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OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A kick in the pants to Oregon Governor Kate Brown, who made promises of transparency that have begun to ring hollow. As reported by *The Oregonian* earlier this week, the governor's office attempted to muzzle concerns of the Public Utility Commissioners about an energy bill moving through the Legislature.

House Bill 4036 seemed to cause a temporary truce between the oft-warring industrial and environmental interests. Well-funded lobbyists from each side were able to spin the bill into a positive light. That's perhaps why it was moving like a well-oiled pig through the usually bumpy and slow political sausage-making process in Salem.

It seems now it is the Oregon electrical customers and ratepayers who were left out in the cold, however. And that Brown's office didn't want the PUC to speak publicly about their reservations until the Legislature had taken their action. If only taxpayers had lobbyists!

Brown's advice was wrong — and the bill's quick feet showed how some gullible legislators and media (including this newspaper) were taken in by shallow promises without looking at the deeper troubles.

Good reporting from *The Oregonian* helped lift the lid off the now clear concerns.

But the deeper problem is that Brown's supposed desire for increased transparency hasn't come to pass. Clearing the bureaucracy that would allow for timely release of public information — a supposed priority when she rose to the office — has gone nowhere. And now this.

The lack of transparency led to the downfall of Brown's predecessor, and it may prove to be just as debilitating to Brown herself.



A tip of the hat to the Pendleton city council for choosing Paul Chalmers to finish out the council term of Jane Hill.



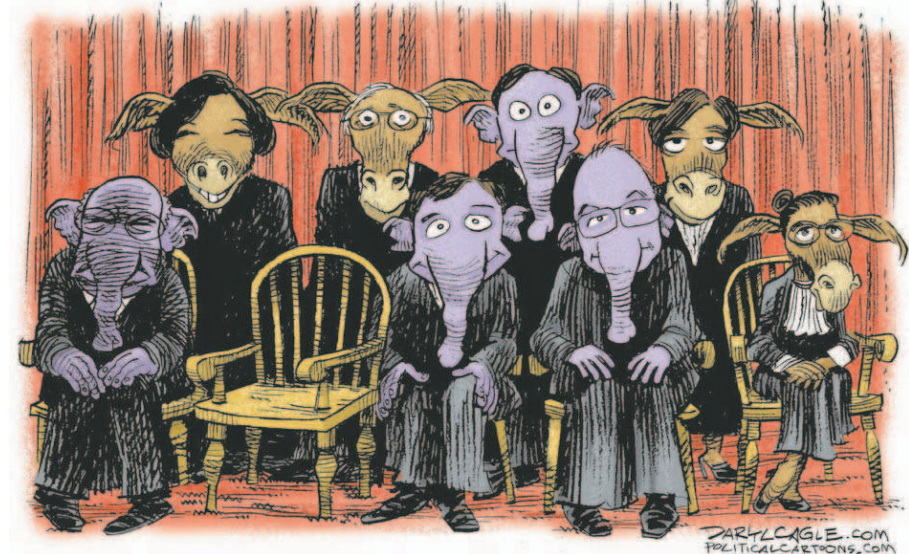
Chalmers was the clear choice for the open seat, and will allow the council to not miss a beat while it moves towards a big election shakeup.

As many as five new members could be on the board come 2017, so adding some local political experience now was a smart decision.

While it no doubt gives Chalmers an advantage in the coming campaign of running as an incumbent of sorts, the alternatives

were not realistic options. We hope for a healthy debate as the candidates make a case to voters about the direction this city needs.

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

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Siege in Burns is far from over

Now that all the armed protesters are gone from Harney County, many of whom are in jail, one would think the siege is over.

Steve and Dwight Hammond are in federal prison convicted as terrorist for starting two fires, the first of which improved BLM property and the second of which saved the Hammond ranch.

The BLM will confiscate the Hammond ranch when the women will not be able to pay the \$400,000 fine. The 200-plus FBI agents and other armed agents that had no insignias that manned roadblocks and interrogated American citizens can go home. The siege is over. Right?

C.J. Hadley, editor of Range Magazine, documents an intentional conspiracy on the part of the government to deprive Western ranchers of their property rights.

In Hage v. United States 2010, Judge Robert C. Jones found a "literal intentional conspiracy to deprive the Hages not only of their permits, but also their vested

water rights. This behavior shocks the conscience of the court." The government has yet to pay the Hages the \$14 million fine.

Many Americans, myself included, do not agree with the armed takeover. However, whether we agree with protester methods never was never the issue in Burns.

Our Pledge of Allegiance ends with "liberty and justice for all." If justice and liberty are denied to the Hammonds then justice has been denied to all.

