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OUR VIEW

What can Brown do for us?

Kate Brown becomes the governor of Oregon today. She takes the helm of a state currently embroiled in a mess — a governor deposed and now under threat of criminal investigation — that hasn't been dealt with here before.

But she is also taking the helm of a state government that is controlled by the Democratic Party, which gives her plenty of power to be effective in a brief year-and-a-half term before the next statewide election in November 2016. While the Kitzhaber stink will be a tough one for Dems to scrub off, especially if the criminal prosecution grabs headlines for months to come, they remain a political force. Democrats hold strong majorities in both the state House and the Senate. The governor's mansion passes from the hands of one Democrat to another.

That might not sound like such good news for Republican-dominated Eastern Oregon, where we need to have a lot of friends in the Valley in order to get anything accomplished over here. To some, Kitzhaber seemed to be one such friend.

A story in the Feb. 14 *East Oregonian* titled "What about the water?" detailed the long process of educating and lobbying Kitzhaber in order to get his support for increasing water from the Columbia River to expand irrigation and agriculture production in the Umatilla Basin. The goal that seemed so near completion just a few weeks ago was pushed back into the same limbo that it has called home for more than a decade. Local lawmakers told this newspaper they

are "confident" Brown will be on board, but there is no doubt that a hard-won ally has been lost.

In fact, Kitzhaber's budget had allocated \$51.6 million for a water development fund and he had been an outspoken proponent of the project, even winning over environmentally conscious Democrats.

And one of the early tests for Brown — and the future of the water project — is what she does with the governor's budget and what she does with his staff.

The curtain closes on the Kitzhaber Era and lifts on the Brown.

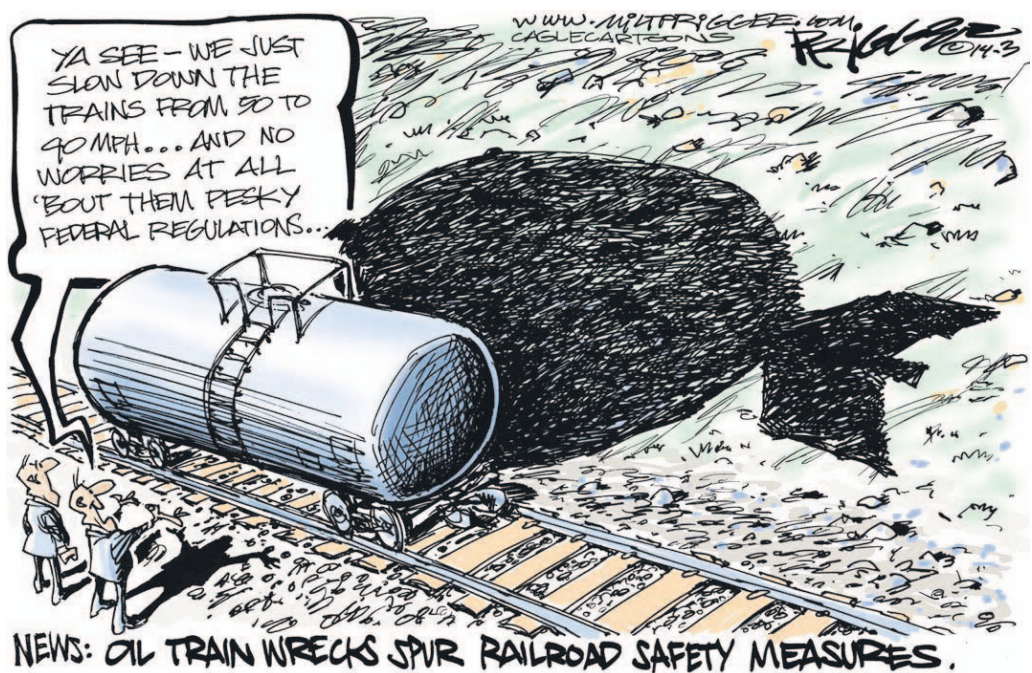
Remember it was Richard Whitman, Kitzhaber's top natural resources advisor, who was leading the

negotiations between the Northeast Oregon Water Association and environmental groups. Those negotiations were key to the viability of the project.

A good measure of how much Brown will rely on the former governor's infrastructure will be the fate of people like Whitman. If he remains employed and becomes part of her administration, it may look good for Kitzhaber's stated priorities and the Umatilla Basin project in particular. If he doesn't, the possibility of more water from the Columbia takes a serious hit and more than a decade of work may have been for naught and drought.

Obviously, the water issue is not the only one that matters locally. And every municipality in the state is biting their nails over something that means a lot to their locale — we're no different in that respect.

The curtain closes on the Kitzhaber Era and lifts on the Brown. What it means for Eastern Oregon will soon be revealed.



NEWS: OIL TRAIN WRECKS SPUR RAILROAD SAFETY MEASURES.

