

EAST OREGONIAN

Founded October 16, 1875

KATHRYN B. BROWN

Publisher

JENNINE PERKINSON

Advertising Director

DANIEL WATTENBURGER

Managing Editor

TIM TRAINOR

Opinion Page Editor

OUR VIEW

Appointment of Boardman farmer adds to diversity

The Oregon Board of Agriculture is a 10-person advisory body whose job is to provide a sounding board for state Agriculture Director Katy Coba on the many issues facing farmers and ranchers.

To do that requires a board with expertise and a broad perspective. Current members run family farms, agri-businesses, diversified operations, ranches, urban farms and have even administered the state Department of Environmental Quality. They come from across the state — Klamath Falls, Portland and Eastern Oregon.

It may be among the most diverse boards the Department of Agriculture has ever had. As such, it aptly and ably represents the state’s 35,439 farmers and ranchers.

If we were asked our opinion about adding a member of the board, we would suggest someone who was involved in dairy production, organic crop production, alternative energy, labor relations, conservation set-asides and innovative cropping systems. Such a person could offer value to any agriculture-related advisory board.

Gov. Kate Brown last week appointed Marty Myers, general manager of Threemile Canyon Farms in Boardman, to the board. The appointment was a master stroke. Myers brings with him a unique set of tools and experience that can benefit the board and the state Department of Agriculture by providing insight unavailable from other sources.

Having worked on small farms during high school and college, Myers now manages one of the most diverse farms in the West. The farm’s 32,000-cow milking herd produces 2 million pounds of milk a day that is made into Tillamook cheese. The farm converts the manure into electricity using an anaerobic digester that produces a third of the farm’s power needs. The byproduct of that power production is used to fertilize the crops, which include 7,450 acres of organic vegetables and 6,100 acres

of potatoes. Crops include corn, wheat, alfalfa, mint, peas, green beans, carrots and onions on a total of 39,500 acres.

The farm also raises its own replacement heifers and 7,000 steers in addition to a nursery for its calves. It grows its own seed potatoes and has a 23,000-acre conservation set-aside.

It also employs 330 people year-round — many of them union members — and 400 people seasonally with an annual payroll of more than \$10 million.

By any measure, Threemile Canyon is a unique and cutting-edge farm that has pioneered many aspects of sustainable production.

Yet the appointment of Myers to the board has been criticized in some quarters as a sellout to “big ag.” The Friends of Family Farmers group was particularly vociferous in its complaints that the state would somehow “take agriculture in the direction of industrialization.”

While we understand the group sees itself as an advocate of small farms, the appointment of a single person who manages a large farm cannot be characterized as pushing one type of farming any more than the appointment of an urban farmer denotes a shift toward plowing up the streets of Portland to plant crops.

Decisions about the size and scope of individual farms are made by farmers, not in the Capitol in Salem or by the state board of agriculture. What other groups think of those decisions is beside the point.

Large or small, organic or conventional, livestock or crops, farming is rapidly evolving. Many farms, large and small, are adopting cropping systems that involve a combination of crops similar to how Threemile Canyon operates.

The Board of Agriculture met last week with Myers as its newest member. He will provide a needed voice on a diverse body that will help the state navigate the many issues facing agriculture in the 21st century.

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.

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. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. 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 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.



OTHER VIEWS

Hillary Clinton’s pajama party

She had a law career, an ambitious agenda as first lady, an industrious stint in the Senate, those years and miles as secretary of state.

And it has come to this: In a bid to seem less stuffy and turn the page on a beleaguered (yet again) presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton is chatting with Lena Dunham about singer Lenny Kravitz’s penis.

You can watch the video yourself. It’s a jokey promotion for an interview of Clinton just published in a new newsletter that Dunham is putting out. You can also see a comedic sketch of Dunham’s arrival at Clinton’s campaign headquarters in Brooklyn and the make-believe refusal of a Clinton gatekeeper to let her in. There’s even a cameo by Amy Schumer.

