

Speaker beware

In response to the letter published Nov. 11 stating the witch is dead (“Ding dong,” *The Daily Astorian*), let me offer the following: Be careful of the words you say, keep them soft and sweet; you never know from day to day, which ones you will have to eat.

BARBARA OIEN
Svensen

Heal the divide

After giving some thought to the election of Donald Trump, I would like to voice my support for greater efforts to create jobs in the local economy. Too many Americans voted for Trump out of frustration over witnessing the decline of their own lives.

Too many are out of work, or have only part-time work with few benefits. I have read recently that nationwide, many have to retire early due to lay-offs and poor health. While the economy has improved, many just don't feel it. The improvements just haven't been noticeable, and for many, will never get to them, or their small town, in time.

I read an excellent article recently (but am unable to find it again online) that suggested local government should target existing small, locally owned small manufacturers and machine shops for assistance. This would be in addition to encouraging new small manufacturing startups.

These types of businesses are noted for offering modest, but living, wages, greater job stability and employment for low-skilled workers in comparison to tourist-sector retail jobs. We should be proactive in asking local manufacturers what they need to grow, and how the city or county can help. This is something we could do locally to help heal the current divide between people that we are seeing.

JACK OSTERBERG
Astoria

Not so dim

In her assessment of the “nightmare” of Donald Trump's election, *The New York Times* columnist Gail Collins refers to the president-elect as “dimwitted,” and as a man who has “the attention span of a gnat.” (“Ten-step program for Trump trauma,” *The Daily Astorian*, Nov. 11)

Trump began his implausible campaign as a 150-1 outsider to get the Republican Party nomination. He bested a field of 16 other stalwart Republicans, including the 2-3 favorite, Jeb Bush, who barely got out of the starting gate.

In doing so, dimwittedly understanding the value of free publicity, he played the liberal press like a drum, not a day going by during the primary season without a liberal columnist, including Collins, writing about him. Trump even got on the front pages, pictured alongside the Pope.

After securing the nomination, Trump went into the general election a 4-1 underdog to Hillary Clinton, a former senator from our fourth most populous state, secretary of state and first lady, heavily favored in a nation in which registered Democrats outnumber Republicans, 3-2.

The “dimwitted” Trump proceeded to pull off the greatest upset in American political history, easily surpassing Truman's upset of Dewey, Truman being the incumbent president. Add to that the fact that Clinton's campaign outspent Trump's by double, unsurprisingly not mentioned by Collins.

Collins, a well-paid and well-known columnist for the august *New York Times*, one of the world's most prestigious newspapers, begins her column with the juvenile ejaculation, “Well, wow,” a phrase sure to be red-penciled by even the most latitudinarian of high school English teachers. Her entire column is sprinkled with anti-Trump clichés that we have heard ad nauseum over the past several months, and sophomoric phrases like “yeah, I know” and “a cheesy reality show.”

If one of these two people is to be designated “dimwitted,” I have no doubt of my selection, and leave it to the impartial reader to select his or hers.

