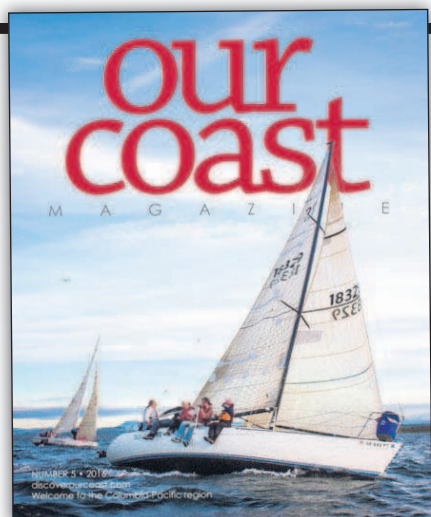


# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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## Our Coast grows in its fifth year

Wednesday is a significant publishing event for this newspaper and the *Chinook Observer*. We will bring out the fifth annual issue of *Our Coast* magazine. At 108 pages, this is our biggest. We are heartened by the advertising support that bumped up the magazine's size to offer more content.

Advertisers see value in this magazine, and so do readers. We receive an uncommon amount of praise from readers in our region, as well as Portland, Seattle and other points in the Pacific Northwest.

We started *Our Coast* for two reasons. Our editors were bored with the visitors guide concept. Too many of these guides look alike. Their format has grown stale in an era when magazines typically go through concept redesign every few years.

Secondly, we wanted to depict and display the entire Columbia-Pacific region — ranging from Oysterville to Manzanita — and not simply focus on one of our communities.

Looking at this tourist destination from a regional standpoint coincided with what we do at *The Daily Astorian* five days a week. Publishing a

regional daily is all about maintaining a broad perspective.

The appeal to the prospective visitor is obvious. If they are coming to Astoria or Long Beach, Seaside or Cannon Beach, they want to know about the other places in this region.

*Our Coast's* editor, Rebecca Sedlak, and its designer, John Bruijn, have taken the magazine's look up a notch. Photographs are displayed more boldly. From its start, *Our Coast* has benefited from professional travel writers and others outside our normal sphere. In this year's issue we have Portland-based Susan G. Hauser, writing about the glory days of fishing on the Columbia River, and local golf champion Jeff Leinassar explaining Gearhart Golf Course.

You will enjoy our magazine. Good reading.

## We must say 'no' to sex trafficking

Exploitation of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people in the international sex trade is among the most heinous of crimes — a kind of modern-day slavery that feeds on indifference and willful ignorance. Seaside City Councilor Jay Barber is fighting to shine a light into this hell, which exists right here in the Pacific Northwest.

As explained in our Monday story, Barber became personally engaged in the fight against sex trafficking through Shared Hope International, which was founded by Linda Smith, who once represented Southwest Washington in Congress. Smith learned that Interstate 5 serves as a major transportation corridor for the victims — mostly young women — trapped in this nightmare.

Oregon's handling of these crimes has improved

in recent years, earning a B grade in 2015 from advocacy organization Shared Hope International, up from a D in 2011. Beyond toughening laws to catch, punish and discourage sex criminals, eliminating these extraordinarily evil crimes depends on people acknowledging that such offenses occur in our midst. "We know it happened in small communities all across the states," a Shared Hope spokeswoman said.

These are not "victimless" crimes. Children and young adults treated like disposable objects did not seek this treatment and certainly do not benefit from it or enjoy it.

It is vital that we join with Barber and Shared Hope in emphatically saying "no" to sex trafficking and the impoverishment that feeds it.

For more information, see [sharedhope.org](http://sharedhope.org).

# Reid can win one for Nino Scalia

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Let's understand something about the fight to fill the Supreme Court seat of Antonin ("Nino") Scalia. This is about nothing but raw power.

Any appeal you hear to high principle is phony — brazenly, embarrassingly so.

In Year 7 of the George W. Bush administration, Sen. Chuck Schumer publicly opposed filling any Supreme Court vacancy until Bush left office. ("Except in extraordinary circumstances." None such arose. Surprise!) Today he piously denounces Republicans for doing exactly the same for a vacancy created in Year 8 of Barack Obama.

Republicans, say the Democrats, owe the president deference. Elections have consequences and Obama won re-election in 2012.

