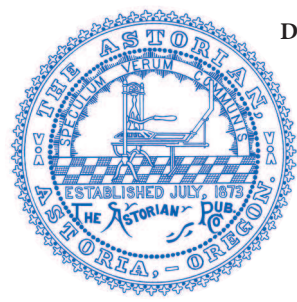


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OUR VIEW

Each week we recognize those people and organizations in the community deserving of public praise for the good things they do to make the North Coast a better place to live, and also those who should be called out for their actions.



SHOUTOUTS

• U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr.

Patrick Culver, who transferred command of the cutter **Alert** last Friday to **Cmdr. Tobias Reid** after two years at the helm. Culver now heads to Washington, D.C., where he will be chief of drug and migrant interdiction. Reid comes to the region from North Charleston, South Carolina, where he was the executive officer aboard the cutter **Hamilton** for the past two years.

The transfer of command ceremony was overseen by **Rear Adm. Pat DeQuattro**, deputy commander of the Coast Guard Pacific Area, who called Culver a consummate professional who leads from the front.

• The **Seaside Chamber of Commerce**, organizers and volunteers who put together and staffed last weekend's 36th annual **Seaside Beach Volleyball Tournament**, which drew more than 3,000 players on about 1,450 teams to compete on the beach for championships in a host of different divisions. Huge crowds of family members, friends and other spectators cheered them on, and according to organizers, the four-day event has been recognized since 2011 by the World Records Academy as the country's largest amateur beach volleyball tournament. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Brian Owen said over the years the tournament has grown from five courts on the sand to 154 now. "There's nothing like it," Owen said. "For a small town having one of the world's largest beach volleyball tournaments, it's a blessing."

• **U.S. Bank** and **Mo's Seafood and Chowder**, which each made recent donations to charitable causes on the North Coast. U.S. Bank gave a \$3,500 grant to the **Way to Wellville's Clatsop Kids Go** program, which is an in-school program designed to help children develop healthy behaviors and positive attitudes around physical activity, nutrition and well-being. Mo's Seafood and Chowder donated \$3,930 — all of its proceeds from its recent grand opening in Astoria — to the **Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific**, which will use the money to help schoolchildren in need through the organization's philanthropic programs.

• **Portland Timbers** soccer players **Roy Miller**, **Darlington Nagbe** and **Lawrence Olum**, who earlier this week visited with patients at Providence Seaside Hospital and then children at Warrenton Grade School as part of the team's community outreach program. The three players were also joined by the team's mascot, "**Timber Joey**," as well as Seaside High School graduate and Timbers staffer **Kai Davidson**. After the school visit, they also conducted a free soccer clinic followed by a question-and-answer session at the Warrenton Soccer Complex.

• The congregation of **North Coast Family Fellowship** in Seaside, which has greatly increased monthly food donations to the **South Clatsop County Food Bank**. The Seaside church's pastor, John Neagle, challenged the congregation to try and contribute more for the food bank than it has in the past, and the congregation responded by increasing its monthly donations from 500 to 800 pounds of food previously to 800 to 1,400 pounds each month now. The food bank's regional manager, Karla Gann, said the increased volume has had a significant impact in helping those who need it and amounts to about one-tenth of all donations that the food bank receives.



CALLOUTS

• The **Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association**, which asked the Trump administration to sidestep endangered species laws by convening a panel that could exempt up to 13 imperiled salmon and steelhead species from the act. The association, which represents farmers in Oregon and Washington state, asserts that the costs of saving the federally protected endangered salmon species and increasing the runs along the river system are unsustainable. The Cabinet-level committee that would convene is called the "God squad" because its decisions can lead to extinctions of threatened wildlife. Critics are calling the association's request a publicity stunt and said it could hurt fishing companies and others that depend on healthy salmon runs. Fish counts this year along the Columbia and Snake rivers have been well-below the 10-year average.

Suggestions?

Do you have a Shoutout or Callout you think we should know about? Let us know at news@dailyastorian.com and we'll make sure to take a look.



The other inconvenient truth

By CHARLES BLOW

New York Times News Service

Donald Trump chose Trump Tower, the place where he began his presidential campaign, as the place to plunge a dagger into his presidency.

Trump's jaw-dropping defense of white supremacists, white nationalists and Nazis in Charlottesville, Virginia, exposed once more what many of us have been howling into the wind since he emerged as a viable candidate: That he is a bigot, a buffoon and a bully.

He has done nothing since his election to disabuse us of this notion and everything to confirm it. Anyone expressing surprise is luxuriating in a self-crafted shell of ignorance.