The interview itself covers Clinton’s biography and some serious terrain, including feminism and the relationship between African-Americans and the police.

But it’s in large part a Dunham-Clinton love-in, a pajama party minus the pajamas, ostensibly in keeping with the Clinton campaign’s recent pledge to roll out a warmer, funnier version of the candidate. I’ve lost count of which version we’re on.

In the promotional video, Clinton kids that because Dunham’s newsletter and the website associated with it are called Lenny, she half expected that the person coming to question her might be Kravitz.

Dunham then mentions some viral footage of a Kravitz wardrobe malfunction: “His stuff fell out of his pants.”

Clinton feigns fascination. “I’ll look for that,” she says.

I blame us in part. For years we’ve demanded that she show us something more raw, that she weep or bleed or chirp or quip, that a policy wonk isn’t enough, that a résumé is only the start.

We’ve reminded her of how nimbly her husband pivoted from noonday speech to late-night saxophone. We’ve insisted that our presidents and would-be presidents not only inspire but also divert us. And we’ve pumped up the scandals, ratcheting up the pressure on her to feed us distractions.

But still I’m baffled. How can her response to charges that she’s too packaged and calculating be this packaged and calculated? And to counter her image as entrenched political royalty, why would she enlist stars whose presence merely emphasizes her pull with, and membership in, the glittery world of celebrity?

“Insane,” said one Democratic operative when I sought his reaction.

“It’s a transparent and ham-handed attempt to appeal to a niche audience that the campaign has identified as a critical target,” he



FRANK BRUNI
Comment

added, referring to progressive young women. “But if they’re not already getting Lena Dunham and her cohorts, they’re in even bigger trouble than I thought.”

I think that Clinton is actually in less trouble than we sometimes speculate. She remains the overwhelming favorite for the Democratic nomination.

But her campaign so far is an unimpressive dress rehearsal for the general election. It’s devoid of soul and sweep, a series of labored gestures and precisely staked positions. Constituency by constituency, leftward adjustment by leftward adjustment, she and her aides slog and muscle their way forward.

And they contradict the adage that a politician campaigns in poetry and governs in prose. Clinton campaigns in something more like a PowerPoint presentation. Prose would be an upgrade. Poetry is light years away.

That’s what Democratic strategist David Axelrod was getting at when, about two weeks ago, he tweeted: “It’s still HRC’s to lose, despite new polls. But it’s hard to inspire w/grinding, tactical race. ‘Hillary: Live With It’ is no rallying cry!”

No it isn’t, not even if Dunham and Schumer put funny faces on it. It’s to Dunham’s shrewd credit that she grabbed a piece of the action. It serves her well.

But for Clinton? It’s a contrivance.

Earlier this month, *The New York Times*’ Amy Chozick interviewed her aides and reported that there would be “new efforts to bring spontaneity to a candidacy that sometimes seems wooden and overly cautious.”

An effort at spontaneity: that’s the prompt for sitting down with Dunham — who assures Clinton that she’s a fashion icon and implores her to wear dresses that show her shoulders — and it’s the oxymoronic story of Clinton’s political life.

She is routinely reintroducing herself, forever trumpeting the real Hillary this time, constantly promising the unguarded Hillary.

But the real Hillary has always been there, the thread running through all the changes in costumes and hairstyles and campaign events.

She is fiercely intelligent but, yes, wildly defensive. She does her homework with uncommon diligence and earnestness but can be a dud on the stump. She’s impressively controlled. She’s distressingly controlling.

There’s more than enough good in that mix for voters to make peace with it. But first Clinton has to make peace with it herself.

■

Frank Bruni joined the New York Times in 1995.

EO should appreciate, not attack work of EOTEC board

The East Oregonian’s Saturday editorial excoriated the Eastern Oregon Trade & Events Center Authority Board members for everything except supporting ISIS — without a word of encouragement or appreciation for their years of work, or the visionary endeavor itself.

