

# Opinion

## Proud to be 40 years old

Over the past 75 years Keizer has had two newspapers. The first, the *Keizer News*, was founded in 1948 and operated until 1969. Keizer went without its own community newspaper for 10 years until John Ettinger established the Keizertimes (we don't know the origin of the unique spelling) in 1979. We are now celebrating its 40th anniversary.

from the publisher

Les Zaitz and Scotta Callister bought the *Keizertimes* in 1987. They both left their positions at *The Oregonian* to purchase the newspaper and carry on the family tradition—our father, Clarence, ran the *Keizer News* in the 1960s. Ink runs thick through the family's veins.

All of Les and Scotta's ideas of what a community newspaper could be were put to practice. The mission of the *Keizertimes* has remained steadfast—covering the news and information of the seven square miles of Keizer without fear or favor.

The staff currently working at the *Keizertimes* are as dedicated as all of them that have been employed here over the past decades. Though we would like to be everywhere, all the time, that is not possible. The community has been generous letting us know of the good news happening as well as concerns.

The *Keizertimes* has never had an ideological bent—we cover the news as it is. Do we get it right every time? No; but we are the first to admit when we get something wrong and make it right.

The newspaper is also a printed public square. The public is always welcome to share their opinion on the topics of the day. A vigorous discourse and exchange of opinions

makes our community stronger and we are honored to play that role for Keizer.

At a time that is difficult for newspapers of every size across the country, this newspaper will continue to succeed because we can get into the nooks and crannies of the city and report on what is important to our readers. We live here, too; we understand our readers are interested in varied issues: city hall, crime, schools, sports and our people, especially our kids.

Keizer is a special place to live. There is a unique spirit that defines the city and its people. The *Keizertimes* celebrates that spirit with every issue. Every town in America boasts they are the best but we have one thing those other places don't have: Keizerites. We reflect the best Keizer has to offer.

If someone feels our coverage is missing something, I personally invite to call me directly or drop by for a visit. Whether you want to share an "Atta boy," or express concerns about something we covered, we want to talk with you; the publisher's door is always open.

The entire staff here is proud of the newspaper, the special sections and guides we publish. That is why we are mailing today's issue to more than 13,500 Keizer homes—to show the quality reporting and professional integrity that goes into the *Keizertimes*. Meet the people who bring you the news on Page A9 of this issue.

We are honored to do what we do and hope you will support your local community newspaper.

— Lyndon Zaitz



## Can Trump avoid war with Iran?

By PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

President Donald Trump does not want war with Iran. America does not want war with Iran. Even the Senate Republicans are advising against military action in response to that attack on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities.

"All of us (should) get together and exchange ideas, respectfully, and come to a consensus—and that should be bipartisan," says Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jim Risch of Idaho.

When Lindsey Graham said the White House had shown "weakness" and urged retaliatory strikes for what Secretary of State Mike Pompeo calls Iran's "act of war," the president backhanded his golfing buddy:

"It's very easy to attack, but if you ask Lindsey ... ask him how did going into the Middle East ... work out. And how did Iraq work out?"

Still, if neither America nor Iran wants war, what has brought us to the brink?

Answer: The policy imposed by Trump, Pompeo and John Bolton after our unilateral withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal.

Our course was fixed by the policy we chose to pursue.

Imposing on Iran the most severe sanctions ever by one modern nation on another, short of war, the U.S., through "maximum pressure," sought to break the Iranian regime and bend it to America's will.

Submit to U.S. demands, we told Tehran, or watch your economy crumble and collapse and your people rise up in revolt and overthrow your regime.

Among the 12 demands issued by Pompeo:

End all enrichment of uranium or processing of plutonium. Halt all testing of ballistic missiles. Cut off Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza. Disarm and demobilize Shiite militias in Syria and Iraq. Terminate support for the Houthis rebels resisting Saudi intervention in Yemen.

The demands Pompeo made were those that victorious nations impose upon the defeated or defenseless. Pompeo's problem: Iran was neither.

Hezbollah is dominant in Lebanon. Along with Russia and Hezbollah, Iran and its militias enabled Bashar Assad to emerge victorious in an eight-year Syrian civil war. And the scores of thousands of Iranian-trained and -allied Shiite militia fighters in the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq outnumber the 5,200 U.S. troops there 20 times over.

Hence Tehran's defiant answer to Pompeo's 12 demands:

We will not capitulate, and if your sanctions prevent our oil from reaching our traditional buyers, we will prevent the oil of your Sunni allies from getting out of the Persian Gulf.

Hence, this summer, we saw tankers sabotaged and seized in the Gulf, insurance rates for tanker traffic surge, Iran shoot-down a \$130 million U.S. Predator drone, and, a week ago, an attack on Saudi oil production facilities that cut Riyadh's exports in half.

This has been followed by an Iranian warning that a Saudi attack on Iran means war, and a U.S. attack

will be met with a counterattack. We don't want war, the Iranians are saying, but if the alternative is to choke to death under U.S. sanctions, we will use our weapons to fight yours.

