

Opinion



Beware the 'right-wing media machine'?

By L. BRENT BOZELL III and TIM GRAHAM

In the fall of 1998, House Republicans took special counsel Kenneth Starr's report on then-President Bill Clinton's impeachable conduct and launched an impeachment inquiry. The media elites roared in disgust. Then-NBC host Gwen Ifill quoted an unnamed (naturally) House Judiciary Committee member who compared

the Starr report to a terrorist truck bomb dropped on the Capitol steps. Keith Olbermann compared mild-mannered Starr to Heinrich Himmler. This—and there's much more of it—is worth rereading, as *CNN* media reporter Oliver Darcy is warning the public about a “right-wing media machine” that has demonstrated “zero willingness to abide by any traditional rules of engagement.” That shameless “machine” opposing President Trump's impeachment and removal is, of course, composed of *Fox News*, talk radio, conservative websites and an “army of trolls” on the internet.

We're all shameless manure spreaders in the eyes of *CNN* (and its shrinking band of die-hard fans). “The next few months will test the power of this right-wing media machine,” Darcy says. “To succeed, it will not only have to suspend reality for its audience, but also feed the

millions who watch, listen, and read a counter-narrative to fill actuality's void.” Trump's survival depends on this reality-denying machine, Darcy insists: “If Trump sees support on *Fox* or talk radio erode, it would help shift the tide and give Republicans wiggle room to turn on him.”

Darcy, who graduated from college in 2011, is perhaps young enough to have no idea what the left-wing media machine—especially *CNN*—did to protect and defend Clinton, his lying in court under oath, his lying to the public about his affair with “that woman, Miss Lewinsky” and his attempts to instruct others to lie on his behalf. At a recent panel discussion in New York, Darcy's colleague Brian Stelter yelled that Clinton “was crushed by the media,” just “destroyed by the press corps!”

Wolf Blitzer should really take these youngsters out to lunch and tell them how *CNN* fiercely smeared Clinton's opponents and denounced itself for having reported anything about Clinton's scandalous behavior. On Jan. 28, 1998, a week after the Lewinsky allegations broke, *CNN* aired an hourlong special to self-flagellate titled “Media Madness?” Then-host Howard Kurtz rhetorically beat his breast, lamenting, “There is something about this story, this presidency, that has led the media

to almost obliterate the standards of decency that were built up for so many years.”

Clinton wasn't indecent; the media were. In the Trump era, *CNN* insists this president is a morally unfit tyrant and the media are the heroic enforcers of fact, oozing integrity in every article and interview.

Darcy concluded his takedown by predicting it's unlikely the major stars of the right-wing universe will turn on Trump. For expert analysis, he enlisted John Ziegler, who used to defend former Gov. Sarah Palin from an avalanche of liberal bias. He's the perfect *CNN* guest because now he's insulting conservatives by calling them a cabal of spoiled brats. “The Trump cult is very much like a child who believes in Santa Claus,” Ziegler said, arguing that right-wing media bursting the Trump bubble would be “like the Disney Channel telling their audience there's no Santa Claus.” That's just silly.

It's easy to portray your opponent as operating a nefarious “media machine.” It's easy to say your opponent is “weaponizing” information or specializes in “disinformation.” What's hard is to believe the leftist media that portrays itself as “independent” and “nonpartisan” and only working to make “democracy” work. Nobody's buying that nonsense, and nobody should put up with the leftist media's duplicity.

(Creators Syndicate)

other voices

guest opinion

Oregon's elections are doing just fine

By GENE McINTYRE

Are there any among us American adults who can say with a straight face that he or she is non-partisan about matters of a political nature or those having to do with elections and persons running for public office? There may be people who've reached majority age and remain uncommitted, open-minded and yet open to influenced; however, this writer has yet to meet them.

Used in its noun form, a partisan is someone who supports a party, a cause, or a person. As an adjective, it describes someone who's prejudiced, one-sided or biased in favor of a particular person or cause. Use of the word has come up in reference to Oregon's secretary of state where

the secretary's deputy is publicly advocating for that office to make the state's top elections' watchdog into a non-partisan position.

At first blush, and as a faithful follower of all things political in Oregon, I'm not aware, after 50 years of watching the Oregon office of secretary of state and all others, that we have had a problem with that office being anything other than a bastion of integrity and above-corruption. In fact, the first Republican elected to secretary of state in 19 years, Dennis Richardson, a well-known conservative Republican, and just recently deceased, was the epitome of emulating “the right stuff” while on the job.

