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OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A kick in the pants to Kate Brown's office for the second week in a row. A re-kick, if you will.

Last Friday we lamented the governor's lack of follow-through on a promise to increase transparency in state government and the governor's office in particular.



The governor's director of communications, Kristen Grainger, sent us a "correct the record" request, asking to retract our opinion.

The O responded with an oh-no-you-didn't editorial titled "Kate Brown doubles down on muzzling of no-coal plan critics."

That isn't going to fly in most newsrooms, and it sure isn't going to fly here.

From our view, it seems that Brown's office is more concerned with giving off the appearance of transparency than just being transparent.



Courtesy photo

Members of the Hermiston fire and police departments help clean up a Hermiston yard after the homeowner fell off a ladder and broke his neck trying to trim the tree.

A tip of the hat to the Hermiston first responders who helped clean up a mess left in a local front yard after a terrible accident.

A Hermiston homeowner fell off a ladder and broke his neck recently while trying to trim a big pine tree on his property.



So members of the Hermiston Fire Department and off-duty police officer Tim Myers returned to the yard to trim, cut and buck the unwieldy tree, and remove the detritus.

Hermiston Fire District Chief Scott Stanton said the work is the kind of community service he wants his crews to be known for.

"We want people to think of us as the people who help," Stanton told the editorial board.

In this instance, they did help. Not only by helping stabilize and save a life, but by spending time and energy offering assistance to a family in need.

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 VIEWS

State should protect whistleblowers

The (Bend) Bulletin

Oregon law already offers some protection to whistleblowers.

Employers can't fire or retaliate against employees who report what they believe to be violations of the law.

But House Bill 4067 in the Legislature takes that a needed step further. It would provide protection to public and nonprofit employees and board members.

Specifically, the bill gives whistleblowers more legal protection if they provide the information to certain designated bodies: a state regulatory agency, law enforcement, a member of the Legislature, a manager of the nonprofit or an attorney licensed to practice in Oregon.

But if the information is disclosed or redisclosed to someone else, such as the news media, the protection would not

apply.

The bill also has requirements to establish policies for whistleblowers.

The Nonprofit Association of Oregon opposes the change because it said it was not needed. Federal protections are already in place. It also said the law puts an additional burden on nonprofits and would be confusing.

There is some truth to those assertions. But this law provides better protection for Oregon whistleblowers. The Nonprofit Association of Oregon could help its members establish whistleblower policies, and this change is no more complicated than other legal changes the Legislature makes every year.

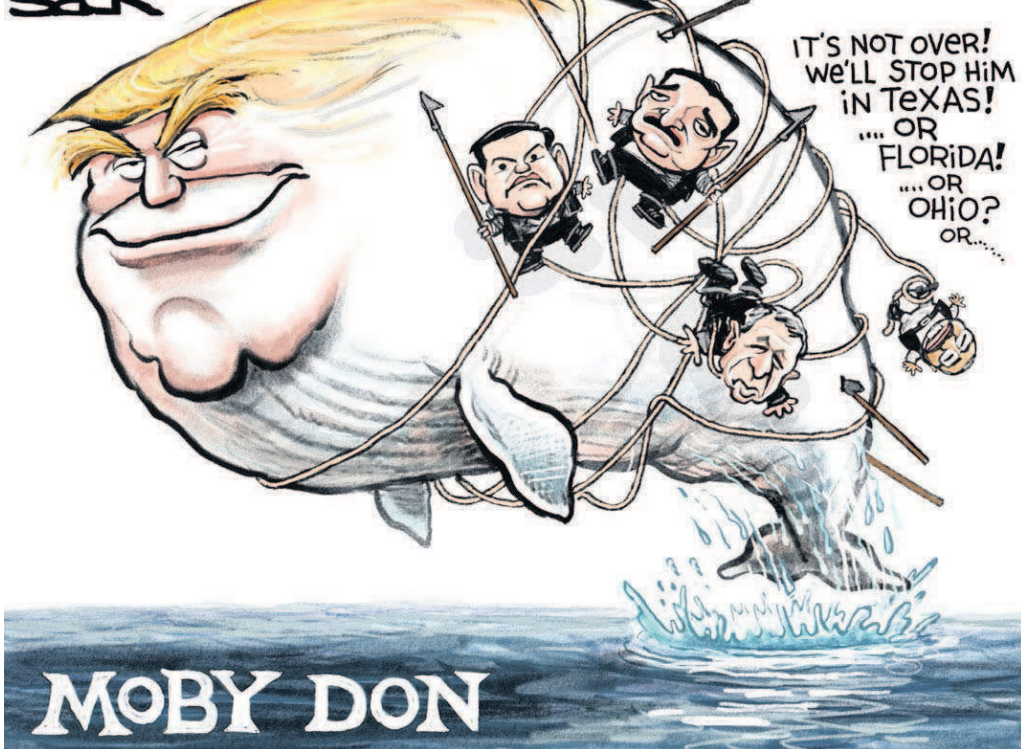
Whistleblowers can put their livelihoods and reputations at risk when they speak up about problems. The additional protections in this bill may encourage more to do so and protect them when they do.

