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OUR VIEW

Hobby drone rules may mean test ranges next

News this week that small drones must be registered with the Federal Aviation Administration may at first look like just another hoop the industry must jump through.

And for the fledgling Pendleton UAS Range, which remains caught in a bureaucratic Purgatory thus far filled only with hoops, it seems like just another trick to master.

Yet on second glance, maybe any action from the FAA is a step forward for a range that has yet to gain its footing.

While affecting mostly hobbyists, at the very least it represents a clear set of rules that can mark legal operation of some drones in America.

Here are the details from the FAA, released Monday:

- All drones weighing between 0.55 pounds and 55 pounds must be registered.
- Registration costs \$5 and can be done online or via mail.
- After registering, drone owner receives an ID number that must be affixed to every aircraft they own and fly.
- To stay current, registration must be renewed every three years.
- It is retroactive. If you’ve bought a drone and fly it, you need to register.

For airport and drone range manager Steve Chrisman, the registration rules don’t really affect

the range directly. He said the range is much more interested in rules for larger, commercial drones. And clear rules on that front have yet to be released.

“That’s really the murky part right now,” Chrisman said. “That’s the part we need to get worked out.”

Yet maybe the murkiness is beginning to clear, and the FAA — long the clog in the drone drain — is beginning to loosen.

There was some good news on that front too — Chrisman thinks. Government-speak requires reading with a fine-toothed comb, he said, but it looks like any potential developer who goes through the process of being certified to test at one certified range, can use that certification to test at any such range across the nation. Certifiably.

That would be a help, and cut one strand of the red tape that has kept the Pendleton range in mothballs since it was awarded test site status.

The future of drones in the U.S. remains as mysterious as the plot of the new Star Wars film, and the Pendleton test range is far, far away from being a sure thing.

But any action from the FAA at least makes the rules more clear. That can only help the ranges that need a clear set of rules and regulations in order to operate.



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OTHER VIEWS

Oregon universities must increase faculty, student diversity

The (Corvallis) Gazette-Times

As we were recently exploring issues surrounding diversity at Oregon State University, we stumbled across minutes from a Faculty Senate meeting.

Here was the gist: OSU has been working to increase the number of minority faculty members, but progress has been slow. The provost of the university reported that OSU has targeted the recruitment and retention of minority faculty members as a top priority; the senate weighed the merits of various plans to do that. At the time of the meeting, minorities made up about 7 percent of OSU’s faculty.

Those minutes were from a Faculty Senate meeting in March 1995.

We don’t bring this up to rip into OSU for moving too slowly in its goal of creating a more diverse faculty; rather, we offer these as an illustration of the difficulty of the task. One of the more difficult parts will be attracting minority faculty members to OSU.

This is a topic that is always timely, and it’s particularly so now, as OSU works through some of the themes raised Nov. 16 at a public event during which students described experiences of both subtle and overt racism.

On Monday, OSU President Ed Ray announced that he’s creating a position of chief diversity officer to oversee the university’s efforts regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. That was the headline, but OSU announced a variety of other steps as well, including establishing a separate office to provide oversight for a variety of on-campus programs designed to promote diversity.

Obviously, we’ll need to watch to see how the promising moves Ray announced Monday work out over the long run. Ray and the rest of the OSU administration will need to make it clear early on that these moves are intended as something considerably more than

window dressing — and OSU will need to ensure that the position is strong enough to endure beyond the inevitable change in the university’s administration.

In terms of the student body, OSU’s minority enrollment has doubled over the last decade. OSU’s student body already is more diverse than Oregon, but let’s be honest: That’s not particularly challenging, and that’s not really the point: OSU needs to prepare its students to work in an increasingly diverse future beyond the state’s borders.

