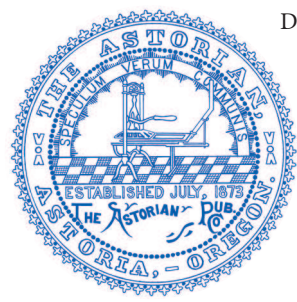


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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OUR VIEW

Transition won't change core values

Transition is a word that's often scary. It need not be, it's simply an inevitable part of life.

The Daily Astorian just completed a transition with the retirement of longtime Publisher Steve Forrester, who passed the reins of leadership to his successor, David Pero, this past Friday.

During the transition period, many community and business leaders in the cities The Daily Astorian serves asked the question of what changes are ahead.

While there will be subtle changes in our approach to coverage, news emphasis and in enlarging our online presence, The Daily Astorian's core values of common sense and progressive ideals remain solidly in place.

We will continue to be an active and representative voice in the region and be an inclusive advocate for those who live and work throughout Clatsop County and the Long Beach Peninsula in Washington. Some of the topics that we will pay close attention to in the coming months include:

- **The Housing Crunch.** It exists throughout the region and is everyone's No. 1 concern. Like an octopus, it is an issue with tentacles that influence the economy, employment and quality of life that will require public and private sector partnerships to tackle and solve.

- **Political Dysfunction.** The U.S. Capitol and state Legislature aren't the only places this happens, it occurs at the local level as well, and we will continue our watchdog role on issues involving tax dollars and public policy.

- **Children's Well-Being.** Children are the future and we will continue to be vocal advocates for matters in education, health, nutrition, safety and family life. We will pay extra attention to the issue of lead in drinking water at area schools.

- **Mental Health Treatment.** The standards of care need to rise, which will take community effort and strong professional leadership.

- **Homelessness.** Strategies for helping the homeless need to be developed as more and more people are attracted to the region. It is not a problem the region can ignore, and needs both public and private participation.

- **Emergency Preparedness.** Landslides, coastal erosion and seismic danger all deserve systematic planning, public education and preparation. Schools and other vital infrastructure must gradually be moved to higher ground. Preparedness can save lives with better routes to safety, along with stashes of emergency supplies.

- **Timber.** The wood-products industry remains a value to the entire region with mills that provide family-wage jobs. A long-term future for forestry jobs will depend on developing additional value-added processing.

- **The Oyster Industry.** Pacific County's oyster industry generates tens of millions of dollars in sales and payroll each year, but it is under threat from a population explosion of burrowing shrimp. Politics are blocking use of a pesticide needed to keep the shrimp under control. A concerted effort is needed to overcome objections in the governor's office to pesticide use, along with a public education campaign to explain the environmental benefits of a healthy oyster industry.

- **Legalized Marijuana.** This new industry in the Pacific Northwest needs to be brought under the umbrella of normal federal banking rules and other regulations.

While each topic we've listed is a hot button, we want to know your thoughts and we have set a goal of enlarging the space devoted to readers' opinions to include letters to the editor on a daily basis.

So please let us know, we'll certainly be listening.

No more Mo's

Mo's? Alas! Yet another blot on Astoria's riverfront. For our first trial of Mo's, my wife and I were served an inferior meal. Nothing would induce me to venture a second such offense.

PAUL YEAROUT
Gearhart

Mini Las Vegas?

I am writing this open letter to Mayor Sam Steidel, the Cannon Beach City Council and City Manager Brant Kucera. It is time that our city manager leaves his office, leaves his door open and pays a visit to all the business owners in Cannon Beach. Also make time to seek out and talk to people who have lived here, or would like to know our city manager.

Cannon Beach is slowly becoming another Seaside. What happened to our title of being the "Carmel" of the North Coast?