LOUIS SARGENT
Gearhart

Wanting change

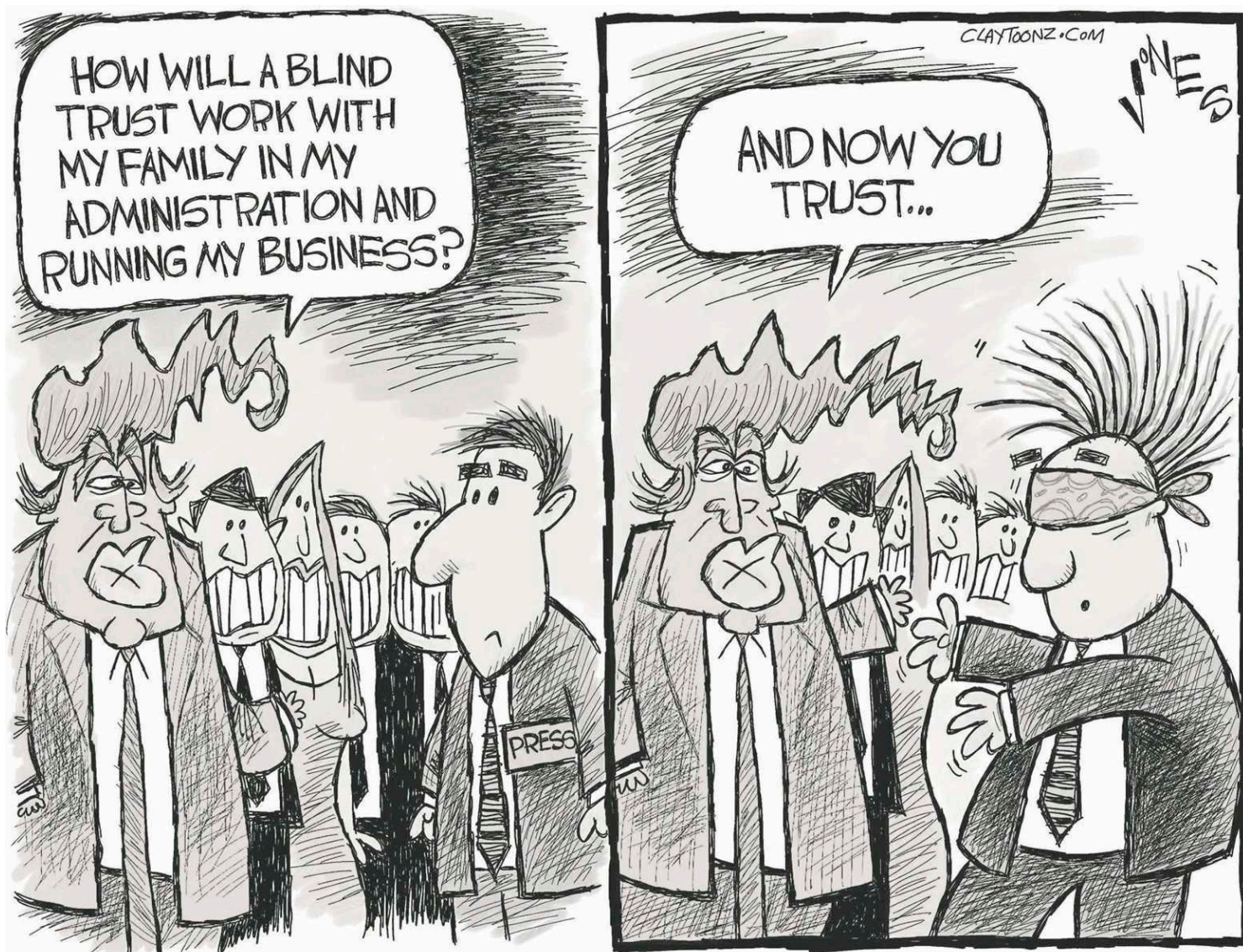
In response to Thomas Friedman's “Homeless in America” (*The Daily Astorian*, Nov. 10) editorial, there is so much to say. He said “As much as I knew that it was a possibility, the stark fact that a majority of Americans wanted radical, disruptive change so badly and simply did not care who the change agent was...” That's exactly the point of this election.

The messenger was flawed (in fact, both messengers were extremely flawed), but we are desperately looking for a change. I'm not a Trump supporter, but our country cannot continue with extreme debt. We are about to be over \$20 trillion in debt.

What would happen to your home or business if it was overwhelmed with debt? We love our kids and grandkids, and do not want the American economy to be overwhelmed and decimated in debt. We want our kids to experience the American financial stability dream.

We're concerned. We want and desire lower taxes both personally and corporately. We want companies to flourish so that jobs are abundant. Government only creates jobs by taking more of our money. We want businesses to create jobs. We don't want small, medium and large businesses to be disabled and shackled by over-regulation. Let us breathe.

We are frightened by governing with fiat and executive order that circumvents the will of the people and causes extreme changes to



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culture, such as forcing our public schools and institutions to allow men in our wives' and daughters' restrooms and young men in our daughters' restrooms and showers. Such a dramatic and unsettling change should be brought about by the will of the people, not the will of a few.

We love immigration in this country. We are a country of immigrants, but we want legal immigration and secure borders. If you invite someone into your home, they are a guest. If they sneak in or break in, they are a trespasser. We want change.