OTHER VIEWS

Call off the dogs

I'll pay for this column. The Rottweilers will be unleashed.

Once the Clintons had a War Room. Now they have a Slime Room.

Once they had the sly James Carville, fondly known as "serpenthead." Now they have the slippery David Brock, accurately known as a snake.

Brock fits into the Clinton tradition of opportunistic knife-fighters like Dick Morris and Mark Penn.

The silver-haired 52-year-old, who sports colorful designer suits and once wore a monocle, brawled his way into a *Times* article about the uneasy marriage between Hillary Clinton's veteran attack dogs and the group of advisers who are moving over from Obamaland.

Hillary hasn't announced a 2016 campaign yet. She's busy polling more than 200 policy experts on how to show that she really cares

about the poor while courting the banks. Yet her shadow campaign is already in a déjà-vu-all-over-again shark fight over control of the candidate and her money. It's the same old story: The killer organization that, even with all its ruthless hired guns, can't quite shoot straight.

Squabbling competing factions helped Hillary squander a quarter-of-a-billion dollars in 2008.

As Nicholas Confessore and Amy Choizick chronicled, the nasty dispute spilled into public and Brock resigned last week from the board of a pro-Clinton super PAC called Priorities USA Action — whose co-chairman is Jim Messina, Obama's 2012 campaign manager — accusing the political action committee of "an orchestrated political hit job" and "the kind of dirty trick I've witnessed in the right-wing and would not tolerate then."

He should know. The former "right-wing hit man," and impresario of "dirty tricks," as Brock has said of himself, made his living in the '90s slimming Anita Hill as "a little bit nutty and a little bit slutty" and breaking the Troopergate story, which accused Arkansas state troopers of setting up liaisons for Bill Clinton and spurred Paula Jones' 1994 sexual harassment lawsuit. He has tried to discredit anyone who disagreed with his ideological hits (myself and reporters I know included). And that's still the business he's in, simply on the other side as a Hillary zealot. (His conversion began in 1996 when he published a biography of Hillary that was not a total hit job and that began the thaw.)

Just as Bill Clinton was able to forgive another architect of the vast right-wing conspiracy, Richard Mellon Scaife, once Scaife was charmed by Hillary in person and began giving money to the Clinton foundation, so, too, was Bill won over by Brock's book, "Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative," and Brock's Media Matters and Correct the Record websites, which ferociously push back against any Hillary coverage that isn't fawning.



MAUREEN DOWD
Comment

With the understood blessing of the Clintons, Brock runs a \$28 million cluster of media monitoring groups and oppo research organizations that are vehicles to rebut and at times discredit and threaten anyone who casts a gimlet eye at Clinton Inc.

As Confessore and Choizick wrote, he uses a fundraiser named Mary Pat Bonner, whose firm has collected millions of dollars in commissions — a practice many fundraising experts consider unethical.

Everyone wants to be at the trough for this one because Hillary is likely to raise, and more important, spend more than \$1 billion on her campaign.

The Clinton crowd is trying to woo Brock back into the fold because he's good at getting money and knows how their enemies think. The Clintons appreciate the fact that Brock, like Morris, is a take-no-prisoners type with the ethical compass of a jackal. Baked in

the tactics of the right, Brock will never believe that negative coverage results from legitimate shortcomings. Instead, it's all personal, all false, and all a war.

This is a bad harbinger for those who had hoped that Hillary would "kill off the wild dogs," as one Obama loyalist put it, and Bill would leave behind the sketchy hangers-on in the mold of Ron Burkle and Jeffrey Epstein.

Hillary's inability to dispense with brass-knuckle, fanatical acolytes like Brock shows that she still has an insecure streak that requires Borgia-like blind loyalty, and can't distinguish between the real vast right-wing conspiracy and the voices of legitimate concern.

Money-grubbing is always the ugly place with the Clintons, who have devoured \$2.1 billion in contributions since 1992 to their political campaigns, family foundation and philanthropies, according to *The Old (Good) New Republic*.

David Axelrod, the author of a new memoir, "Believer," wrote that Hillary's past gurus, Morris and Penn, were nonbelievers — mercenary, manipulative and avaricious. He told Politico's Glenn Thrush that he would have advised Hillary not to cash in with her book and six-figure speeches.

Axelrod reiterated to me that Hillary's designated campaign chairman, John Podesta, Bill Clinton's last chief of staff who left his post as an Obama counselor Friday, "has the strength and standing to enforce a kind of campaign discipline that hasn't existed before."