America might emerge victorious in such a war, but the cost could be calamitous, imperiling that fifth of the world's oil that traverses the Strait of Hormuz, and causing a global recession.

Yet even if there is no U.S. or Saudi military response to the recent attack, what is to prevent Iran from ordering a second strike that shuts down more Arab Gulf oil production?

Iran has shown the ability to do that, and, apparently, neither we nor the Saudis have the defenses to prevent such an attack.

A more fundamental question arises: If the United States was not attacked, why is it our duty to respond militarily to an attack on Saudi Arabia?

Saudi Arabia is not a member of NATO. It is not a treaty ally. Nor is Saudi Arabia a natural American ally.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman runs an Islamic autocracy. He summoned the prime minister of Lebanon to the kingdom, where the crown prince forced him to resign in humiliation. He has ostracized Qatar from Arab Gulf councils. He has been accused of complicity in the murder of *Washington Post* columnist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul.

The question President Trump confronts today: How does he get his country back off the limb he climbed out on while listening to the Republican neocons and hawks he defeated in 2016, but who have had an inordinate influence over his foreign policy?

(Creators Syndicate)

## An open letter to Mr. Smith

To Mr. Mark Smith,

Mark, I wish I could put into words how much your gift of a book and, even more, the hand-written letter meant to me this week. As you can see, this week's paper is huge. It took a lot of time and effort from a lot of different people and I was on my ninth consecutive day at the office when you dropped in.

It has become far too easy for us to lose the thread of our work lives, I too frequently wonder whether there's still a point to the career I've invested two decades of my life in. It weighs most heavily on me when talking with the three young women who pursued job opportunities at our paper in recent years.

Each of them, in their own way, have asked me whether this work (journalism) means anything to anyone anymore. Even when it hurts, I try to be real with them. I tell them we don't get to know that, all we can

letters

do is keep doing the job and hope that people are paying attention.

To my great relief, two of them rapidly received their own versions of reader feedback and even saw action taken because of the things they've written about.

The third was in my office when I read your letter aloud. (I read the letter before looking inside the envelope because I expected both to contain much different messages. I hope you can forgive this too-young curmudgeon). I wish you had been there to see my face melt.

All of this is to say, thank you. Thank you for the thoughtfulness, thank you for your kindness, and thank you for reminding me that this work does matter even when I start believing no one is paying attention.

With renewed grace and all my best wishes,

Eric A. Howald  
Keizertimes Managing Editor

## Make sports equitable for all

When anyone says they want to make something great again, generalizations on the subject don't cut it. Regarding our nation, even the least savvy historian would want to know fairly precisely to which event or period of time the advocate references as a return point to be "great again." Contender examples, one might argue, would include the end of the Civil War, with the country reunited, the completion of the trans-continental railroad, and the surrender of the Empire of Japan to allied forces led by the United States.

As a guy who's been hanging around now for several decades, that societal condition to which I'd really appreciate seeing a return, and a return throughout our country, would be a return to true amateur sports. As things have developed here since about 1945, we have drifted, sometimes skidded and, possibly more often, fallen off the amateur sports wagon to a place where, no matter what sport it is, at whatever level, there always appears a mix of gambling stakes involvement, coaches bought and paid for, players demanding payment and often more and more payments for playing a game, charges of game fixing, and the youth players and families being "paid off" to play at a sports-shoe-sponsored league or school.

Leading the way to practices that corrupt almost everyone involved in sports in Oregon would have to include Adidas, a company of German origin with a lot of brick and mortar in Portland, and Nike, having been founded in Oregon with headquarters

near Beaverton. Meanwhile, anything resembling amateur involvements for the sake of building bodies, physical prowess and enduring character have been overridden by making the big bucks at the cost of integrity, ethics, fair play and ways of playing sports with entry of the almighty dollar and sports companies by competition-wars and the buying of people.

It's no longer just the efforts of the major and minor sports-equipment companies that bring colossal fortunes to the playing fields. Now, also, employees who work for big name athletic outfits find it within their range of apparently acceptable-without-a-second-thought predatory practices that go down to high school levels, and even lower, to conspire, manipulate and otherwise further negatively impact our youth who're frequently into mental health crisis because they're profoundly depressed by broken-home conditions, wondering when the next AR-15/AK-47 will visit their campus, and the threat of no career because the kids of wealthy parents have bought up all of those for their offspring. Into

this environment of those effected by our changing times now come the unscrupulous sports hawkers and vendors, free to spread their destructive temptations.

There may be nothing Oregonians can do about the rapid rise and spread of sports-equipment companies and their often ethics-deprived activities with young men and women once they reach 18-years-of-age and thereafter. However, we should be able to keep these people away from any youth who has not yet reached the age of 18 or remains a student in a high school, public and private. Since the morally shaky among the sports companies are not above or below practicing skullduggery with those they prey upon, new laws by Oregon's legislators, championed by Governor Kate Brown, should be seriously considered for enactment to protect our youth until they've reached an age of majority. The time is now and delays will only result in more harm brought to Oregon's youth.

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



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