

KEIZERTIMES PUBLIC SQUARE

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Chemeketa and the future

Education is more important than ever. Many businesses will not interview job prospects for some jobs without a degree. Many jobs are going unfulfilled; a dearth of applicants bedevil hiring managers across the country.

Many workers today are expected to change jobs up to seven times during their working years. The Greatest Generation and the succeeding Boomers had careers and worked hard to create a life promised by the American dream. The grandchildren of the Boomer Generation have different perspectives on work.

Many fields of employment are seeing a decline in the number of applicants. Law and medical schools have fewer applicants today than 20 years ago. There is a critical nurse shortage. The trucking industry is in dire need of drivers.

In the 21st century, education is geared toward preparing students for employment. Locally, our high schools have added technical courses and the Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) in northeast Salem is a leader in preparing students for living wage jobs in a variety of fields.

Chemeketa Community College has always been at the forefront of offering courses that lead to skilled jobs.

The new Agriculture Complex, which will open soon, will give students comprehensive studies in an industry that is vital to Oregon. Farming is more sophisticated than ever and preparing future farmers with a state-of-the-art education will ensure our region remains a leader in agricultural science. For more than 50 years,

Editorial

Chemeketa has been one of the premier schools in agricultural education, especially in the areas of leadership and farm business.

The newest area of study at Chemeketa is Diesel Technology, a field that sees demand increase as many current technicians enter their retirement years. Once a student completes the course, they will be in high demand.

In all of its technical study areas Chemeketa has fostered tight partnerships with private businesses, who know that being involved means they are helping educate and train their future employees.

Chemeketa Community College is not just a technical school. It offers a number of degree programs. Many high school graduates opt to attend community college for two years and then transfer to a four-year university to finish their education.

President Dr. Jessica Howard and the Board of Education are all also dedicated to making Chemeketa Community College a school where people can augment their education to further their careers or where students can prepare for a career in their chosen profession.

Chemeketa is a gem in our educational system and will continue to meet the needs of students and industry alike.

—LAZ

Beating bullies

By ROBERT L. BECKNER

Most of us have experienced being bullied growing up in school, our neighborhood, even our workplace. Unfortunately, due to one negative side of human nature, human history is full of prime bullies: Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, Saddam Hussein, Osama Bin Laden. All seeking self-esteem through propaganda, fear and power over other people. Basically, bullies.

Thank God I experienced a major bully when I was the new kid entering my seventh grade year in a small country grade school. I suddenly became one big guy's favorite pick-on target. Fortunately, after about a month of his 'not so friendly' kindness, I stood my ground, taking him on with both fists flying. The shock and fear in his eyes and face said it all. He then ran away, all while some eighth grade boys 'cheered' me on. Our male teacher and principal never said a thing, and this once-bully never bothered me again.

One of the great life lessons the Lord blessed me with was learning bullies only understand strength and power because they are insecure, weak inside and only pick on those weaker than themselves. They won't challenge anyone who stands up for themselves for their self-esteem is based on bullying and will eventually move on to easier targets.

My Oregon State University self-defense instructor was a Marine sergeant on Iwo Jima...need I say more? Our class had many state champions in various

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disciplines of self defense. Not one ever took him on—he was one tough dude. His wise advise, the best self defense is 'run' unless...then you stand your ground and put them on the ground with a bloody nose. Where is this leading? Strength, power and self confidence means 'beware bullies.'

The many black belts I have known didn't need to talk about it or show it, unless forced to.

Today we're again experiencing bullies in Asia: Taliban and other extreme jihadist groups. The United States' inexcusable and dishonorable exit out of Afghanistan has enabled and ignited more worldwide terrorist attacks.

America, wake up. We have only empowered bullies, they will come for us because our actions have created a nation of terrorists and bullies.

Freedom from fools and bullies is never free. Peace through strength. Strength is the only language bullies understand. Be prepared, be ready. Stand up and stand our ground. We must fight for the right of freedom and our way of life. America needs to be on her knees to prevent us from kneeling before these bullies.