While the project is short of money, the EO editors totally ignore what the project has and eventually will accomplish: garnered \$8.5 million of state (not local) grant money that would never have come to Umatilla County and Hermiston without this project; saved the Hermiston School District from having to build a second high school at an estimated \$70 million cost to its taxpayers; saved Umatilla County from wasting \$8 million, which would have been necessary to replace failing underground infrastructure at the old fairgrounds; will jump start development on the south side of Hermiston; and will remove a 27-acre chain link fenced blighted area in the middle of Hermiston, eventually to be replaced by new high school buildings and grounds.

As I have said since I first

became involved in this endeavor, “It will change the face of Hermiston forever.”

The EO editors completely overlook the overwhelming support this project has received from the city of Hermiston, Umatilla County, Hermiston School District, Umatilla County Fair Board, Farm City Pro Rodeo, State Representative Greg Smith and Senator Bill Hansell, and all the other people who have worked long and hard to make the fair move and EOTEC a reality. Only the EO editors seek to drag it down — as they have from the beginning.

As the EO editors savage EOTEC and its visionary and hard-working board, I remember what Joe Burns once told me when I was being attacked in a worthy endeavor: “When an elephant walks through the forest, does it heed the chattering of monkeys in the trees?”

George Anderson
Hermiston

Abortion videos were doctored, are frauds

This is a response to a letter in the weekend edition of the *East Oregonian* last week. One seldom reads a newspaper letter so well crafted and written, and my hat is off to the writer for using “whom”

correctly. Whom is nearly dead, and I do enjoy seeing it used, and especially used correctly.

The writer makes it clear that she is a Republican, and she manages to let us know that she has little like for those liberal Democrats.

She does, however, point out that she agrees with Democrats on global warming and on the need to help refugees from the unrest in the Islamic world.

But the real point of her letter is her concern about the “calloused brutality” related to abortion that is shown in some videos; and I’d like to clarify something about the main video, which Carly Fiorina discussed in the second Republican presidential debate. It shows an aborted live fetus on a table while voices discuss keeping it alive in order to harvest its brain.

Abortion, I realize, is a touchy issue, and I have no intention of taking either a pro or a con position here. I can say that, in the course of my life, I have known several women who have had abortions, but I have never known one who had a second.

Abortion seems not to be something that most women resort to lightly or without anguish. It seems normally to be the result of some drastic situation, so I would hope that those firmly opposed to abortion would also keep in

mind the needs of those women who feel themselves forced by circumstances into such a procedure.

But the video under discussion is a fraud. This has been laid out in great detail by PolitiFact, and one can read the entire discussion by going to www.politifact.com.

The evidence is too voluminous for me to attempt to present it within the limits of a letter like this, but one of the most telling points is that there is no way to know whether what one sees is an aborted fetus, a miscarriage, or a premature birth. The whole thing is a pastiche of different images and discussions.

Lest Republican readers of this page think that PolitiFact is some nefarious liberal lying blog, let me point out that it regularly catches President Obama expanding — sometimes significantly — the amount of success that his various policies have. The journalistic undertaking is politically neutral and seeks only the truth. I recommend that people interested in politics consult it regularly.

Jack T. Sanders
Pendleton

Next Speaker can improve government

There was two opinions published in a recent *East*

Oregonian that dealt with two of the problems of our current government.

One was about representative Walden and how he might deal with the labor problem of agricultural operations that require intensive seasonal help.

Since most of the help is temporary and seasonal, it is filled mostly by immigrant labor that requires working through immigration programs. This requires much time and sometimes the crops spoil before labor is obtained.

The other opinion article by Paul Krugman was about John Boehner’s resignation of being Speaker of the House.

It has been suggested that in order for citizens to be properly informed that they must be aware of both opinions of Democrats and Republicans. Paul Krugman represents the liberal viewpoint, which is big government with much spending, and John Boehner was the leader of the opposing viewpoint. Many of the Republicans became anxious about the direction of government and blamed Boehner for slowing things down.

The election of the next speaker of the house will hopefully improve our government.

Don Peterson
Pendleton