And yet, it seems too simplistic, too convenient, to castigate only Trump for elevating these vile racists. To do so would be historical fallacy. Yes, Trump's comments give them a boost, grant them permission, provide them validation, but it is also the Republican Party through which Trump burst that has been courting, coddling and accommodating these people for decades. Trump is an articulation of the racists in Charlottesville and they are an articulation of him, and both are a logical extension of a party that has too often refused to rebuke them.

It's not that Democrats have completely gotten this right, either. Too often, in response to the conservative impulse to punish, the liberal impulse is to pity. Pity does not alleviate oppression; it simply assuages guilt. The pity is not for the receiver but for the giver.

But in the modern age one party has operated with the ethos of racial inclusion and with an eye on celebrating varied forms of diversity, and the other has at times appealed directly to the racially intolerant by providing quiet suffering.

It is possible to trace this devil's dance back to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the emergence of Richard Nixon. After the passage of the act, the Republican Party, the party of Lincoln to which black people felt considerable fealty, turned on those people and stabbed them in the back.

In 1994 John Ehrlichman, Nixon's domestic-policy adviser and a Watergate co-conspirator, confessed this to the author Dan Baum:

"The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the anti-war left and black people. You understand what I'm saying? We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or blacks, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."

The era that Ehrlichman referred to was the beginning of the War on Drugs. Nixon started his offensive in 1971, declaring in a speech from the White House Briefing Room: "America's public enemy No. 1 in the United States is drug abuse. In order to fight and defeat this enemy, it is necessary to wage a new, all-out offensive."

The object of disrupting communities worked all too well — more than 40 million arrests have been conducted for drug-related offenses since 1971, with African-Americans



AP Photo/Matt Slocum

Protesters, silhouetted against the evening sky, demonstrate in Philadelphia Wednesday in response to a white nationalist rally held in Charlottesville, Va., over the weekend.

being incarcerated in state prisons for these offenses at a rate that is 10 times greater than that for whites, according to Human Rights Watch.

In 1970, Nixon's political strategist Kevin Phillips told The New York Times, "The more Negroes who register as Democrats in the South, the sooner the Negrophobe whites will quit the Democrats and become Republicans."

The Republican Party wanted the racists. It was strategy, the "Southern Strategy," and it too has proved wildly successful. From there this cancer took hold.

The party itself has dispensed with public confessions of this inclination — at least until Trump — but the white supremacy still survives and even thrives in policy.

The Republican Party wanted the racists. It was strategy, the 'Southern Strategy,' and it too has proved wildly successful. From there this cancer took hold.

The stated goals of the Republican Party are not completely dissimilar from many of the white nationalist positions.

If you advance policies like a return to more aggressive drug policies and voter suppression — things that you know without question will have a disproportionate and negative impact on people of color, what does that say about you?

It says that you want the policies without the poison, but they can't be made separate: The policies are the poison.

And yes, this is all an outgrowth of white supremacy, a concept that many try to apply only to vocal, violent racists but that is in fact more broadly applicable and pervasive.

People think that they avoid the appellation because they do not openly hate. But hate is not a requirement of white supremacy. Just because one abhors violence and cruelty doesn't mean that one

truly believes that all people are equal — culturally, intellectually, creatively, morally. Entertaining the notion of imbalance — that white people are inherently better than others in any way — is also white supremacy.

The position of opposing racial cruelty can operate in much the same way as opposition to animal cruelty — people do it not because they deem the objects of that cruelty their equals, but rather because they cannot countenance the idea of inflicting pain and suffering on helpless and innocent creatures. But even here, the comparison cleaves, because suffering black people are judged to have courted their own suffering through a cascade of poor choices.

This is passive white supremacy, soft white supremacy, the kind divorced from hatred. It is permissible because it's inconspicuous. But this soft white supremacy is more deadly, exponentially, than Nazis with tiki torches.

This soft white supremacy is the very thing on which the open racists build.

The white nationalists and the Nazis simply take the next step (not an altogether illogical one when wandering down the crooked path of racial hostility) and they overlay open animus.

This is apparently what draws the ire, what leaves people aghast: open articulation of racial hatred. That to me is a criminal act of denial that refuses to deal with the reality that racism is also signified far more subtly than through the wielding of slurs and sticks.

White supremacy, all across the spectrum, is what lights the way to the final step as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. articulated in his "The Other America" speech in 1967:

"In the final analysis, racism is evil because its ultimate logic is genocide. Hitler was a sick and tragic man who carried racism to its logical conclusion. And he ended up leading a nation to the point of killing about six million Jews. This is the tragedy of racism because its ultimate logic is genocide. If one says that I am not good enough to live next door to him, if one says that I am not good enough to eat at a lunch counter, or to have a good, decent job, or to go to school with him merely because of my race, he is saying consciously or unconsciously that I do not deserve to exist."

Republicans, these people and this "president" are your progeny. That is the other inconvenient truth.