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**OUR VIEW**

# Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A kick in the pants — and out the door — to the Bundy Bunch, the illegal occupiers of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge near Burns.

We've all suffered fools a little too gladly over the past three weeks, curious about how the deep freeze standoff will play out. But as the new year starts to show signs of age, it's time for this to end. We can't abide blatant lawbreakers, no matter how righteous they believe their cause is, or how privileged their background.

Ideally, the armed protesters should have followed leader Ammon Bundy's first promise and left once the community wanted them gone. Apparently they misunderstood the chant of "Go, go, go, go, go" at a public forum in Burns this week where, once again, the county's citizens by and large told them to hit the road.

Now we're into the next phase of the standoff, a time for direct action. We're not encouraging the feds to raid the compound — this thing must end without bloodshed. But cutting the power would be a good start, as would controlling access to and from the refuge. How the lawbreakers have been allowed to come and go so easily is beyond us.

The argument that they're not doing any harm — hey look, they even cleaned up an old barn! — is a misdirect. They're tearing down fences, building new roads and who knows what else. Plus, they're emboldening the spirit of illegal protest by showing that angry, armed and land-owning white men can get away with anything in this country. It worked for them in Nevada, and now they're finding it works here in Oregon, too.

Asking nicely and demanding firmly haven't worked. It's time for action, not with bullets but with brains.

"This occupation has caused tremendous disruption and hardship for the people of Harney County, and our response has been deliberate and measured as we seek a peaceful resolution," said the FBI, responding to Gov. Kate Brown's call for the resolution to be "swift."

Law enforcement deserves kudos for their restraint, evading any accusations of a tyrannical response of a heavy-handed government.

But when sustained inaction allows for an environment of threats and fear to pervade Harney County, where the rule of law has all but been eroded, it may be time to start pulling some plugs.

## Tip of the hat to the cooperation of Hill Meat and the city of Pendleton, which got infrastructure upgrades to the airport industrial park at an affordable price.

Those upgrades should bring roughly 30 much-needed jobs to Pendleton, and the price tag was paid mostly by out-of-area grant funds. The city will have to kick in some dough (about \$25,500), but that's a great investment when the payoff is a high probability of new local jobs.

It's a good reminder that promoting and expanding local businesses that are already operating locally has a much better chance of success, when compared to trying to woo international drone companies or big box stores.

The agreement a good example of government and industry working in tandem to solve problems, an example that we hope sets a precedent in Pendleton and elsewhere in Eastern Oregon.

## A tip of the hat to Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage, better known as the MythBusters, who for the past 12 years have entertained while enlightening their Discovery Channel audience — usually with spectacular explosions.

As part of their finale season, the crew spent a few days in Eastern Oregon last summer busting the myth that an oil tanker can spontaneously implode if conditions are just right. But, as the show usually goes, the duo found a way to force the implosion and the results are incredible to watch.

The show was a valuable presence in an increasingly vapid cable lineup, offering real science instead of staged squabbling among D-list celebrities. Hopefully it has not only inspired a future generation of theorists and tinkerers, but has shown television executives that educational programs can be fun if you give them a chance.

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.

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### OTHER VIEWS

# What could be

**Z**URICH — Just get me talking about the world today and I can pretty well ruin any dinner party. I don't mean to, but I find it hard not to look around and wonder whether the recent turmoil in international markets isn't just the product of tremors but rather of seismic shifts in the foundational pillars of the global system, with highly unpredictable consequences.

What if a bunch of eras are ending all at once?

What if we're at the end of the 30-plus-year era of high growth in China — and therefore China's ability to fuel global growth through its imports, exports and purchases of commodities will be much less frothy and reliable in the future?

