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KATHRYN B. BROWN
Publisher

DANIEL WATTENBURGER
Managing Editor

JENNINE PERKINSON
Advertising Director

TIM TRAINOR
Opinion Page Editor

OUR VIEW

Remembering, rewarding our favorite teachers

To celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, the *East Oregonian* is spotlighting a number of educators in our neighborhood who are making a difference in the lives of students.

All of us who are able to read this editorial can thank a teacher for that ability. (Or, at the very least, for the ability to finish reading this before tomorrow's paper is already on the doorstep.)

It's hard to find anyone who doesn't have a soft spot for a beloved educator. Like firefighters and pediatricians, in this partisan time they are one of the few professions with high approval ratings.

Yet we're not very good at pinpointing what makes a good teacher. It's a job that defies description, because most of the educators we remember fondly stepped beyond the bounds of the professional definition of the job. They had so much joy for Shakespeare that it seeped out of them and into you. They were able to sneak hard-learning past you with enjoyable, understandable chunks. They stopped you on your way out of class to ask if you are OK. They complimented your work. They opened a window to the world of adulthood and all the knowledge, doubt, beauty and terror that reside

there.

Teachers teach skills. Sometimes those skills are letters and numbers, multiplication tables and vocabulary, laws of science and important historical dates.

And sometimes those skills are passion, determination, thirst

for knowledge, social and group interaction, a sense of self-worth and esteem.

A good teacher marries both. They impart and perfect the little building blocks of knowledge that allow us to master the basic skills needed to successfully navigate the world. But they also impart the ineffable traits that make us good human beings, and push us down the path that

will hopefully bring us happiness and contentedness.

A great, standout teacher is hard to find — but those who have found them will never forget them. As we as a state and nation try continuously to improve our flagging education system, one way that should not be understated is identifying, honoring and rewarding great teachers. Those rare souls leave tremendous legacies and prove indispensable to individuals, communities and cultures.

Teaching is a job that defies description, because most of the educators we remember fondly stepped outside the normal bounds of the job.

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.

YOUR VIEWS

Fairley has ability to build up, not tear down

Scott Fairley has the aptitude and drive to help Pendleton move forward. Our city faces real challenges, short and long term, and we should support those local leaders that would try to solve problems using all available resources, including the tools of city government.

Scott has served all of Pendleton in various positions: Planning and Airport commissions, Budget Committee, Farmers Market, and soccer coach. He has years of economic development experience right here in Eastern Oregon, and he has partnered with other elected and business leaders throughout the Northwest. He has the right judgment to balance the unique character of Pendleton with the steps necessary to promote growth.

Mr. Fairley's opponent has been a thorn in the side of city government for a long time and if elected would likely continue to be antagonistic. It's easy to be a critic, but it's hard to devise and implement actual, workable solutions. Which candidate is most likely to contribute to the good of the citizens of Pendleton?

Scott sees the issues confronting Pendleton, he has sufficient experience to know how to respond, and he is committed to helping the citizens of Pendleton prosper and move forward. He has earned my vote.

Will Perkinson
Pendleton

Our energy future may reside in outer space

There is a big plan to explore interstellar space with minuscule craft.

Looking at this as a renewable energy engineering student, this could be an amazing step for today's society. If this works it has the potential to change society. A low-cost exploration operation will give us the option to discover precious metals and minerals once thought to be depleted.

Our society has become addicted to the once-abundant resources the planet had. Soon, or in the near future, I believe the human race will panic realizing what we, as a society, have done. That is when this technology will be appreciated.

Jeffrey Wilson
Troutdale

Letters deadline Friday

Ballots have arrived and voters across Oregon are considering candidates and finalizing their choices.

The *East Oregonian* will institute a deadline for letters to the editor, so we can be fair with all the letters we receive and allow for responses before Election Day if necessary.

Please submit your endorsement letters to the editor by Friday at noon. You can email them to editor@eastoregonian.com, drop them off at our Hermiston or Pendleton locations, or mail them to East Oregonian, 211 SE Byers Ave., Pendleton OR 97801.

We will publish our last letters on May 7. Election Day is May 17.



OTHER VIEWS

Donald the dove, Hillary the hawk

WASHINGTON — It seems odd, in this era of gender fluidity, that we are headed toward the most stark X versus Y battle since Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs.

Donald Trump exudes macho, wearing his trucker hat, retweeting bimbo cracks, swearing with abandon and bragging about the size of his manhood, his crowds, his hands, his poll margins, his bank account, his skyscrapers, his steaks and his "beautiful" wall.

He and his pallies Paul Manafort and Roger Stone seem like a latter-day Rat Pack, having a gas with tomatoes, twirls and ring-a-ding-ding. The beauty pageant impresario's coarse comments to Howard Stern, rating women on their breasts, fading beauty and ability to take the kids off his hands, reverberate through the campaign.

In Indiana, Trump boasted that "Iron" Mike Tyson and "all the tough guys" had endorsed him. The chair-throwing Bobby Knight backed Trump with the brass-knuckles encomium that Trump, like Harry Truman, would have the guts to drop the bomb. When his rallies become Fight Club, Trump boasts that it adds a little excitement.

Hillary Clinton's rallies, by contrast, can seem like a sorority rush reception hosted by Lena Dunham, or an endless episode of "The View," with a girl-power soundtrack by Katy Perry, Taylor Swift and Demi Lovato. The ultimate insider is portraying herself as an outsider because she's a woman, and the candidate who is considered steely is casting herself as cozy because she's a doting granny.

