and not one vehicle has been marked, tagged or towed. (The Honda was gone by January 13.)

A stop sign and utility boxes were tagged at Noren/Keizer Road on or about Oct. 1. Keizer's Public Works Department fixed the sign immediately, yet the utility boxes have not been addressed. Some 60 feet of fence on Noren at the south end of Kennedy's playground is still unaddressed.

I expect the City to do what it says it will do.

Dave LeDoux
Keizer

letters

other voices



Liberal panic on press freedom

By L. BRENT BOZELL III and TIM GRAHAM

Congressman-elect Dan Crenshaw of Texas first came to national attention when his looks—especially the patch over his eye that he lost serving in Afghanistan—were mocked on *Saturday Night Live*. The NBC show amended its rudeness by putting him on the show the next week and allowing him to make an earnest pitch to Americans to “never forget” the sacrifices veterans make.

On Nov. 18, Crenshaw appeared with three other House freshmen on CBS' *Face the Nation*. The other three were all Democrats. He suggested the public image of Congress could be improved if the tone of the debate were to improve. “Let’s not attack each other’s intent,” he said. “Let’s not ... attack each other as a person. Let’s attack ideas. All right. We can debate ideas. We can disagree on ideas all day long.”

That’s not an easy standard in politics. Politicians know that voters say they don’t like negative attacks, but they also know voters are more likely to believe negative attacks than positive presentations. What made Crenshaw’s approach stand out was his challenging the idea that freedom of the press is under attack.

Rep.-elect Joe Neguse, D-Colo.,

claimed that under President Trump, “our democratic freedoms” are under attack. Crenshaw demanded specifics and said: “Democracy is at work. People are voting in ... record numbers.” Neguse responded, “the undermining of the free press.”

He cited CNN having to go to court to fight correspondent Jim Acosta’s suspended press pass. Crenshaw noted that was one reporter, not the entire network, and that he was “highly disruptive.”

Rep.-elect Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa., then jumped in. “I would argue that our president is consistently disruptive in those very same press conferences. And I would argue that he treats them with disrespect,” she said. Crenshaw challenged that, asking, “how is that an attack on the press, though?” Houlahan replied, “it’s literally an attack on the press.” Crenshaw shot back: “Oh, I’ve literally been attacked. ... let’s choose our words carefully.”

This underlines that our metaphors can be far too overdramatized, especially in emotional reaction to Trump’s ridicule. Houlahan continued: “his language is an attack in those spaces.” So Crenshaw asked, “why is he not allowed to use his own language and freedom of speech?”

This is a terrific question. Apparently, it’s against freedom of speech

to attack the press as a bunch of partisans who sometimes put out “fake news.” The media would like to rewrite the First Amendment and insert the commandment “Thou shalt not question the motives or professionalism of journalists.” They have the thinnest skins in Washington.

Houlahan insisted that the president should lead by example. Crenshaw said that it’s fine to question the president’s style, and that he dislikes the term “enemy of the people” to describe the press corps.

But if the Democrats and the press think it’s important to lead by example, is Jim Acosta leading by example? Are they proud of his style? It seems obvious they feel strongly that someone really needs to lecture the president like he’s got the intelligence of a tomato. They aren’t telling Acosta he’s setting a bad example for the children.

Those on the left have been ranting for years now that the press can’t allow Trump to be “normalized”—in other words, the media must always behave as if an election-stealing dictator is sitting in the White House. For the left, there is no universal morality. There are the idealistic leftists who must be celebrated, and there are the Cynical, Lying Bad Guys who must be destroyed. Dan Crenshaw exposed how much civility is limited when it comes to conservatives.

(Creator Syndicate)

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Web Poll Results

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SIDE DISH WITH YOUR THANKSGIVING DINNER?

Stuffing	54%
Mashed potatoes	23%
Yams	8%
Cranberry sauce	5%
Bean casserole	5%
Mac and cheese	5%

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!
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Green Bay sets good example

A mere few decades ago in Oregon, those born here enjoyed a state in which the wealthy didn't rule over much of anything and seldom were known to order public officials around. Then, too, young bucks still had a chance to make their mark even if they did not come from a family with riches that got that way by underpaying their workers and indulging themselves to live, as now they often do, like potatoes.

The other day a columnist in our time wrote a rather lengthy column about the guy who was as wealthy as any American can get and had used some of his wealth to own and control an NBA franchise, the Portland Trail Blazers. As anyone who's taken notice of the lives of the rich and famous, Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, passed away a few weeks ago.

We're told that Allen's last will and testimony seeks to sell his assets, including the Blazers, and give what's acquired in amounts of millions upon millions of dollars to charitable causes. Well, good for Allen who, with one surviving sister, and a man who never married and also had no children, my hat is tipped with great respect to him as one who will not make a few relatives rich enough to do nothing except order other Americans around.

Then a thought occurred to me, relative to many Oregonians I've known from birth—they loved and continue to love our state and our nation and desire a return, even in some small measure,

to those times when hardly any citizen of our state was filthy rich. However, if there were, back when, even a few enjoying financial good fortune, they didn't impose their will on everyone else by taking control of the state's institutions and Capitol occupants.

Ah, hah! The Green Bay Packers of Green Bay, Wisconsin come to mind. Here's the factual scoop on the Packers. The Green Bay Packers Board of Directors is the organization that serves as the owner of record of the National Football League's team. The Packers have been a publicly-owned, non-profit corporation since 1923. Their management structure is unlike anything else in American professional sports. Instead, the Packers are publicly-traded with a total of 112,158 shareholders owning 4,750,937 shares in GBP Incorporated.

So, instead of letting the Portland Trail Blazers be bought by the likes of the Paulson family, Merritt owning the Portland Timbers, or the

Knight family, Phil apparently “owning” the UO Ducks, the people of Oregon, and anyone else willing to put a few dollars into a collective kitty, being able to claim ownership in a professional sports team. As a result, we, collectively, could take a big step in the direction of common folks owning what they're cheering for and spending great gobs of money to see and, in that way, helping rich guys and their families build more homes overseas and buy Ivy League university educations for their offspring.

What say you fellow serfs? Is it not time to claim by joint ownership what could be ours and avoid another fate like that of the Seattle Super Sonics, now the Oklahoma City Thunder. Many an Oregon youth and young adult views smaller futures save servitude because things are more and more often in the exclusive hands of wealthy individuals and corporations: ownership in something like a local team could enthrone more buy-in among them.

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

(SO MUCH FOR)



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