

Web satirist prods presidential hopefuls

Now that this off-year election is behind us we can all start looking forward to the major party primaries and the main event: the presidential election. It's never been a better time for spectator politics. It's like an extremely drawn-out MLB postseason (Democrats and Republicans being the American and National leagues) with the presidential election being the World Series. However, the contenders are now more colorful than any professional athlete could hope to be.



J.D. KINDLE
Comment

Of course, that provides a field day for satirists looking to make hay from the kids' table that is the Republican primaries.

One of the best satirists taking aim at American presidential politics today is Vic Berger, a video editor from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The core of his work is finding video footage of national celebrities (Guy Fieri, Steven Seagal, Chubby Checker, Rev. Jim Bakker) and carefully cutting and reassembling dialogue, looping and reversing segments, soundtracking in atonal music, and zooming in on background elements of a shot that may otherwise go unnoticed. The end result of each edit is a distillation of each subject that amplifies their repugnant personality traits. The more pompous the target of his videos, the better, and who is more pompous than the current crop of Republican presidential candidates?

Berger is probably best known for a Vine clip of Jeb Bush going viral. The six second clip, titled "Jeb Bush Loves Technology" features Bush listing off Apple products (presumably those that he owns) in an attempt to connect with tech-obsessed Millennials. There is a slight pause after he shows off his Apple Watch where Bush twitches and gives his trademark stunned look of terror.

The clip gained traction on Vine after Berger stated he would get a "Jeb4Prez" neck tattoo if the clip hit one million views. The Bush campaign picked up on it and encouraged their online followers to help the clip earn the views. Berger (allegedly) proceeded to get his neck tattoo.

One wonders if the campaign staffer running Bush's Twitter account took

the six seconds required to notice how unflattering a clip it really is. The Bush campaign's inability to spot an obvious troll underscores their misunderstanding of how to navigate social media.

Whether or not Vic actually received a neck tattoo is up for speculation; he is as equally deft at editing videos featuring himself as he is of those celebrities.

His second greatest accomplishment is his "Trump4Prezident" Instagram account that mangles press photos of Donald Trump, distorting his facial

features until Trumps appears as a laughably grotesque troll — as if his appearance wasn't comical enough.

Berger's work feels indebted to Negativland, the San Francisco experimental band that was famously sued by U2's record label for releasing a single titled "U2." The band is most well known for its sonic collages that take found audio, splicing and remixing it, sometimes stripping the source material of its context in the process, in order to produce new soundscapes that are at once disturbing, psychedelic and humorous.

In the case of the aforementioned litigation-inciting single, the band mixed a profane, on-air rant by American Top 40 DJ Casey Kasem with samples of a single by U2.

Like Negativland, Berger's work irreverently and indiscriminately draws from the inexhaustible glut of disposable culture. True, there is an overabundance of folks sitting at their computers sampling and editing the same preexisting material into something new, but Berger is distinguished from the rest of the pack by the sheer quality of his work.

As the election cycle drags on it will be hard saying goodbye to each primary candidate that drops off, but it will be even more enjoyable to see the increasing precision Berger focuses on the eventual Republican nominee.

Vic Berger's work can be found online at victorberger.com.

James Dean Kindle is a singer-songwriter and musician and part-time Pendleton resident. You can contact him at jamesdeankindle@gmail.com.

BRIEFLY

Kindle blazes trail to Echo winery

ECHO — Enjoy a glass of wine while listening to Pendleton musician James Dean Kindle.

Kindle will play trail songs of the American West (and then some) Friday, Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo.

For more information, contact 541-376-0421 or info@snoroadwinery.com.

Kirkman House hosts Psychic Fair

WALLA WALLA — Aura imaging, tarot card readings, palmistry and psychometry

are all featured during a Psychic Fair in Walla Walla.

The Kirkman House Museum is hosting the event Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum, 214 N. Colville St., Walla Walla.

Personal sessions with readers working in various disciplines are available for \$25 per person. The 20-minute sessions are on a first come basis. In addition, Valerie Schmitt will be bringing her new aura camera so people can see their aura. The camera will be available from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact 509-529-4373 or khm@kirkmanhousemuseum.org.

PENDLETON CCT opens 50th season with comedy

East Oregonian

A heartwarming, semi-autobiographical play by Neil Simon opens the 50th season of College Community Theatre.

It was the first play directed by Craig McIntosh for CCT in 1990, under the direction of then-artistic director Bob Clapp. It was by design that McIntosh, now the artistic director, resurrected the play.

"I wanted to bring one of my all-time favorite plays back to life in the BMCC theatre, now named in honor of Bob, who served as theatre faculty and the guiding force of CCT for 25 years — half of CCT's existence."

The cast, McIntosh said, is a marvelous mix of students and community members. The thespians' theatrical experience ranges from absolutely none to a perennial CCT favorite in his 14th role.