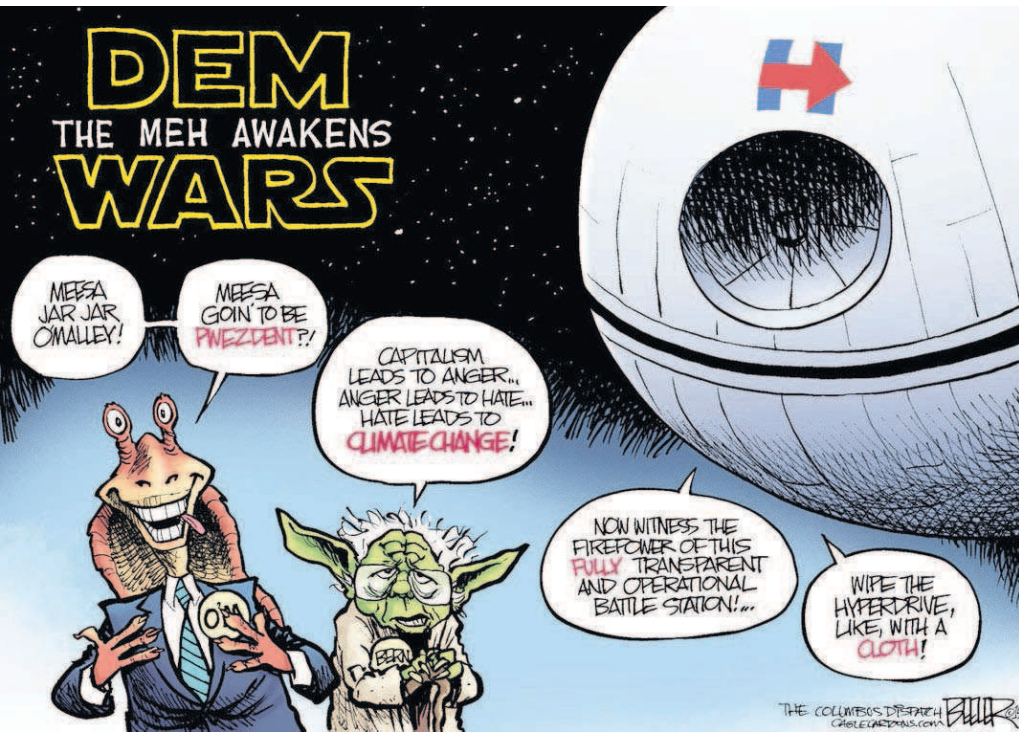
Part of that will require concerted effort to make sure that minorities are well-represented on OSU’s faculty. OSU appears to have made strides since that 1995 Faculty Senate meeting — the total percentage of minority faculty members now appears to be about 12 percent. But the number drops when you just take into account particular minorities, including American Indians, African-Americans, Hispanics and Pacific Islanders: There, the numbers consistently drop into the single digits in percentages.

This isn’t a problem just at OSU: It’s an issue that affects universities nationwide. And the competition for qualified minority faculty members is intense.

OSU has initiatives underway to identify and hire minority faculty members when possible. That’s good, but it’s just part of the battle.

The other half — perhaps the hardest part — is to make sure those faculty members feel welcome and supported, not just on campus but throughout the community. Success on that front likely will result in a campus that is more welcoming to minority students.

It’s a tall order. OSU’s moves on Monday are welcome steps forward. But plenty of difficult work lies ahead, and the burden of creating a more welcoming community for students and teachers of color does not lie entirely with the university.



OTHER VIEWS

The year of unearthed memories

Childhood fears and adult traumas are stored differently in the brain than happy memories. They are buried like porous capsules deep in the primitive regions, below awareness and beyond easy reach of conscious thinking and talking. They are buried so deep that they are separated from the normal flow of life, and so time cannot work its natural healing powers.



DAVID BROOKS
Comment

There is a vast psychological literature on the diverse ways people are held back by these hidden capsules. Often, they don’t feel fully grounded or empowered. Some people experience a longstanding but vague sense of unease about the crucial matters of life, a tangled, inchoate sense of depression in the heart that is hard to pinpoint and articulate.

The symptoms differ according to the nature of the hidden memories. Some people dissociate from their experiences, detaching themselves emotionally from their surroundings. Some feel compartmentalized, as though they are actors trapped in many roles at once. Some fear making commitments because of the ways past bonds have been simultaneously loving and frightening. Some suffer from nightmares, or numb themselves through substance abuse, or have their emotions powerfully undone by certain triggers.

There are hundreds of psychological methods that try to unearth the memory capsules and restore a sense of empowerment. The process is hard. As Judith Herman writes in “Trauma and Recovery,” “The conflict between the will to deny horrible events and the will to proclaim them aloud is the central dialectic of psychological trauma.”

But people with patience and resolve can look forward to a life in the sunshine. They face their fears, integrate the good and bad memories — recognizing that many different truths lie side by side. After years, many build a sturdy sense of self and make lasting commitments that bring joy, strength and peace.

