

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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## We live here Social media doesn't check facts; journalists do

People who blithely talk about revolution seldom understand what they are asking for. Winston Churchill said that it takes 200 years for a nation to recover from a civil war.

When the Bundys and their followers occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, southeast Oregon endured social-political trauma that lasted 41 days. Long after the occupation ended and the national media departed, a residue of anger and misunderstanding endures. It is especially noticeable in neighboring Grant County, where Sheriff Glenn Palmer gave tacit support to the refuge occupiers.

Sheriff Palmer himself has become the object of investigation by state law enforcement regulators.

While the Malheur occupation becomes yesterday's news, the media that serves Grant and Harney counties must live with the aftermath, day in and day out. Our sister newspaper, the *Blue Mountain Eagle*, last week addressed community tensions in an extraordinary editorial. It described the gap between social media and journalism, in which facts

are vetted. The editorial concluded: "Opinions are one thing. Facts are another. In the modern era of information technology, a journalist that can tell the difference is more important than ever."

Writing in *The Oregonian* last Wednesday, Samantha Swindler offered a useful perspective on the small-town journalists who live with the fallout from the Malheur occupation. Wrote Swindler, "I spent most of my career in small, rural newspapering and I consider it, perhaps, the highest form of journalism. You are truly accountable to the people you write about. You never write something about a person you wouldn't say to that person's face — because in a small town, you'll be seeing that face again. It doesn't mean you can't write pointed things; it just means you'd better stand by them."

That's the nugget of why news organizations like the *Eagle*, *The Daily Astorian* and the *Chinook Observer* matter. We live here.

## Speak now on coal exports upriver

Already more than 200,000 comments on coal-export proposal

Cowlitz County and the Washington Department of Ecology received more than 217,500 public comments on the \$600 million Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview coal-export proposal.

The agencies' draft environmental study, now in a 45-day comment period, says the terminal for up to 44 million tons a year of coal from Wyoming's Powder River Basin would have positive economic value for the Longview-Kelso area. It would create jobs for about 135 people and generate a variety of taxes. (See [tinyurl.com/millennium-draft](http://tinyurl.com/millennium-draft).)

The terminal would create numerous environmental risks. While past practice in our region has been to minimize the importance such impacts in the interest

of economic development, the draft study is a clear-eyed look at an inherently dirty industry.

Handling and eventually burning all this coal would equal about 8,100 additional passenger cars on the road inside Cowlitz County each year, and the equivalent of about 672,100 more cars when the coal is burned to produce electricity, mostly in Asia. The study calls these impacts "significant and unavoidable."

Coastal citizens on the front lines for sea-level increases and more violent storms should speak up. Comment online at [www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov](http://www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov), or via mail to Millennium Bulk Terminals EIS, c/o ICF International, 710 Second Ave., Suite 550, Seattle, WA 98104.

Editorials that appear on this page are written by Publisher Steve Forrester and Matt Winters, editor of the *Chinook Observer* and *Coast River Business Journal*, or staff members from the EO Media Group's sister newspapers.

# Donald the dove, Hillary the hawk

By MAUREEN DOWD  
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — It seems odd, in this era of gender fluidity, that we are headed toward the most stark X versus Y battle since Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs.

Donald Trump exudes macho, wearing his trucker hat, retweeting bimbo cracks, swearing with abandon and bragging about the size of his manhood, his crowds, his hands, his poll margins, his bank account, his skyscrapers, his steaks and his "beautiful" wall.

He and his pallies Paul Manafort and Roger Stone seem like a latter-day Rat Pack, having a gas with tomatoes, twirls and ring-a-ding-ding. The beauty pageant impresario's coarse comments to Howard Stern, rating women on their breasts, fading beauty and ability to take the kids off his hands, reverberate through the campaign.

In Indiana, Trump boasted that "Iron" Mike Tyson and "all the tough guys" had endorsed him. The chair-throwing Bobby Knight backed Trump with the brass-knuckles encomium that Trump, like Harry Truman, would have the guts to drop the bomb. When his rallies become Fight Club, Trump boasts that it adds a little excitement.

Hillary Clinton's rallies, by contrast, can seem like a sorority rush reception hosted by Lena Dunham, or an endless episode of "The View," with a girl-power soundtrack by Katy Perry, Taylor Swift and Demi Lovato. The ultimate insider is portraying herself as an outsider because she's a woman, and the candidate who is considered steely is casting herself as cozy because she's a doting granny.