"Now that this debt bubble is unwinding, growth in China is going offline," Michael Pento, president of Pento Portfolio Strategies, wrote on CNBC.com last week. "The renminbi's falling value, cascading Shanghai equity prices (down 40 percent since June 2014) and plummeting rail freight volumes (down 10.5 percent year over year) all clearly illustrate that China is not growing at the promulgated 7 percent, but rather isn't growing at all. The problem is that China accounted for 34 percent of global growth, and the nation's multiplier effect on emerging markets takes that number to over 50 percent."

What if the \$100-a-barrel oil price era is over and all these countries whose economies were directly or indirectly propped up by those prices will have to learn to grow the old-fashioned way — by making goods and services others want to buy? Thanks to steady technological advances in America for fracking, horizontal drilling and using big data to identify deposits, OPEC's pricing power has disappeared. Countries that have set their budgets based on \$80- to \$100-a-barrel oil will find themselves vastly underfunded just when their populations — in places like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Indonesia and Venezuela — have surged.

What if average is over for countries? During the Cold War you could be an average, newly independent state with artificial borders drawn by colonial powers. There were two superpowers ready to throw foreign aid at you, educate your kids in America or Moscow, build up your armed forces and security services and buy your crummy manufactured exports or commodities.

But what if the rise of robots, software and automation mean that these countries can't rely on manufacturing to create mass labor anymore, that the products they can make and sell can't compete with Chinese goods, that climate change is pressuring their ecosystems and that neither Russia nor America wants to have anything to do with them because all either wins is a bill?

Many of these frail, artificial states don't correspond to any ethnic, cultural, linguistic or demographic realities. They are caravan



**THOMAS FRIEDMAN**  
Comment

homes in a trailer park — built on slabs of concrete without real foundations or basements — and what you're seeing today with the acceleration of technology, climate change stresses and globalization is the equivalent of a tornado going through a trailer park. Some of these states are just falling apart, and many of their people are now trying to cross the Mediterranean — to escape their world of disorder and get into the world of order, particularly the European Union.

But what if the EU era is over? Reuters reported this week that Germany is telling other EU countries that if they don't prevent the influx of more refugees into Europe from the Mediterranean and "relieve Berlin of the

lonely task of housing refugees, Germany could shut its doors." Some Germans even want a border fence. One senior conservative was quoted as saying, "If you build a fence, it's the end of Europe as we know it."

What if the era of Iranian isolation is over, just as the Arab system is collapsing and the two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians is history? How will all those molecules interact?

And what if all this is happening when the two-party system in America seems to be getting most of its energy from the far left and the far right?

Bernie Sanders' platform is that we can solve our most onerous economic problems if we just tax "The Man" more. Donald Trump and Ted Cruz are running on the theme that they are "The Man" — the strongman — who can magically fix everything.

What if our 2016 election ends up being between a socialist and a borderline fascist — ideas that died in 1989 and 1945 respectively?

And what if all of this is happening at a time when our government's ability to stimulate the economy through either monetary or fiscal policy is constrained? Unless we go to negative interest rates, the best the Fed can do now is rescind the tiny rate increase made in December. Meanwhile, after all the vital government spending to stimulate demand after the 2008 crisis, there is no consensus in the country for another big round.

These what-ifs constitute the real policy landscape that will confront the next president. But here's the worst "what if": What if we're having a presidential election but no one is even asking these questions, let alone "what if" all of these tectonic plates move at once? How will we generate growth, jobs, security and resilience?

There's still an opportunity for someone to lead by asking, and answering, all of these "what ifs," but that time is quickly coming to an end, just like the last dinner party I ruined.

Thomas L. Friedman won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, his third Pulitzer for *The New York Times*. He became the paper's foreign-affairs Op-Ed columnist in 1995.

BLAHBIDDY GOOGLEY  
ARGLE BARGLEY BLATHER  
YOU BETCHA! HONKLE BONKLE  
FLOOB BOOBER BAB BOOBER  
HALLELUJAH!!!

WHAT A HYOOOGE  
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SARAH, YOU SPEAK  
MY LANGUAGE!



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