These protesters are Americans. Most have families. Many are veterans. They have sacrificed their liberty and freedom to stand against injustice and government oppression. According to witnesses present, Lavoy Finicum was shot multiple times with his hands up, attempting to surrender. Who exercised restraint and who exercised violence in Burns?

Why has the press never documented that uranium is the real issue with the Hammond ranch? A 1956 Dept. of Geology Mineral Industries study "documents occurrence of secondary uranium mineralization ... in Harney Co." In September

2011, uranium officials met with Burns officials. *The Oregonian* on Jan. 8, 2012, documented: "Oregon Energy LLC hopes to mine 18 million pounds of Yellowcake uranium" near Burns. *The New York Times* in April 2015 documented under the Hillary Clinton State Department the United States "gave the Russians control of one-fifth of all uranium production capacity" in America. The same article documents the Clinton Foundation received over \$250 million in contributions from uranium companies. Who are the real terrorists?

Stuart Dick
Irrigon

Black people ruined Super Bowl experience

It seems many were offended by Beyoncé's halftime performance at the Super Bowl. This was a unapologetic display promoting the "Black Lives Matter" movement. This event was also intentionally done on the 50th anniversary of the start of the Black Panther Party from the 1960s. If you looked closely, you could see her dancers

holding up fists of defiance, reminding the audience of the display by Tommie Smith and John Carlos on the winner's podium at the 1968 Olympics.

There was also a dance move where her dancers all held up crossed arms forming an "X" in a salute to Malcom X. Then you might also have noticed the "hands up don't shoot" dance move, which evolved from the shooting of a young black thug by a policeman. Even though it was proven this kid never raised his hands in such a manner (and he tried to take the policeman's gun), the "Black Rights Matter" folks have used this false narrative over and over in the media.

I think a lot of folks agree that the Super Bowl should be for entertainment and fun — not for a halftime political statement. However, when you get to the status of Beyoncé and her husband Jay Z, whose estimated combined worth is around \$1 billion, they get to the point where nothing can touch them.

On the field we also got to watch Cam Newton, who reminds us he is the best football player

in the world and freely admits to being "greedy." Cam, who was arrested at the University of Florida for stealing a student's laptop, now has a five-year deal worth \$100 million including a \$22 million signing bonus and \$60 million guaranteed.

Cam enjoys reminding fans that he is an African-American quarterback, and that that may scare a lot of people.

There are a fair share of great black quarterbacks now, like Russell Wilson, who don't seem to have to offend people. Wilson allows his great accomplishments on the field to speak for his ability. The truth is Cam doesn't care if he offends the white community. In fact he enjoys it.

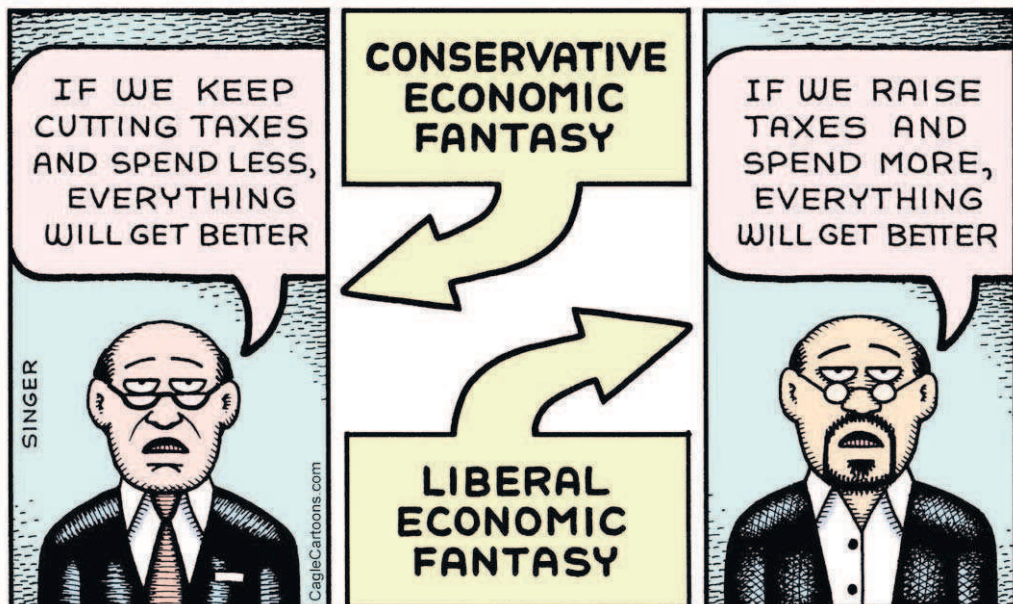
Two-thirds of the NFL are black players and 20 percent of NFL quarterbacks are black, and they get paid an obscene amount of money.