(Robert L. Beckner lives in Gervais.)

Milley enabled military debacle in Afghanistan

By MARC A. THIESSEN

Gen. Mark Milley has some explaining to do—and not just about his phone calls with a Chinese general.

In their forthcoming book *Peril*, Bob Woodward and Robert Costa reveal that Milley was so concerned President Donald Trump might start a nuclear war with China, he took the extraordinary step of calling his Chinese counterpart and promising him, "If we're going to attack, I'm going to call you ahead of time. It's not going to be a surprise." Following the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, Milley told House Speaker Nancy Pelosi he agreed that Trump was "crazy" and made senior officers at the National Military Command Center take an "oath" not to execute Trump's order for a nuclear strike without consulting him first—even though he is not in the military chain of command.

The idea that Trump would start a nuclear war is ludicrous; one of his proudest achievements is being the first president since Ronald Reagan *not* to start a new war. When Milley appears before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Sept. 28, he will have to answer for his astonishing actions and explain why they did not usurp civilian authority.

But the fact that so many intimate details that only Milley and his inner circle would know made it into this book suggests that Milley wanted history to record that he was one of the "adults in the room" who averted disaster in the final days of Trump's presidency.

Well, if Milley wants credit for stopping Trump from causing an imagined military disaster, then he also gets the blame for not stopping President Biden from causing an actual military disaster. Where was this bold, brazen general—willing to bend the chain of command in the name of national security—when Biden oversaw the worst U.S. military catastrophe in modern times in Afghanistan?

When Trump was in office, Milley had no compunction about standing up to the president on Afghanistan. *Axios* reports that after the 2020 elections, unbeknown to his national security team, Trump had a presidential decision memorandum drawn up ordering all U.S. forces be withdrawn from Afghanistan by Jan. 15, 2021. When news reached the Pentagon, Milley was "appalled" and swung into action. In the Oval Office, Milley, national security adviser Robert O'Brien and acting defense secretary Christopher Miller "all aligned against the plan." They "painted a vivid picture of Kabul falling to the Taliban if U.S. forces withdrew precipitously in the final days of the Trump presidency" and invoked the specter of America's withdrawal from Saigon, warning "this would be Trump's legacy if he rushed to the exit." In the end, they persuaded Trump to leave a residual force of 2,500 troops in Afghanistan when he left office.

So where was Milley's pushback when Biden decided to withdraw those last 2,500

other VOICES

U.S. forces on a political timetable, so the evacuation would be completed by the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks? Where were his dire warnings of an impending Saigon-like disaster? In an interview with George Stephanopoulos, Biden claimed that none of his military advisers had recommended leaving a residual force. But Milley knew better. *Politico* reported in April that "Milley, Central Command chief Gen. Frank McKenzie and Afghanistan forces commander Gen. Austin Miller believe that a force of 3,000 to 5,000 is required to conduct counterterrorism and as leverage to force the Taliban to negotiate." Milley feared that anything less would lead to a "repeat of what happened in Iraq after the U.S. draw-down in 2011" when the Islamic State rose from the ashes and spread its murderous tentacles across the globe.

He understood that Biden's plan would lead to disaster. So why did Milley stand by while Biden executed the catastrophic withdrawal he had dissuaded Trump from carrying out? Why did he go along with a plan that had us quit Bagram air base, and put the safety of U.S. service members securing the airport in the hands of the Taliban and the Haqqani network—a U.S.-designated terrorist organization? Why did he agree to leave American citizens, permanent residents, visa holders and the United States' Afghan allies behind enemy lines? Why, when our NATO allies pleaded with Biden to extend the artificial deadline he had set for the U.S. withdrawal so they could evacuate their nationals and allies, didn't Milley stand with them?

And if Biden didn't listen, why didn't Milley put his stars on the table?

Milley wanted to be remembered for saving us from Trump. Instead, he will be remembered for enabling Biden as he presided over the worst national security debacle in modern American history. While he may come up with an excuse for his actions in the waning days of the Trump presidency, there is no excuse for that.

(Washington Post)

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