The parallel is inexact, but peoples and cultures also have to deal with the power of hard memories. Painful traumas and experiences can be passed down generation to generation, whether it is exile, defeat or oppression. These memories affect both the victims’ and the victimizers’ cultures.

Many of the issues we have been dealing with in 2015 revolve around unhealed cultural memories: how to acknowledge past wrongs and move forward into the light.

The most obvious case involves U.S. race relations. So much of the national conversation this year has concerned how to think about past racism and oppression,

and the power of that past to shape present realities: the Confederate flag, Woodrow Wilson, the unmarked sights of the lynching grounds. Fortunately, many people have found the courage to tell the ugly truths about slavery, Jim Crow and current racism that were repressed by the wider culture.

Many of the protests on campus and other places have been about unearthing memory or asserting a narrative, or, at their worst, coercing other narratives into silence. There have been pleasant and unpleasant episodes during all this, but overall, you’d have to say this has been a good and necessary stage in the nation’s journey.

Unhealed cultural memories have shaped other policy areas. In the Middle East, Sunnis and Shiites are battling bloodily over competing pasts. In its sick way, the Islamic State is driven by historical humiliation.

Thus, we find ourselves involved at all levels in the therapy of memory. I’d only mention three concepts that might be useful going forward. The first is Miroslav Volf’s notion of soft difference. The person who feels that diversity is filled with hard differences sees the world divided between his group and the alien. A demagogue like Donald Trump offers the following bigoted choice: Submit or be rejected. The person who sees diversity as characterized by soft differences allows others the space to be themselves and sees her mission as one of witness and constant invitation.

The second is the distinction between blame and responsibility. Where there is blame, there must be atonement and change. If you emigrated from Norway to the United States last year, you’re not to blame for the history of racism, but as a new American, you probably have a responsibility to address it. An ethos of responsibility is less defensive than an ethos of blame and provides a better context for cooperation, common action and radical acceptance.

The third is the danger of asymmetric rhetoric. If one person in a conversation takes the rhetorical level up to 10 every time, the other person has to rebut at Level 10 and turn monstrous, or retreat into resentful silence. Rhetorical passion, which feels so good, can destroy conversation and mar truth and reconciliation.

Even after a tough year, we are born into a story that has a happy ending. Wrongs can be recognized, memories unearthed, old hurts recognized and put into context. What’s the point of doing this unless you’re fueled by hope and comforted by grace?

David Brooks became a New York Times Op-Ed columnist in September 2003.

YOUR VIEWS

Pendleton resident wants asphalt, not artwork

In response to the editorial on Saturday, Dec. 5 entitled “Public input varies in Pendleton, Hermiston art plans,” here is an idea to ponder.

As stated in the article, recent decisions concerning placement of statues on Main Street have engendered hostility toward the city of Pendleton.

Perhaps the newly renamed Pendleton Arts Committee could suggest a new type of art project, that could meet some on the needs of the community, instead of statues — namely, a nice black asphalt road appropriately lined with white and yellow lines.

These pieces of art could be scattered throughout the city to be enjoyed by both tourists and citizens alike. This also could get the citizens of our city to discover other neighborhoods of the city looking for these new art projects.

The city of Pendleton should be run as a business. A business that succeeds takes care of its current assets before it expands and adds more.

Whether done as a new form of art, through the soon-to-be-voted-on utility fees, or liquidating unused inventory, repairing a few of our streets could make our city more inviting to tourists and people seeking a new place to live.

Instead of trying to find money to fix all the problems start small with one street at a time.

Chris Adelman
Pendleton

Hermiston’s proposed fire bond puts burden on rural residents

Well, it appears from what I’ve read, the Hermiston City Council is beaming with pride and city residents are exclaiming a good deal and no tax increase.

The increased fire department coverage as proposed for a ballot measure seems like a fine deal on its face. However, I personally see this as a purely despicable move.

The city, knowing they have maxed out their taxing authority for more services, is coming after the rural folks for funding on another “must have” boondoggle. Again, I’m all for more fire and emergency services, but for the city to increase services on the backs of only outlying residents is shameful. This similar measure was voted down last year and now that the picture is more clear, the city is all for it. All for it, because somebody else will pay for their wishes and dreams.

The citizens of Hermiston ought to be penitent rather than joyously cheering this money grab. It seems, though, this is the general direction of the country: Give me free stuff and have other people pay for it.

Rod Triplett, Hermiston

LETTERS POLICY
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