"It's a cast and crew that has melded into close-knit, hard-working team, eager to bring this Neil Simon masterpiece to life," McIntosh said.

A Pay-What-You-Can preview night is Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Bob Clapp Theatre, located in Pioneer Hall at Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton.

Subsequent performances are Nov. 13-14 and 19-21 at 7:30 p.m. and matinee shows are Nov. 15 and 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets for regular performances are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. The show contains mature subject matter and language — some content is not suitable for children.

The play is a portrait of growing up poor in a Brooklyn seaside community in 1937. Simon's alter ego, 14-year-old Eugene Morris Jerome, serves as narrator and central character. Dreaming of baseball and girls, he's forced to cope with the mundane



Photo contributed by Debbie McIntosh

Christen Garinger, Allison Sharrard, Osa Jubilee Forrester, Peter Case, Christian Quinlin, Karin Power and Don Pinkerton are featured in the College Community Theatre of Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs." It opens with a Pay-What-You-Can preview night Thursday, Nov. 12 in the Bob Clapp Theatre at BMCC, Pendleton.

Brighten Beach Memoirs

Nov. 12-14, 19-21; 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 15, 22; 2 p.m.
Bob Clapp Theatre, BMCC
\$10/adults, \$5/students
*Nov. 12 is Pay-What-You-Can preview night

existence of his overcrowded family life.

Due to a death in the family and economic hard times, two sisters with kids — one married, one a widow — find themselves sharing a house in the ethnically mixed community of Brighton Beach, New York.

Christian Quinlin headlines as Eugene, in his second appearance and first major role with CCT. Karin Power returns to the community theatre stage to play his mother, Kate, and popular regular Don Pinkerton portrays his father, Jack.

The role of Eugene's older

brother, Stanley, is played by Peter Case, in his CCT debut. Osa Jubilee Forrester returns for her third outing as Eugene's Aunt Blanche, along with Christen Garinger and Allison Sharrard as Eugene's cousins, Nora and Laurie, both also taking their first turn on the CCT stage.

Backstage, Joshua King is production manager and technical director. McIntosh and King designed the set, based on the original 1990 design for CCT by McIntosh and Kelly Henderson. Pinkerton and Gary Burnett serve as lead carpenters. Gary Ferguson designed the lighting and Judy Malcolm created the costumes. Osa Jubilee Forester serves as stage manager. Set decoration and props management is spearheaded by Power and Marge Normington-Jones, with scenic painting by Shari Dallas and additional props from Steve Bowen.

For more information, contact McIntosh at 541-278-5928 or cct@bluecc.edu.

WHAT TO DO

Festivals

Fall Release Weekend

•Nov. 6-8
•Walla Walla Valley wineries
www.wallawallawine.com/fall-tasting

Some free. Celebrate the end of harvest season with special pours, winemaker dinners, live music and more.

Tri-Cities Wine Festival

•Saturday, Nov. 14; 6:30 p.m.
•Three Rivers Convention Center

•7016 Grandridge Blvd., Kennewick
www.ticketmaster.com
\$55/advance, \$60/door. Includes wine tasting and regional craft beers, silent auction and hors d'oeuvres.

Art & Museums

Pepsi Primetime@the Museum

•Wednesday, Nov. 11; 1 p.m.
•Tamastslitk Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.
www.tamastslitk.org

Free. "Armistice Day to Veterans Day: A History With James Givan." Givan's war posters exhibit is currently on display at the museum. Complimentary refreshments served.

Veterans Day at Maryhill

•Wednesday, Nov. 11; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
•Maryhill Museum of Art
•off Highway 97 near Goldendale, Wash.

www.maryhillmuseum.org
Free admission for veterans and active military personnel.

Drawn Together

•Friday, Nov. 13; 6-8 p.m.
•Nightingale Gallery, Loso Hall
•Eastern Oregon University, La Grande
www.eou.edu/art/nightingale-gallery

Free opening reception. Drawn Together: Contemporary Drawing in the Pacific Northwest features the artwork of 13 Pacific Northwest artists. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. Runs through Dec. 9.

Betty Feves 25th Anniversary Exhibit

•Monday through Thursdays; 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
•By appointment, 541-278-5952
•Betty Feves Memorial Gallery, BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton.

Free. Exhibit honors Betty Feves and her continuing legacy with pieces by artists who apprenticed with her. Runs through Dec. 17.

World War I Posters

•Monday - Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
•Tamastslitk Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

www.tamastslitk.org
\$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths, free/5 and under or \$25/family of four. The exhibit illustrates early 19th century government and private social media efforts and how they impacted U.S. citizens, both abroad and home. It features 65 original posters from the World War I era, including an original Uncle Sam poster, as well as other artifacts from the time period. Runs through Jan. 2.