Her website is chockablock with empowerment gear, from a hot pink "woman's card" to a "Make Herstory" T-shirt to a "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun-damental Rights" tote bag to "A Woman's Place Is in the White House" throw pillow. She says her favorite shows are "The Good Wife," "Madam Secretary" and "Downton Abbey," and she did a guest shot on "Broad City."

Trump's most ardent supporters, white men, are facing off against Hillary's most loyal supporters, black women.

Clinton and Trump have moved on to their mano a womano fight, leaving behind "the leftovers," as Trump labels deflated rivals.

Already, it's unlovely. "It's going to be nasty, isn't it?" says Obama Pygmalion David Axelrod. "Put the small children away until November."

A peeved Jane Sanders called on the FBI to hurry up with the Hillary classified email investigation. A desperate Ted Cruz cut a deal with John Kasich, who then put a bag over his head and acted as if he didn't know Cruz. Then Cruz latched onto Cruella Fiorina, accomplishing the impossible: finding a Potemkin running mate who's even more odious. We can only hope that Cruz, who croons Broadway show tunes, and Carly, who breaks into song at the lectern, will start doing duets from "Hamilton."

In one of the most gratifying moments of an unhinged campaign, former Speaker of the House John Boehner told Stanford University students that Cruz was "Lucifer in the flesh." Satanists immediately objected, saying it was unfair to their deity.

Even though Trump is the one who has no governing experience, he will suggest that the first woman at the top of a major party ticket is unqualified by charging that she lacks "strength" and "stamina" and claiming that if she were a man, she would not get even 5 percent of the vote.

During his unbending at Stanford, Boehner imitated Clinton, saying, "Oh, I'm a woman, vote for me."

But such mockery merely plays into Clinton's hands. As former Jeb Bush super PAC strategist Mike Murphy told MSNBC, "Her big judo move is playing the victim." And as former Jeb aide Tim Miller noted to CNN, Trump's numbers with women are so bad that the only way he can win is if he manages to repeal women's suffrage before November.

Once you get beyond the surface of the 2016



MAUREEN DOWD
Comment

battle of the sexes, with its chest-thumping versus maternal hugging, there's a more intriguing gender dynamic.

On some foreign policy issues, the roles are reversed for the candidates and their parties. It's Hillary the Hawk against Donald the Quasi-Dove.

Just as Barack Obama seemed the more feminized candidate in 2008 because of his talk-it-out management style, his antiwar platform and his delicate eating habits, always watching

his figure, so now, in some ways, Trump seems less macho than Hillary.

He has a tender ego, pouty tweets, needy temperament and obsession with hand sanitizer, whereas she is so tough and combat-hardened, she's known by her staff as "the Warrior."

Clinton and Trump have moved on to their mano a womano fight.

The prime example of commander-in-chief judgment Trump offers is the fact that, like Obama, he thought the invasion of Iraq was a stupid idea.

He can sound belligerent, of course, saying that he would bomb the expletive-deleted out of ISIS and that he would think up new and imaginative ways to torture

terrorists and kill their families.

But he says that in most cases he would rather do the art of the deal than shock and awe.

"Unlike other candidates for the presidency, war and aggression will not be my first instinct," he said in his maiden foreign policy speech in Washington last week, adding, "A superpower understands that caution and restraint are really truly signs of strength."

These Kumbaya lines had the neocons leaping into Hillary's muscular embrace.

If the neocons get neophyte Republicans on the presidential ticket, they prefer ones like Dan Quayle, W. and Sarah Palin, who are "educable," as Bill Kristol, the editor of *The Weekly Standard*, once said of Quayle.

Trump may have a lot to learn about the issues, but he's not malleable.

In his new book, "Alter Egos," *New York Times* White House correspondent Mark Landler makes the case that the former Goldwater Girl, the daughter of a Navy petty officer and a staunch Republican, has long had hawkish tendencies, reflected in her support for military action in Iraq and Libya and a no-fly zone in Syria.

"It's bred in the bone," Landler told me.

"There's no doubt that Hillary Clinton's more muscular brand of American foreign policy is better matched to 2016 than it was to 2008." Jake Sullivan, Hillary's policy adviser both at the State Department and in her campaign, told Landler.

But Hillary never expected to meet this mix of dove, hawk and isolationist. She thought she would face Marco Rubio, a more traditional conservative who would out-hawk her. Instead, she's meeting Trump, who is "a sheep in wolf's clothing," as Axelrod put it. Like a free-swinging asymmetric boxer, Trump can keep Hillary off balance by punching from both the left and the right.

You can actually envision a foreign policy debate between Trump and Clinton that sounds oddly like the one Obama and Clinton had in 2008, with Trump playing Obama, preening about his good judgment on Iraq, wanting an end to nation-building and thinking he could have a reset with Russia.

Despite gossip when she was first lady that she did not like people in uniform, the truth is the reverse: She gravitates toward "nail-eaters," her aides told Landler, and loves the gruff, Irish, bearlike demeanor of Jack Keane, a retired four-star general and the resident hawk on Fox News who helped define her views on military issues and is still in touch.

As secretary of state, she hit it off with Gen. Stanley McChrystal and David Petraeus. And she loved to have a stiff drink with Bob Gates and John McCain.

She has a weakness for big, swaggering, rascally he-men. Like Donald Trump.

Maureen Dowd, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary, became a *New York Times* columnist in 1995.

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. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.