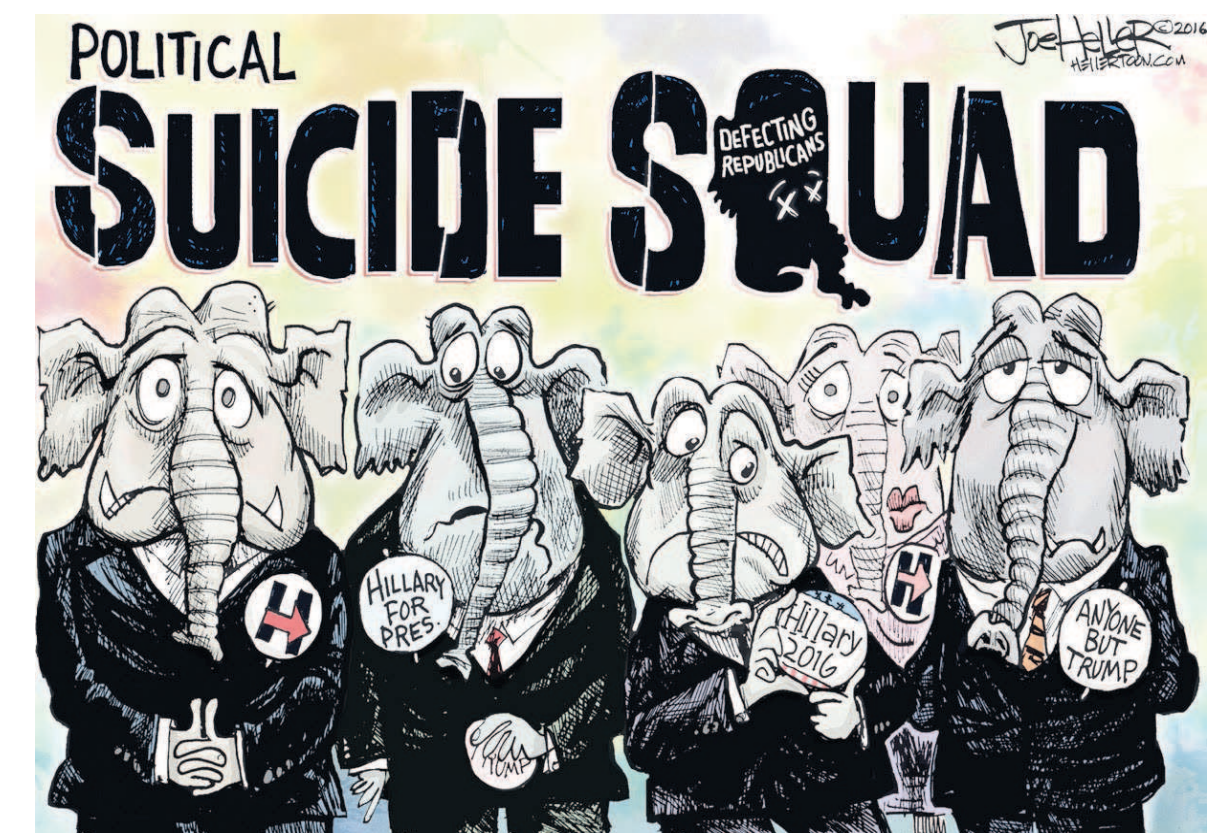
It was great that our tax money was dedicated to a survey that made

little sense, nor did it pertain to our community. I am glad the gentleman who owns the company was able to put together the strategic plan and gave us 45 minutes of time explaining his accomplishments of strategic studies in other cities. One example was about Las Vegas. Maybe we are becoming like a mini Las Vegas.

Very few people I have talked to felt this plan was the answer to solving the problems that were listed. We need to have community meetings — as many as needed — to cover all those that own businesses, property owners and renters in Cannon Beach.

Let us have a chance to express concerns, ideas and visions for the future so we can continue to be the "Carmel" of the North Coast, and not the second Seaside or a mini Las Vegas. I understand the council approved the plan, so be it. I still feel the voices must be heard.

I am writing this because I was not able to attend the council meeting. I love Cannon Beach and have owned property since 1964, and have lived here for permanently 26 years.



No right turn for Hillary

By PAUL KRUGMAN
New York Times News Service

All the experts tell us not to pay too much attention to polls for another week or two. Still, it does look as if Hillary Clinton got a big bounce from her convention, swamping her opponent's bounce a week earlier. Better



still, from the Democrats' point of view, the swing in the polls appears to be doing what some of us thought it might: sending Donald Trump into a deep

spiral, in which his ugly nonsense gets even uglier and more nonsensical as his electoral prospects sink.

As a result, we're finally seeing some prominent Republicans not just refusing to endorse Trump, but actually declaring their support for Clinton. So how should she respond?

The obvious answer, you might think, is that she should keep doing what she is doing — emphasizing how unfit her rival is for office, letting her allies point out her own qualifications and continuing to advocate a moderately center-left policy agenda that is largely a continuation of President Barack Obama's.

But at least some commentators are calling on her to do something very different — to make a right turn, moving the Democratic agenda toward the preferences of those fleeing the sinking Republican ship. The idea, I guess, is to offer to create an American version of a European-style grand coalition of the center-left and the center-right.

I don't think there's much prospect that Clinton will actually do that. But if by any chance she and those around her are tempted to take this recom-

mendation seriously: Don't.

First of all, let's be clear about what she's running on. It's an unabashedly progressive program, but hardly extreme. We're talking about higher taxes on high incomes, but nowhere near as high as those taxes were for a generation after World War II; expanded social programs, but nothing close to those of European welfare states; stronger financial regulation and more action on climate change, but aren't the cases for both overwhelming?

And no, the program doesn't need to be more "pro-growth."

There's absolutely no evidence that tax cuts for the rich and radical deregulation, which is what right-wingers mean when they talk about pro-growth policies, actually work, or that strengthening the social safety net does any harm. Bill Clinton presided over a bigger boom than Ronald Reagan; the Obama years have seen much more private job creation than the Bush era, even before the crash, with job growth actually accelerating after taxes went up and Obamacare went into effect.