Over the years there have been

complaints, mainly from the losers of elections, that the secretary of state's office was not free of interventions on behalf of candidates heralding from their own party. Research on the subject disclosed that the charge has never been proven, although human nature—in all its manifestations—may never be absent from these proceedings. Meanwhile, some of the current concern may have its origin by way of the state of Georgia where, during last November's election, and thereafter, the Democrat gubernatorial candidate, Stacey Abrams, alleged that her Republican rival, Secretary of State Brian Kemp, used his position to win the election and make himself governor of Georgia.

Applying a hackneyed expression to make a case for non-partisanship, it may be worth serious consideration to ponder, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Thereby, the Oregon legislature would be asked to make a change so that any person in future would run for the Oregon secretary of state position without declaring political party affiliation. However, since our legislators already have plenty to do, adding another distraction, perhaps one that's viewed by many Oregonians as superfluous, may be ill-advised.

Whatever the outcome, this change would seem to be window dressing or irrelevant-to-real-need since it's simply difficult, if not impossible, to find an Oregonian old enough to vote who's without closely-held views. Determining validity in cases under scrutiny could also be tough to verify. What we have had and must continue to demand in future is that our Oregon office holders abide by their oath of office and do what's applicably lawful, behaviors our secretaries of state have duly practiced over the years.

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

HELP: Salem Drop, Youthline and SafeOregon

(Continued from Page A1)

Caitlin VanWagenen, group coordinator for the Salem Drop. “So everybody needs support, needs somebody that they can count on to be their support system.”

So where can kids turn to when they're struggling?

SALEM DROP

The Salem Drop is not what you think it is. If a passerby peered through the cartoon-festooned glass windows that look out onto State Street, they would see a TV and video game console, a pool table, a bank of computers and set of 3-D printers. A cafe setup in the back serves up snacks and drinks.

The Salem Drop is a community center - hence the fun stuff - but it's also an entry point to connect students with the Drop's peer support specialists, trained 20-somethings who can help young people ages 14 to 25 navigate adolescent and early adult struggles - everything from creating a resume to making a professional phone call to providing a safe space to vent.

Emily Bogan, a McNary junior, comes to the Drop a couple times a week during the school year. She discovered it soon after it opened a year ago.

“I initially thought, this is a cool place. And I came in and then the staff are super supportive,” Bogan said. From the get-go, the Drop staff told her if she needed anything, “‘We're here for you.’ So I started talking to them and they really helped,” Bogan said.

The “Drop model,” as the center's parent organization Youth ERA calls it, is effective because there's no stigma for a young person to come to the community center and play a round of pool, and then maybe stick around to chat about a problem they're having.

While the Drop's peer support specialists are not clinicians, they are trained in supporting youth who are struggling and can help them get connected with the resources they need. When a young person gets officially connected with Drop staff, they meet them about every other week to talk and find out what the youth's needs are.

Sometimes, the Drop staff says, that's helping a young person make a call to their insurance to see if they can make a doctor's appointment or referring them to other community services that could be useful. Other times, that's handing them a bag of Cheetos and beating them in a game of pool.

“Us not coming across directly as like a mental health organization gets everyone to come in and reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness, to get them to feel like they have people who they're connected to,” VanWagenen said.

To find out more about Salem Drop visit www.youthera.org/salem-drop or swing by 246 State Street, Salem, OR 97301.

YOUTHLINE

Prior to volunteering at the YouthLine, 19-year-old Sophie Rupp wanted to help her peers. But sometimes her approach wasn't as helpful as she thought.

“When someone tells you they're suffering, the instinct is to jump in, give advice and help in any way, to fix their problem,” Rupp said.

That was until she started volunteering at the YouthLine as one of the Portland-based crisis line's peer operators. After the 63 hours of training Rupp received - the training includes role-playing caller situations, listening in on sessions, and certifications in mental health first aid, suicide identification, and suicide intervention, among other trainings - she realized that the “jump in and fix it” method wasn't the right approach for people struggling with their mental health.

“The training shows that that's not what most people need, they need to sit in the muck and sit in that space,” she said. “We can just say that really sucks and they'll say ‘yes it does suck’ and ‘thank you for listening to me.’” Sheherazade Weyland, 18, also volunteers at the YouthLine. As someone who has struggled with anxiety and other mental health problems herself, she knows how difficult it can be to reach out for help. But being in such a mental health-conscious environment, she said, has made her better able to cope with her own condition.

One of her favorite parts of her shift is the pre-shift huddle, where one of the adult supervisors gives the volunteers a space to vent and share how they're feeling.