Her website is chockablock with empowerment gear, from a hot pink "woman's card" to a "Make Herstory" T-shirt to a "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun-damental Rights" tote bag to "A Woman's Place Is in the White House" throw pillow. She says her favorite shows are "The Good Wife," "Madam Secretary" and "Downton Abbey," and she did a guest shot on "Broad City."

Trump's most ardent supporters, white men, are facing off against Hillary's most loyal supporters, black women.

Clinton and Trump have moved on to their mano a woman fight, leaving behind "the leftovers," as Trump labels deflated rivals.

Already, it's unlovely. "It's going to be nasty, isn't it?" says Obama Pygmalion David Axelrod. "Put the small children away until November."

A peeved Jane Sanders called on the FBI to hurry up with the Hillary classified email investigation. A desperate Ted Cruz cut a deal with John Kasich, who then put a bag over his head and acted as if he didn't know Cruz. Then Cruz latched onto Cruella Fiorina, accomplishing the impossible: finding a Potemkin running mate who's even more odious. We can only hope that Cruz, who croons Broadway show tunes, and Carly, who breaks into

## Open forum

### City torn apart

I am alarmed. This wonderful residential community of Gearhart is being torn apart by people using it for pure investment purposes. These are people who don't live here. For the most part, they don't work here. They are not interested in preserving the liveability and character of Gearhart. They only seem to care about the "cold, hard cash" — what's in it for them.

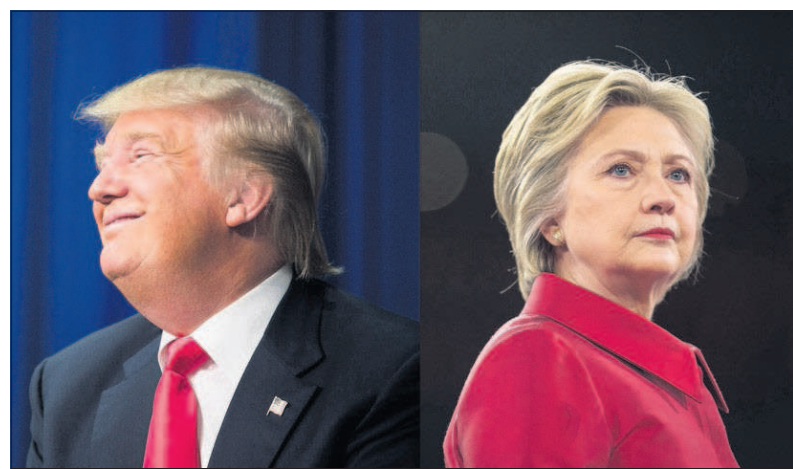
I know this phenomenon of Airbnb is taking the world by storm, but people need residential towns. Havens to come home to. Comfort for our souls. Gearhart has these residential zones designated. The zones, unfortunately, have not been respected.

People have been purchasing homes in the residential zones with the sole purpose of turning them into commercial businesses. Owners of grocery stores are trying to turn them into brew pubs. We need housing and grocery stores for residents. Not dormitories that sleep 12 and bars.

PENNY SABOL  
Gearhart

### Terrorism's roots

Faith/religion is the conduit in which terrorism finds its roots. I often hear from the faithful that these heinous crimes are not faith-based. But I say faith brings to the fold the mystical



The New York Times

In a two photo combination, Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump, left, in Iowa on Jan. 30, and Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton in Washington on March 21, at right. The Clinton-Trump battle of the sexes is already getting ugly and is only going to get worse as November approaches.

song at the lectern, will start doing duets from "Hamilton."

In one of the most gratifying moments of an unhinged campaign, former Speaker of the House John Boehner told Stanford University students that Cruz was "Lucifer in the flesh." Satanists immediately objected, saying it was unfair to their deity.

Even though Trump is the one who has no governing experience, he will suggest that the first woman at the top of a major party ticket is unqualified by charging that she lacks "strength" and "stamina" and claiming that if she were a man, she would not get even 5 percent of the vote.

During his unburdening at Stanford, Boehner imitated Clinton, saying, "Oh, I'm a woman, vote for me."