STEVE KING
Seaside

Shocking letter

I have been a member of the First Credit Union for many years now, and do so because I like to think my membership helps to support other local members in our great community. However, I'm beginning to wonder just how much the credit union really does support our members.

My family just received a letter in the mail from Wauna Investment Services. The letter came in an envelope with a return address of 101 Truhaak, P.O. Box 67, Clatskanie, OR 97016.

The letter, signed by Burt White, chief investment officer, managing director, LPL Research, goes on to say: “While the outcome is certainly a shock to many, it is important to remember that the result isn't a surprise to the plurality of the American voters that spoke their collective will at the ballot boxes yesterday. The strength of a democracy is not in whether we like the outcome, but rather in how we accept the results as the voice and will of our republic.”

I would like to remind the republic that Hillary won the popular vote, not Trump, and by hundreds of thousands of votes. To suggest we get behind a plurality and ignore the popular is un-American.

This letter, that was sent out to many other members, goes on to say, and I quote: “Whether this election result was your favored outcome or not, what we have learned over the years is that although presidents can set an overall tone for the markets, over the long term, it is the underlying fundamentals of the economy and the strength

of corporate profits that matter more.”

So, am I to understand that the members mean nothing to Burt White, and that more profits for the corporations matter more? Nothing in his letter to the members give hope to our outcome, only his and the profits he and his affiliates can pull from the membership. My family members took this letter as an insult.

WILLIAM LOGAN
Astoria

No wizard

What a world ... what a world. If he only had a brain, if he only had a heart. No wizard, no wizard here.

MARK ILLIAS
CONNIS CROSSLEY
Astoria

'Hissy fit'

Never in the history of this great nation have defeated voters pitched such a hissy fit because their champion did not win. Not only is this type of behavior unacceptable in a democratic society. It is totally counterproductive to the growth and prosperity of the country.

It simply demonstrates how individually selfish and entitled we have become; a nation of entitled whiners, if you will. If things don't go your way, it has become acceptable to simply not acknowledge them, and refuse to obey the majority mandate, continuing to do what you please, regardless of the mandate of the people.

I am embarrassed, for all Oregonians, by the actions of the opposition in Portland, rioting and protesting. Ignorant people are demanding reforms and changes in policy from a president-elect who will not have the power to make any changes or decisions in government until after his inauguration in January.

These idiots are blaming the man for doing things that he has yet to do. It is just way too much to blame or ostracize someone for actions that they have yet to take, just on the off chance they might. The curious thing is that these people do not think that their disruptive activity, disregard for law and destruction of property is in any way wrong

or should be punished.

Where do we get such people? Perhaps they are the gift of a new society, where there are no winners or losers and everyone is entitled to act in any way that suits them, regardless of the consequences to others. After all, we would not want to lower their self-esteem by telling them that they had to abide by the decision of the voters and the laws of this country, because that might cause them irreparable trauma, and scar them for life.

That is what I think; I could be wrong.
DAVID GRAVES
Astoria

The ugly truth

When I was 19, I was kidnapped, raped and almost murdered. I survived because I made a Faustian deal with my knife-wielding psychopathic rapist; I told him I loved the experience, wanted to do it again, but just needed to go home and get some rest so he could ravage me again. A true narcissist, he believed me and let me go against his better instincts. I then fled for my life.

Now I am 64, the grandmother of two beautiful girls, and here to tell you my story. I didn't go to the authorities. I was too afraid and ashamed. I only confided in my closest friends. I took a shower to cleanse my shame away and then buried my very deep wounds. Until today.

Donald Trump is now our president-elect. Twelve women came forward before this election to speak their truth, that Trump had sexually assaulted them. We even had video of him bragging and confessing to grabbing women by their p-words. He called them liars.

In true Trump form, he said they just wanted their 12 minutes of fame. It's actually 15 minutes of fame they wanted, after they exposed and shamed themselves on national TV, with no legal recourse to avenge his crimes. Then you still voted him into office.

I am stunned. America, my heart is aching for your daughters and the message you have delivered to them. Will a shower wash your shame away?

KATHLEEN STRATTON ZUNKEL
Warrenton

THANKS TO DOUGLAS COLE FOR INSPIRATION!