I really miss the days of Jim Brown, Bart Starr, and Johnny Unitas where you just watched football for the excitement and fun of a great game.

David Burns
Pendleton

OTHER VIEWS

CHOOSE ONE:



Who are we?

I find this election bizarre for many reasons but none more than this: If I were given a blank sheet of paper and told to write down America's three greatest sources of strength, they would be "a culture of entrepreneurship," "an ethic of pluralism" and the "quality of our governing institutions." And yet I look at the campaign so far and I hear leading candidates trashing all of them.

Donald Trump is running against pluralism. Bernie Sanders shows zero interest in entrepreneurship and says the Wall Street banks that provide capital to risk-takers are involved in "fraud," and Ted Cruz speaks of our government in the same way as the anti-tax zealot Grover Norquist, who says we should shrink government "to the size where I can drag it into the bathroom and drown it in the bathtub." (Am I a bad person if I hope that when Norquist slips in that bathtub and has to call 911, no one answers?)

I don't remember an election when the pillars of America's strength were so under attack — and winning applause, often from young people!

Trump's famous hat says "Make America great again." You can't do that if your message to Hispanics and Muslims is: Get out or stay away. We have an immigration problem. It's an outrage that we can't control our border, but both parties have been complicit — Democrats because they saw new voters coming across and Republicans because they saw cheap labor coming across. But we can fix the border without turning every Hispanic into a rapist or Muslim into a terrorist.

Trump seized on immigration as an emotional wedge to rally his base against "the other" and to blame "the other" for lost jobs, even though more jobs, particularly low-skilled jobs, are lost to microchips, not Mexicans.

What we have in America is so amazing — a pluralistic society with pluralism. Syria and Iraq are pluralistic societies without pluralism. They can only be governed by an iron fist.

Just to remind again: We have twice elected a black man whose grandfather was a Muslim and who defeated a woman to run against a Mormon! Who does that? That is such a source of strength, such a magnet for the best talent in the world. Yet Trump, starting with his "birther" crusade, has sought to undermine that uniqueness rather than celebrate it.

Sanders seems to me like someone with a good soul, and he is right that Wall Street excesses helped tank the economy in 2008. But thanks to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, that can't easily happen again.

I'd take Sanders more seriously if he would stop bleating about breaking up the big banks and instead breathed life into what really matters for jobs: nurturing more entrepreneurs and starter-uppers. I never hear Sanders talk about where employees come



THOMAS FRIEDMAN
Comment

from. They come from employers — risk-takers, people ready to take a second mortgage to start a business. If you want more employees, you need more employers, not just government stimulus.

I have just the plan for him: The 2015 "Milstein Commission on Entrepreneurship and Middle-Class Jobs" report produced by the University of Virginia, which notes: "The identity of America is intrinsically entrepreneurial

[enshrined] by the founders, popularized by Horatio Alger, embodied by Henry Ford. ... With enough hard work anyone can use

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entrepreneurship to pave their own way to prosperity and strengthen their communities by creating jobs and growing their local economy."

In short, we're not socialists.

The report outlines many steps government can take — from deregulation to education to finance — to unlock more entrepreneurship in America, and not just in Silicon Valley, but anywhere, like Louisville, where "a vibrant startup community has developed. ... Today, the city boasts five accelerators, a vibrant angel investor

community and partnerships with large companies to support startup enterprises like the GE FirstBuild center, which brings together micro-manufacturing and the maker movement." We can do this! We are doing it. "Roughly half of private-sector employees work in small businesses, and 65 percent of new jobs created since 1995 have come from small enterprises."

Unlike Sanders, Ted Cruz does not have a good soul. He brims with hate, and his trashing of Washington, D.C., is despicable. I can't defend every government regulation. But I know this: As the world gets faster and more interdependent, the quality of your governing institutions will matter more than ever, and ours are still pretty good. I wonder how much the average Russian would pay to have our FBI or Justice Department for a day, or how much a Chinese city dweller would pay for a day of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission or Environmental Protection Agency? Cruz wraps himself in an American flag and spits on all the institutions that it represents.

America didn't become the richest country in the world by practicing socialism, or the strongest country by denigrating its governing institutions, or the most talent-filled country by stoking fear of immigrants. It got here via the motto "E Pluribus Unum" — Out of Many, One.

Our forefathers so cherished that motto they didn't put it on a hat. They put it on coins and then on the dollar bill. For a guy with so many of those, Trump should have noticed by now.

Thomas L. Friedman, of *The New York Times*, won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize.

YOUR VIEWS