Hiroko Cannon

•Tuesday-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
•Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.
www.pendletonarts.org
Free. Japanese artist trained as an illustrator and graphic designer. Due to an overwhelming response at the arts center, the exhibit has been extended through Nov. 10.

Music

Oldies Night in Milton-Freewater

•Saturday, Nov. 7; 7 p.m.
•Wesley Methodist Church, 816 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater.
Free. BJ the DJ spins tunes of the '70s.

Sore Thumb

•Saturday, Nov. 7; 9 p.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off

Highway 331, Mission.

Veterans Honor Concert

•Sunday, Nov. 8; 6 p.m.
•New Hope Community Church
•1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston
Free. Patriotic songs and specials to honor local veterans.

The Rough & Tumble

•Monday, Nov. 9; 7 p.m.
•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton
www.theroughandtumble.com

No cover. All ages.

Hair Nation

•Friday, Nov. 13; Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 p.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Night life

DJ music

•Saturdays, 8 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Sunday Fundays

•Sundays; 4 p.m.
•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla
No cover. Food/drink specials

Whiskey Wednesday Game Night

•Wednesdays; 3-7 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston
No cover. Drink specials and games, including Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, PlayStation 3 and Nintendo 64.

RockKaraoke

•Third Wednesdays, 8 p.m.
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

No cover. Live band karaoke the third Wednesday of each month through December.

Thursday Night Comedy

•Thursdays, 8 p.m.
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Digital Karaoke

•Thursdays and Fridays, 8 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Mac's Trivia Night

•Thursdays; 8 p.m.
•Mac's Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton
No cover. 21 and older. Trivial Beersuit is weekly through Dec. 17. Teams of 2-8 compete in trivia contest. Live host and prizes.

Wine tasting

•Fridays, 4-8 p.m.
•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo.

Karaoke

•Fridays 8 p.m. (9 p.m. if game on)
•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

DJ and dancing

•Fridays, 8 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Comedy Show for Cancer Awareness

•Thursday, Nov. 19; 8 p.m.
•40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton
\$10. Features comedians Nick Theisen and headliner Mike Wally Walters. A Don Rickles impersonator, Walters has been making people laugh for 35 years. He is a cancer survivor and is again fighting the disease.

Stage & film

Murder Under the Big Top

•Saturday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m.
•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo
\$25/person, \$40/couple. Murder mystery event includes buffet dinner and a glass of wine. For tickets, contact info@snoroadwinery.com or 541-376-0421.

"Mary Poppins"

•Nov. 13, 14, 20, 21; 7:30 p.m.
•Nov. 14, 22; 2 p.m.
•Richland (WA) High School, 930 Long St.
www.midcolumbiamusical-theatre.org
\$10-\$20 via www.mcmt.tix.com. Mid-Columbia Musical Theatre presents the Broadway musical featuring unforgettable songs, breathtaking dance numbers and astonishing stage-craft.

'Spectre' stirs, doesn't shake old Bond formulas

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

Where to go when 53 years of action-scene set pieces have exhausted seemingly every exotic corner of the Earth? How much globe can a globe-trotter trot?

The answer kicking off the latest James Bond film, "Spectre," is a doozy. Beginning with the words "the dead are alive" across the screen, director Sam Mendes opens on a long shot through the Day of the Dead in Mexico City, tracking Bond (Daniel Craig), masked but unmissable in a skeleton costume, through the festive throngs. He ushers a woman (Stephanie Sigman) out of the masses and into her bed, only to disrobe into a suit, step out the window and stride down



Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures/Columbia Pictures/EON Productions via AP
Daniel Craig appears in a scene from the James Bond film "Spectre."

the ledge. Finally spying his real prey, explosions follow, walls collapse and the resulting chase spins into a helicopter careening over a mobbed Zocalo Square.

It's a sequence of such startling audacity (some 1,500 extras were used)

and gorgeous black-on-sepia tones that a nagging desire to hit "rewind" persists through the rest of "Spectre." Handsome and riveting as it often is, the film never again reaches such heights.

It's not for lack of effort. Mendes, who helmed

"Spectre"
★ ★ ★ ☆
PG-13, 148 minutes

the last entry, the smash "Skyfall," has raised the bar on 007, pushing the budgets and the grandiosity in a bid to not just reinvent the franchise but overwhelm it with eye-popping craft. "Spectre" is Craig's fourth Bond movie and his muscular tenure has been defined not just by his full embodiment of the character, but his overall stewardship. His ability to attract top-notch talent, in front and behind the camera, and to imbue the spy series with a seriousness of purpose reads in every frame. His Bond may still sip martinis, but he's stone-cold sober.

— Welcome —

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Dr. Robert Johnson

Dr. Graham McEntire

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