

**EAST OREGONIAN**  
Founded October 16, 1875

**KATHRYN B. BROWN**  
Publisher  
**JENNINE PERKINSON**  
Advertising Director

**DANIEL WATTENBURGER**  
Managing Editor  
**TIM TRAINOR**  
Opinion Page Editor

**OUR VIEW**

# Ready or not, the next wave of pot

Oregon's latest incremental step toward full-out normalization of marijuana and its active ingredient THC comes at a time when there are indications legalization is having a detrimental effect on driving safety in Washington state.

Even five or 10 years ago, it would have strained the imagination to envision Thursday's launch of sales of edible marijuana/THC candy and other products. Although Oregon has a deeper experience than most states with medical marijuana, the cultural and legal changes we're experiencing now are unique in living memory. Such novelty is exciting to those who enjoy marijuana. Even many of those who don't imbibe are content with an end to one destructive aspect of the "War on Drugs."

There are indications, particularly in Washington state and Colorado, that the price of marijuana is rapidly declining. This is likely to also be true in Oregon. This has positive implications that go beyond being easy on the budgets of marijuana consumers.

The biggest bonus is further pushing illegal dealers out of the market, and along with them the crime and violence that come with such operations.

However, the growing ubiquity of marijuana in the Pacific Northwest has downsides. Even those who had become discouraged with criminal penalties for a

comparatively innocuous intoxicant expressed worry about how marijuana would add to existing problems with impaired driving, along with less quantifiable societal impacts like loss of mental acuity and increasing minors' access to drugs.

In Washington state, there has been an upswing in the proportion of fatal vehicular accidents in which marijuana was found present in drivers. Between the legalization approval in November 2012 and 2014, there was a doubling in the number of fatalities in which marijuana may have played a role. Researchers with AAA found that before legalization, 8.3 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had THC in their blood, compared to 17 percent after legalization — many of whom also had alcohol or other drugs present.

Law enforcement is still playing catch-up with the issue. In Washington and Colorado, prosecution for driving under the influence relies on a test finding more than 5 nanograms per milliliter of THC in drivers' blood. Oregon relies on officer observations to determine whether a driver is impaired.

All this clearly demands close scrutiny by lawmakers, police and the public. Legalization won't be rolled back, but refinements in enforcement and personal responsibility on the part of drivers will be essential.

**The biggest bonus is further pushing illegal dealers out of the market, and along with them the crime and violence that come with such operations.**

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.

## Culture Corner

If you've ever wondered what perfect foresight and planning looks like, or serendipity at the very least, look no further than the baseball diamond.

When the rules of the game were drafted in 1857, Daniel "Doc" Adams specified that the bases were to be set 90 feet apart. In the 160 years that have followed, athletes have gotten faster and the sport has become both an industry and pastime, but the distance remains at 90 feet.

And with that perfect, magical distance, nearly every routine play at first base is decided by a split second and every stolen base attempt is a hold-your-breath moment. If the bases were set at 100 feet, no player could leg out a grounder to first base. At 80 feet even the average baserunner would look like Rickey Henderson, and the stolen base would be ho-hum instead of thrilling.

That distance, among other rules and regulations, is in a recently unearthed document known as the "Magna Carta of America's national pastime," which will be on display for the first time

at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland from July 1 to October 9. The handwritten document brought the many baseball clubs of the time onto the same page, so to speak.

Some were playing to 21 runs instead of nine innings, some had as many as 11 players on the field instead of nine, and there was no set standard for the basepaths.

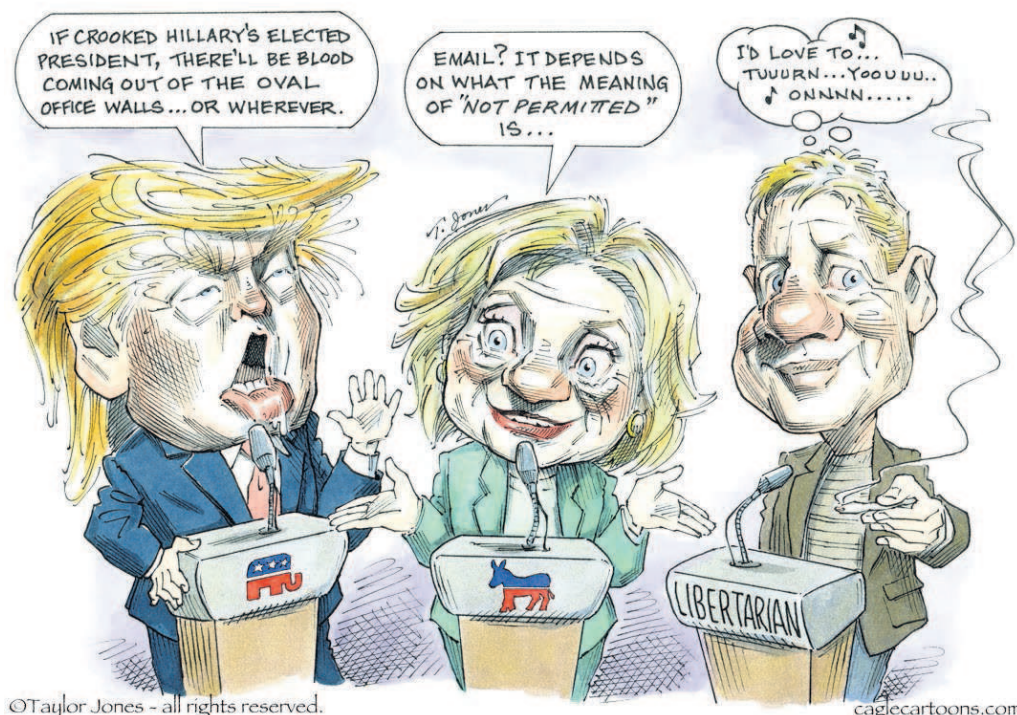
From that document leagues were formed, new clubs emerged and the sport entered into the American consciousness.