But such mockery merely plays into Clinton's hands. As former Jeb Bush super PAC strategist Mike Murphy told MSNBC, "Her big judo move is playing the victim." And as former Jeb aide Tim Miller noted to CNN, Trump's numbers with women are so bad that the only way he can win is if he manages to repeal women's suffrage before November.

Once you get beyond the surface of the 2016 battle of the sexes, with its chest-thumping versus maternal hugging, there's a more intriguing gender dynamic.

On some foreign policy issues, the roles are reversed for the candidates and their parties. It's Hillary the Hawk against Donald the Quasi-Dove.

Just as Barack Obama seemed the more feminized candidate in 2008 because of his talk-it-out management style, his antiwar platform and his delicate eating habits, always watching his figure, so now, in some ways, Trump seems less macho than Hillary.

He has a tender ego, pouty tweets, needy temperament and obsession with hand sanitizer, whereas she is so tough and combat-hardened, she's known by her staff as "the Warrior."

The prime example of commander-in-chief judgment Trump offers is the fact that, like Obama, he thought the invasion of Iraq was a stupid idea.

He can sound belligerent, of course, saying that he would bomb the explosive-deleted out of ISIS and that he would think up new and imaginative ways to torture terrorists and kill their families.

But he says that in most cases he would rather do the art of the deal than shock and awe.

"Unlike other candidates for the presidency, war and aggression will not be my first instinct," he said in his

maiden foreign policy speech in Washington last week, adding, "A superpower understands that caution and restraint are really truly signs of strength."

These Kumbaya lines had the neocons leaping into Hillary's muscular embrace.

If the neocons get neophyte Republicans on the presidential ticket, they prefer ones like Dan Quayle, W. and Sarah Palin, who are "educable," as Bill Kristol, the editor of *The Weekly Standard*, once said of Quayle.

Trump may have a lot to learn about the issues, but he's not malleable.

In his new book, *Alter Egos*, *New York Times* White House correspondent Mark Landler makes the case that the former Goldwater Girl, the daughter of a Navy petty officer and a staunch Republican, has long had hawkish tendencies, reflected in her support for military action in Iraq and Libya and a no-fly zone in Syria.

"It's bred in the bone," Landler told me.

"There's no doubt that Hillary Clinton's more muscular brand of American foreign policy is better matched to 2016 than it was to 2008," Jake Sullivan, Hillary's policy adviser both at the State Department and in her campaign, told Landler.

But Hillary never expected to meet this mix of dove, hawk and isolationist. She thought she would face Marco Rubio, a more traditional conservative who would out-hawk her. Instead, she's meeting Trump, who is "a sheep in wolf's clothing," as Axelrod put it. Like a free-swinging asymmetric boxer, Trump can keep Hillary off balance by punching from both the left and the right.

You can actually envision a foreign policy debate between Trump and Clinton that sounds oddly like the one Obama and Clinton had in 2008, with Trump playing Obama, preening about his good judgment on Iraq, wanting an end to nation-building and thinking he could have a reset with Russia.

Despite gossip when she was first lady that she did not like people in uniform, the truth is the reverse: She gravitates toward "nail-eaters," her aides told Landler, and loves the gruff, Irish, bearlike demeanor of Jack Keane, a retired four-star general and the resident hawk on Fox News who helped define her views on military issues and is still in touch.

As secretary of state, she hit it off with Gen. Stanley McChrystal and David Petraeus. And she loved to have a stiff drink with Bob Gates and John McCain.

She has a weakness for big, swaggering, rascally he-men.

Like Donald Trump.

**Trump seems less macho than Hillary.**

tion doctor from Wichita, Kansas, who was killed while attending church that infamous Sunday morning — declared on the witness stand during his trial that god would welcome him with open arms.

We need desperately to hold religion accountable. We could start by requiring a disclaimer following sermons (like the drug companies side-effect declaration), that what you just heard is not supported in fact. Above all we need to address, and hold accountable, the very root of terrorism — religion.

MURRAY E. STANLEY JR.  
Astoria

### Great job, Port

I think the Port of Astoria is doing a great job at trying to keep the sea lions off of the docks. After the new rails that Knappa High School students are building get put on, we'll see how effective the rails actually are. I believe the rails are the solution to the problem.

I know some people don't want to see the sea lions leave, but if they've seen what kind of damage is inflicted, then they would understand the problem with the sea lions. Great job to the Port of Astoria and the Knappa High School students. Keep up the good work.

JAMES HENDRICKSON  
Astoria