Yes. And the Republicans won the Senate in 2014 — if anything, a more proximal assertion of popular will. And both have equal standing in appointing a Supreme Court justice.

It's hard to swallow demands for deference from a party that for seven years has cheered Obama's serial constitutional deprivations: His rewriting the immigration laws by executive order (stayed by the courts); his reordering the energy economy by regulation (stayed by the courts); his enacting the nuclear deal with Iran, the most important treaty of this generation, without the required two-thirds of the Senate (by declaring it an executive agreement).

Minority Leader Harry Reid complains about the Senate violating precedent if it refuses a lame-duck nominee. This is rich. It is Reid who just two years ago overthrew all precedent by abolishing the filibuster for most judicial and high executive appointments. In the name of what grand constitutional principle did Reid resort to a parliamentary maneuver so precedent-shattering that it was called the nuclear option? None.



Charles Krauthammer



Marcio Jose Sanchez/AP Photo

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada fields questions at the Washoe County party headquarters in Reno, Wednesday, where he spoke about the future of the Supreme Court and Nevada's Democratic presidential caucuses.

He did it in order to pack the U. S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia with liberals who would reliably deflect challenges to Obamacare.

Last week, Obama loftily called upon Congress to rise above ideology and partisanship in approving his nominee. When asked how he could square that with his 2006 support of a filibuster to stop the appointment of Samuel Alito, Obama replied with a 4-minute word salad signifying nothing. There is no answer. It was situational constitutional principle, i.e., transparent hypocrisy.

As I said, this is all about raw power. When the Democrats had it, they used it. The Republicans are today wholly justified in saying they will not allow this outgoing president to overturn the balance of the Supreme Court. The matter should be decided by the coming election. Does anyone doubt that Democrats would be saying exactly that if the circumstances were reversed?

Which makes this Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's moment. He and his cohorts have taken a lot of abuse from "anti-establishment" candidates and media for not using their congressional majorities to repeal Obamacare, defund Planned Parenthood, block executive orders, etc.

What was the 2014 election about, they say? We won and got nothing. We were lied to and betrayed by a corrupt leadership beholden to the "Washington cartel."

As it happens, under our Madisonian Constitution, the opposition party cannot govern without the acquies-

cence of the president, which it will not get, or a two-thirds majority of the Congress, which it does not have.

But no matter. Things are different now. Appointing a Supreme Court justice is a two-key operation. The president proposes, the Senate disposes. There is no reason McConnell cannot hold the line. And he must. The stakes here — a radical generation-long reversal of direction of the Supreme Court — are the highest this Senate will ever face.

If McConnell succeeds, he will have resoundingly answered the "what did we get for 2014?" question. Imagine if the Senate were now in Democratic hands. What we got in 2014 was the power to hold on to Scalia's seat and to the

court's conservative majority.

But only for now. Blocking an Obama nominee buys just a year. The final outcome depends on November 2016. If the GOP nominates an unelectable or unconservative candidate, a McConnell victory will be nothing more than a stay of execution.

In 2012, Scalia averred that he would not retire until there was a more ideologically congenial president in the White House. "I would not like to be replaced," he explained, "by someone who immediately sets about undoing everything that I've tried to do for 25 years."

Scalia never got to choose the timing of his leaving office. Those who value the legacy of those now-30 years will determine whether his last wish will be vindicated. Let McConnell do his thing. Then in November it's for us to win one for Nino.

## The nation's escape from Bushworld

By MAUREEN DOWD

New York Times News Service

LAS VEGAS — The Bushes always bristled at the "d" word. And now they don't have to worry about it any more.

The dynasty has perished, with a whimper. The exclamation point has slouched off.

The Bushes are leaving the field to someone they have utter contempt for: Donald Trump.

And the main emotion in Bushworld is relief. No one could bear one more day of watching Jeb get the flesh flayed off him by Trump.

With his uncanny bat-like sonar, sensing how to psychologically gauge and then gut an opponent, Trump went straight for the Bushes' biggest bête noir: wimpiness.