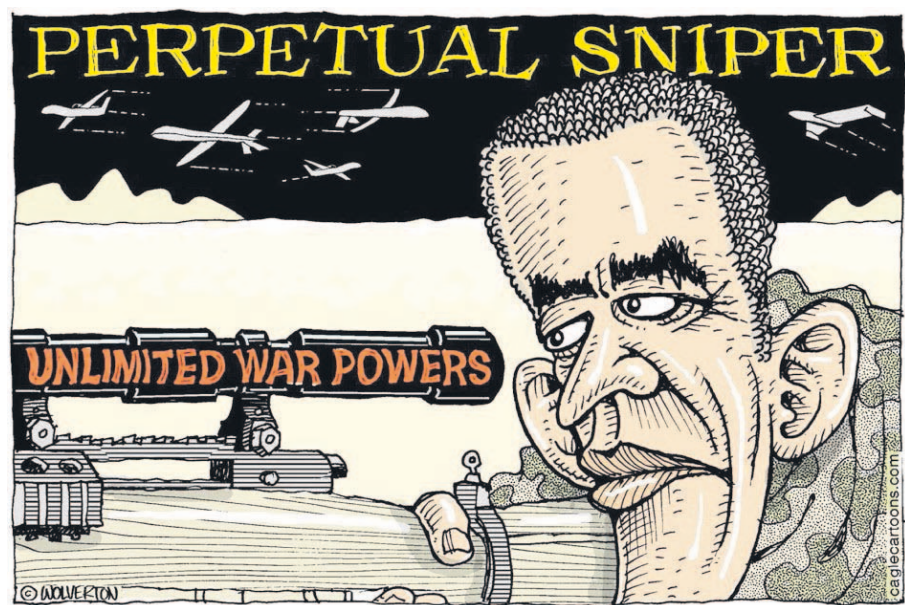
But, for now, what Republicans say about government is true of the Clintons: They really do believe that your money belongs to them.

Someday, they should give their tin cup to the Smithsonian. It's one of the wonders of the world.

Maureen Dowd, winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary, became a columnist on *The New York Times Op-Ed* page in 1995.

It's the same old story: the killer Clinton organization that even with all its ruthless hired guns, can't quite shoot straight.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.



Community feels left out of statue decisions

As a longtime resident of Pendleton and, of course, a taxpayer, why am I and many, many other citizens left out of the decision of what statues we want and where to place them. I think it is a shame that a few feel they are so important that their desires are that of the majority.

Ruth Fenton
Pendleton

Don Requa bronze belongs on Main Street

As a person who has a great interest in all of the city of Pendleton statue, the discussion of the Don Requa statue at Brownfield Park seems perfect history for the city of Pendleton.

Don Requa is arguably the most famous Pendletonian over the last 70 years.

Tom Melton
Pendleton

Requa found Pendleton and stayed for 36 years because of its Main Street. He belongs there ...

The statue is one everyone will be proud

of ... since Dean Fouquette and I secured the location before we began our fundraising campaign, I trust the city council will do the right thing and stand by their word.

Chuck Kearney
Maywood Park, Ore.

While it is understandable that not everyone agrees with all of the details of this topic, we should reflect a bit on how even today, Requa still is affecting the Pendleton community. Hopefully we all come together as a team and accomplish something worthwhile. At this point, it would seem very disappointing that after all the effort that has went into this, that as we near the moment of installation, approvals are rescinded and an alternative place needs to be further evaluated. Let's all stick together, put the statue at Brownfield Park, and allow it to remind all who see it that we are a team and proud to have had another opportunity to show our unity and appreciation.

Randy Schimmel
Eagle, Idaho

Any alternative action now by the council would certainly cause a moral obligation and possibly a legal obligation to return monies donated by individual donors and possibly the return of grant money received as well.

YOUR VIEWS

As president of the Linebackers Club, I signed 11 grant requests stipulating that the city council had approved our choice for siting the statue. Reneging on this decision puts me in a very precarious position.

The sculptor, Rip Caswell of Troutdale, came to Pendleton twice to view the proposed site as input for his work. Subsequently, the statue's body position, the tilt of the head, and the gaze of his eyes are oriented southward down Main Street. Moving the statue to a different location would significantly compromise the artistic value of this wonderful piece of public art.

Rod Anderson, president
Pendleton Linebackers Club

Editor's Note: These letters have been edited for space and to remove duplicity. They appear at eastoregonian.com in their entirety.

Out-of-town, well-funded men shouldn't dictate city's art

One of the best things about Pendleton is its rich, early history of Native Americans, wheat, sheep, cattle, railroad and even the brothels on Main Street. Main Street honors these historic influences on the city with life-

size, bronze statues.

It's been interesting to watch a dedicated group of citizens raise thousands of dollars to commission a larger-than-life statue of a revered coach, and organize a letter-writing campaign of men who live out-of-town and out-of-state. With a citizen committee like this, imagine what could be accomplished to enhance the lives of children living in Pendleton today.

In the meantime, couldn't a compromise be reached in placing the large, oversized statue elsewhere, leaving Main Street with its rich, historic pioneer parks and buildings to life-size statues of people who contributed to the earlier history of Pendleton?

Jill Heffner
Pendleton

LETTERS POLICY

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.