The Legislature should pass this bill.

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.

STAR TRIBUNE Cartoons.com



OTHER VIEWS

The devil in Ted Cruz

When Ted Cruz announced this week that he was firing his campaign's communications director for circulating a false insinuation that Marco Rubio had belittled the Bible, he told reporters, "Even if it was true, we are not a campaign that is going to question the faith of another candidate."

Really? Huh. Then I must have been hallucinating last month at a Cruz event in Iowa where several of his hand-picked supporters, who spoke just before him, mocked and dismissed Donald Trump's professed Christianity.

They marveled at a past comment of Trump's about never asking God for forgiveness. One of them chose a bizarre, religiously coded analogy for a boast Trump had just made about how much voters loved him, saying that the billionaire's bragging was an echo of John Lennon's infamous claim — an outrage to American Christians in the 1960s — that the Beatles were more popular than Jesus.

But no, Cruz's campaign would never question the faith of another candidate.

The Texas senator is some piece of double-talking, disingenuous work. While the so-called dirty tricks that he and his lieutenants have been charged with aren't all that shocking by the standards of bruising presidential campaigns, they really do stand out in the context of Cruz's flamboyant claims of rectitude and righteousness.

He directs you to his halo as he surreptitiously grabs a pitchfork. His rivals aren't so diabolically hypocritical.

At a town hall in South Carolina that CNN televised, he answered a question about his miserable relations with fellow lawmakers in Washington by assuring voters that "it's not that I speak with a lack of civility or respect."

"The Bible talks about if someone treats you unkindly, repay them with kindness," he added. "That has been the standard I've tried to follow. That's how I've approached it in the Senate. So I have not attacked or insulted my colleagues in the Senate, Democrat or Republican."

Is he suffering from delusions? Amnesia? On the Senate floor he called Mitch McConnell, the Republican majority leader, a liar. He also likened Senate Republicans who recognized the impossibility of defunding Obamacare to Nazi appeasers.

Where was his vaunted "civility or respect" when, on the heels of his election to the Senate in November 2012, he derided Mitt Romney's failed presidential bid — to an audience including Romney supporters — by saying that during one presidential debate, "I'm pretty certain Mitt Romney actually French-kissed Barack Obama."



FRANK BRUNI
Comment

And where was that "civility or respect" during subsequent Senate hearings to confirm Chuck Hagel as the secretary of defense? Cruz's repeated suggestions that Hagel had been corrupted by money from America's enemies were so out of bounds that senators from both parties were appalled.

Cruz continues to congratulate his campaign for its high-mindedness even though his allies and operatives spread an erroneous report, during the Iowa caucuses, that Ben Carson was dropping out of the race. And they had the niftiest bit of counsel for Carson voters. Switch to Cruz!

Then, in South Carolina, Cruz operatives doctored a photograph so that it showed Rubio shaking hands with Obama in front of the U.S. Capitol.

These shenanigans profoundly contradict the godly styling of a candidate who was the first ever to announce a presidential campaign at Liberty University, the largest Christian university in the world, and who incessantly invokes the Bible, Jesus and

Cruz directs you to his halo as he surreptitiously grabs a pitchfork.

morality.

And they surely reflect the campaign culture that Cruz has created. Political allies and aides tend to behave in a manner largely consistent with their boss' directives and understood values.

Or they're brought aboard a campaign because they behave that way. As Matt Flegenheimer reported in The Times this week, Cruz hired a campaign manager, Jeff Roe, who is widely known for destructive gossip, for malicious tactics — and for winning.

Cruz's hypocrisy may be catching up with him. In Iowa, he drew more evangelical Christian voters than his rivals did, but in South Carolina, Trump beat him among those voters, and Rubio wasn't far behind. Some of them told reporters, including me, that they'd been turned off by behavior of Cruz's that they deemed un-Christian.

This dynamic could cripple him in the Southern states that vote in the first half of March, and his strategy hinges on those states.

With their evangelical voters in mind, he frames himself as the candidate truest to Scripture and fiercest in the battle against such scourges (in his estimation) as gay marriage. That framing implicitly questions rivals' devotion.

And his onetime proclamation that "any president who doesn't begin every day on his knees isn't fit to be commander-in-chief" is a summons to rivals to prove their faith. He should focus instead on conduct that proves his own.

Frank Bruni has been an Op-Ed columnist for The New York Times since June 2011.

YOUR VIEWS

Cimmiyotti would be good addition to Pendleton council

Cody Cimmiyotti would be a great addition to the Pendleton City Council.

I know Cody to be a responsible and reliable person who cares about his community. He is an ambitious individual who would be willing to put in the time and work to better Pendleton.

Cody has the desire to not only better

his community, but also himself by supplementing his income from his job at Seaport Airlines by working evenings in the lounge at Red Lion Hotel.

Pendleton needs to get their younger citizens involved in local government and we now have that opportunity.

I urge you to vote for Cody Cimmiyotti for city council.

Linda Anderson
Pendleton