The blustery billionaire painted Jeb as a "low energy" candidate with a wilting exclamation point who was desperately in need of an infusion of testosterone; a soft child of privilege who had to depend on Daddy's friends for money and Mommy's presence on the trail to bail him out, even as he feared using his surname on his campaign posters; an entitled workaholic who pathetically tried to get more popular by taking off his rimless glasses.

When Jeb bragged during the CBS debate about "winning the lottery" by getting Barbara Bush as a mother, Trump cracked, "She should be running." And indeed, the 90-year-old exemplar of Greenwich granite wrote the epitaph of Jeb's campaign before it even began, noting correctly that "We've had enough Bushes," and that the same families should not be allowed to pass the White House back and forth.

Starting with 41, the family saga was the arc of blue bloods trying to seem red-blooded. They wanted what they saw as their due, as the royal family of Republican politics. But they also wanted to come across as self-made men, men who struck out south from Kennebunkport and Greenwich

to make their way in the world. They all had elaborate mythologies to prove they were their own men, even as they made business deals thanks to the family name and connections, and mined Bar's Christmas card list for donors.

The Bush men always recast themselves to woo voters. Poppy Bush shed his preppy striped watchband and pretended that pork rinds, rather than popcorn, was his favorite snack. W. acted like the heir of Ronald Reagan rather than his own dad, who had alienated the conservative base and failed to win two terms. And Jeb tried to pep up — getting contact lenses and belatedly punching harder against Trump.

When Poppy Bush ran against Bill Clinton, he simply assumed that the public would not choose a draft-dodging womanizer over him. "His ambient reality was that a president was above all a figure of dignity and decorum," Bush senior biographer Jon Meacham said. "Clinton went on Arsenio Hall. Bush 41 probably thought Arsenio Hall was a building at Andover."

Just as the political ground had shifted under his father, leaving him befuddled and looking at his watch, so it shifted under Jeb, leaving him befuddled and tapping his foot.

Despite all the talk about civility, the Bushes threw out the red meat whenever they had to, from Lee Atwater and Willie Horton in '88 to W.'s supporters whispering in 2000 that John McCain came home from Hanoi with snakes in his head to the W 2004 campaign strategy of encouraging gay marriage ballot initiatives to rile up the evangelicals to Jeb spending a fortune on ads this winter eviscerating the character of the man he deemed the disloyal protégé, Marco Rubio.

Winning was always more important than gentility. That's what happened in 2000, when the family had to pressure Jeb to help purloin Florida. In return, W. came out of his oil-painting exile to try and deliver South Carolina for Jeb.

South Carolina was always wired



Maureen Dowd

for the Bushes. And that was the place the whole Byzantine sibling rivalry drama was going to be made right. The Bushes always thought their sober and studious second son would be president but the prodigal son shoved Jeb out of the way. Now Jeb would get his due.

Except that the inflammatory Trump, who delights in breaking the fourth wall, was perfectly happy to shatter the convention in Republican circles that W. "kept us safe," as Jeb kept saying.

Trump stunned everyone by pointing out the obvious: W. and Condi were not on the ball before 9/11, when W. was mountain-biking and ignoring memos headlined, as Bill Maher drily put it, "Osama bin Laden is standing right behind you." Then, after 9/11, they played right into Osama's recruiting plans by invading and occupying two Muslim countries, instead of simply going after the guilty party, as W. had promised to do when he yelled through the bullhorn at ground zero.

Trump held the Bushes accountable for the trumped-up war. W.'s arrogant and delusional administration pulled the wool over Americans' eyes about the Iraq invasion, which has ended up costing us trillions and killing and maiming hundreds of thousands. Even though Poppy Bush's circle has always assumed that Jeb was on their side, believing that the invasion was a mistake because it would shatter the Middle East, Jeb stumbled around on that question and ended up defending his brother's indefensible war. He even shocked his father's circle by putting out a list of foreign policy advisers for his campaign that included one of the war's woolly-headed architects, Paul Wolfowitz.

The underlying message of Bush campaigns is always: "Trust us. We know best." But that has been proven false.

The country is now aflame with anger and disgust about politicians and bankers who conned trusting Americans and never got punished for it. That fury has led to the rise of wildly improbable candidates in both parties. As the Bush dynasty falls, it must watch in horror knowing that it is responsible for the rise of Donald Trump.

**The Bush men always recast themselves to woo voters.**