“You weren't going to be treated differently because you were struggling, but you were going to get some support within that huddle, and then we'd all go off and get back to work,”

Weyland said.

This environment, she said, “definitely changed the way I support other people. I'm much more hopeful now,” she said. “And I think it's easier to give other people hope.”

That's something the YouthLine volunteers emphasize: there's no shame in asking for help, regardless of what kind of help they need. Calls range in topic from romantic woes to suicidal thoughts. And the YouthLine volunteers are trained not only to listen, but also to advise callers on coping skills and self-care techniques. These behaviors are important for youth to develop as early as possible, Weyland said.

“Yes, this person is 13 and reaching out to us because of a crush, but if they aren't supported with that, and they don't learn how to cope with that, how are they going to cope with their first breakup? With their divorce in 30 years?” Weyland asked, rhetorically. “How are they ever going to get out of the unhealthy coping mechanisms that we naturally create if there's never a starting point?”

The YouthLine can be that starting point. “We're helping teens learn help-seeking behaviors and we're helping them learn healthy coping mechanisms,” Weyland said.

The YouthLine is staffed by young volunteers every day between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. All other times of day and night, adults answer calls.

Call: 877.968.8491

Text: teen2teen to 839863

Online chat: oregonyouthline.org.

SAFEOREGON TIP LINE

For students who witness their friends or classmates going through mental health struggles, there's also an outlet to try to get help: the SafeOregon Tip Line.

The tip line - which receives tips from students via call, text, email, mobile app or the SafeOregon web portal - is designed as a safe place to report safety threats, bullying (online or in person), harassment, but also students who may be suicidal or at risk of harming themselves.

“There wasn't really an avenue for students to report things they were worried about with their friends, and have an adult take a look at it,” said

Dominique Millette, a data analyst for the SafeOregon line.

The tip line is not only for students, but also school staff who may have the knowledge and resources to help but aren't told about student concerns.

“We've heard this from a lot of administrators that they normally wouldn't get [this type of information]

about their students, because we're allowing students to be the ears and eyes when we can't be as adults,” Millette said. “So they're giving us information and then it allows the adults to do the investigative piece, see how they can help and then provide ... whatever is needed at that point.”

The tip form asks for information including the school associated with the incident, details surrounding the incident and the names of those who may be doing harm or being harmed. Those who report a tip have the option to remain anonymous.

Once a student leaves a tip, staff at SafeOregon will alert the school involved with the incident, and the school then takes action on the tip. If the matter is really urgent - as in there's an active threat to someone's health - the SafeOregon staff will refer the tip to law enforcement. According to SafeOregon, 77 percent of their tips get referred to the schools.

Since the tip line launched in January 2017, it has received thousands of tips, many related to suicide, self-harm and depression. Suicide threats reported by someone other than the suicidal person ranked as the third largest tip category, behind bullying and drug concerns.

SafeOregon's annual report holds up the example of a case in Hermiston, Ore., where a concerned young person alerted the line after receiving text messages from a friend about their intent to kill themselves. The line called local police, who found the teen unconscious, but were able to revive him and get him to the hospital in time to avoid his death.

“In terms of success, we've already saved lives. We've helped students get mental health services, we've helped in child abuse situations,” Millette said. “We feel like it's been an extremely successful program.”

There are multiple ways to report a tip to SafeOregon.

Online: Visit app.safeoregon.org

App: Download the SafeOregon app via iTunes or Google Play

Phone: Text or call 844-472-3367

Email: Send a message to tip@safeoregon.org

Keizertimes

Wheatland Publishing Corp.

142 Chemawa Road N. • Keizer, Oregon 97303

Phone: 503.390.1051 • www.keizertimes.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Eric A. Howald
editor@keizertimes.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Matt Rawlings
news@keizertimes.com

COMMUNITY REPORTER

Lauren Murphy
reporter@keizertimes.com

ADVERTISING

Paula Moseley
advertising@keizertimes.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER & GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Andrew Jackson
graphics@keizertimes.com

LEGAL NOTICES

legals@keizertimes.com

BUSINESS MANAGER

Leah Stevens
billing@keizertimes.com

RECEPTION

Lori Beyeler

INTERN

Brooklyn Flint



EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Lyndon Zaitz
publisher@keizertimes.com

2019-2020 President
Oregon Newspaper
Publishers Association

facebook

[facebook.com/keizertimes](https://www.facebook.com/keizertimes)

twitter

twitter.com/keizertimes