It's true that there are things we could do to boost the U.S. economy. The most important of these things, however, would be to take advantage of very low government borrowing costs to greatly expand public investment — which is something progressives support but conservatives oppose. So enough already with the notion that being on the center-left somehow means being anti-growth.

Now let's talk about the politics. The Trumpification of the GOP didn't come out of nowhere. On the contrary, it was the natural outcome of a cynical strategy: Long ago, conservatives decided to harness racial resentment to sell right-wing eco-

nomics policies to working-class whites, especially in the South.

This strategy brought many electoral victories, but always at the risk that the racial resentment would run out of control, leaving the economic conservatives — whose ideas never had much popular support — stranded. And that is what has just happened.

So now the strategy that rightists had used to sell policies that were neither popular nor successful has blown up in their faces. And the Democratic response should be to adopt some of those policies? Say what?

Also, I can't help but notice a curious pattern in the recommendations of some self-proclaimed centrists. When Republicans were in the ascendant, centrists urged Democrats to adapt by moving right. Now that Republicans are in trouble, with some feeling that they have no choice except to vote Democratic, these same centrists are urging Democrats to ... adapt by moving right. Funny how that works.

Back to the main theme: Grand coalitions do sometimes have a place in politics, as a response to crises that are neither party's fault — external threats to national security, economic disaster. But that's not what is happening here. Trumpism is basically a creation of the modern conservative movement, which used coded appeals to prejudice to make political gains, then found itself unable to rein in a candidate who skipped the coding.

If some conservatives find this too much and bolt the party, good for them, and they should be welcomed into the coalition of the sane. But they can't expect policy concessions in return. When Dr. Frankenstein finally realizes that he has created a monster, he doesn't get a reward. Clinton and her party should stay the course.

LETTERS WELCOME

Letters should be exclusive to The Daily Astorian. We do not publish open letters or third-party letters.

Letters should be fewer than 350 words and must include the writer's name, address and phone numbers. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy and verbal verification of authorship. Only two letters per writer are printed each month.

Letters written in response to

other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the writer by name, should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

The Daily Astorian welcomes short "in gratitude" notes from readers for publication. They should keep to a 200-word maximum and writers are asked to avoid simply listing event sponsors. They

must be signed, include the writer's address, phone number and are subject to condensation and editing for style, grammar, etc.

Submissions may be sent in any of these ways:

E-mail to editor@dailyastorian.com;

Online form at www.dailyastorian.com;

Delivered to the Astorian offices at 949 Exchange St. and 1555 N. Roosevelt in Seaside.

Or by mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have been honored to have given a great deal of volunteer time to the Cannon Beach that I love, and hope to continue to do so as I approach my 87th year of life.

MOLLY H. EDISON
Cannon Beach

A dim view

I am appalled at the neo-McCarthyism of The New York Times columnists and other mainstream media. Whatever ails the world, they blame on Russia and Vladimir Putin. Relentlessly they portray Crimea's return to its original Russian home as "Russian aggression," a Cold War meme.

In 2014, Ukraine underwent an illegal anti-Russian coup, spearheaded by neo-Nazis, against a democratically elected president. The U.S., through Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland, close colleague of Hillary Clinton, played an instrumental role in detaching Ukraine from its historic Russian connection.

Nuland and her husband, Robert Kagan, are leaders of a bipartisan neoconservative movement. Seeking to bring the world under U.S. hegemony, neocons support surrounding Russia and China with NATO bases and nuclear missiles. NATO is a military alliance formed in 1949 against the USSR. When the Cold War ended, it ceased to be necessary. President Reagan thought so, after fruitful arms reduction diplomacy with Soviet democratizer, Mikhail Gorbachev. When Bill Clinton began NATO expansion to Eastern Europe, many senior diplomats, including George Kennan, voiced strong opposition.

Russia was invaded twice in the last century through Ukraine's flat landscape. The Nazi invasion caused over 25 million Russian deaths. The recent coup would have placed NATO in the Black Sea, threatening Russia's sole warm-water port, Sevastopol, in Crimea, where her fleet has been harbored since the 1700s. Crimea's nearly wholly Russian populace voted in a referendum, legal

under international law, to return to their traditional Russian homeland. Russia did not retake Crimea by force.

Putin's Russia has not been an aggressor nation. Instead, the U.S., under neocon influence has started a string of wars and interventions in the Middle East and Central Asia. And President Obama and Hillary Clinton seek to implement the neocon strategy of extending NATO around Russia and China. Such global power projection risks nuclear confrontation.

Whatever his shortcomings, Donald Trump correctly recognizes the need for good relations with Russia in a multipolar world. Hence "liberal" pundits, resorting to neo-McCarthyism, cast him as Putin's puppet. Critical of Clinton's militarism, Trump prefers cooperation with Russia. Green Party candidate Jill Stein also takes a dim view of neocon militarism as wasteful, devastating and provocative of nuclear war.

STEPHEN BERK
Astoria