The Pioneer Baseball Club of East Portland was formed in 1866, and was the first baseball club in the Northwest. Portland has never been home to a major league club, but if you're interested in the city's history with the sport there's a Netflix documentary called "The Battered Bastards of Baseball" about the Portland Mavericks of the 1970s, who were shunned by organized baseball but developed a rabid following thanks to a roster of colorful characters.

The Oregon Historical Society's museum at 1200 SW Park Ave. is open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.



Contributed by Oregon Historical Society  
**The Pioneer Baseball Club of East Portland was the first organized team in the Pacific Northwest, founded on May 28, 1866.**



**OTHER VIEWS**

## The Madness of America

The candidacy of Donald Trump, the fervor of those who support it, and the fierce opposition of those who don't is making America mad — both angry and insane, as the dual definitions of the word implies.

One of the most disturbing displays of this madness is the violence Trump has incited in his supporters, and the violent ways in which opposition forces have responded, like the exchange we saw last week in San Jose, California.

Both forms of violence are unequivocally wrong, but speak to a base level of hostility that hovers around the man like the stench from rotting flesh.

What is particularly disturbing is to see anti-Trump forces lashing out at Trump's supporters, seemingly provoked simply by a difference in political position.

This cannot be. It's self-defeating and narrows the space between the thing you despise and the thing you become.

I understand that he is elevating and normalizing a particular stance of racism and sexism that many view as a spiritual attack, a kind of psychic violence from which they cannot escape.

Furthermore, the election cycle promises at least five more months of this, until Election Day, and even more if by some tragic twist of fate Trump is actually elected.

And, if elected, the threat could move from the rhetoric to the real, wreaking havoc on millions of lives.

I understand the frightful, mind-numbing, hair-raising disbelief that can descend when one realizes that this is indeed plausible.

Recent polls have only added to this anxiety as some have shown an increasingly tight race between him and Hillary Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee; some even have him beating her.

(Now of course, these polls must be taken with a grain of salt. Trump and Clinton are in different phases of the fight: Trump is the presumptive Republican nominee with no remaining opponents and with Republicans coalescing around his candidacy; Clinton is still in a heated contest with Bernie Sanders, who has given no indication of giving up.)

I understand that Trump represents a clear and present danger, and having a passionate response that encompasses rage and fear is reasonable.

It is understandable to want to make one's displeasure known. But there is a line one dares not cross, and that is the one of responding to violent rhetoric with violent actions.

As I have said before, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said it best in his 1967 book



**CHARLES BLOW**  
Comment

"Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?," and he is worthy of quoting here at length:

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning

violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

You may feel activated by the cause of righteousness, but violence is most often a poor instrument for its implementation. Indeed, violence corrodes righteousness. It robs it of its essence.

The best way to direct passions is not only with the bullhorn, but also at the ballot box.

In a democracy, the vote is the voice. The best way to reduce the threat Trump poses is to register and motivate people who share your view of the threat.

It is easy to look at the throngs who support and exalt this man and be discouraged, but don't be. It is easy to look at Republicans like Paul Ryan abandoning their principles and selling their souls to fall in line behind this man and be discouraged, but don't be. It is easy to see the media fail miserably to counter Trump and his surrogates' Gish-gallop and be discouraged, but don't be.

These are the moments in which the nation's mettle — and ideals — are tested. I have a fundamental belief that although America was born and grew by violence and racial subjugation, that although it has often stumbled and even regressed, that its ultimate bearing is toward the better.

Folks must be reminded that one demagogue cannot lead to a detour or a dismantling. There is an elevated plane of truth that floats a mile above Trump's trough of putrescence.

Trump and his millions of minions have replaced what they call "political correctness" with "ambient viciousness."

This won't "make America great again," because the "again" they imagine harkens back to America's darkness. We are the new America — more diverse, more inclusive, more than our ancestors could ever have imagined.

Don't invalidate that by allowing yourselves to be baited into brutishness.

Charles M. Blow is The New York Times's visual Op-Ed columnist. His column appears in The Times on Saturday.

**YOUR VIEWS**

### A slaughter solution to BLM's wild horse problem

As I read your article about the mobile slaughter trailer I couldn't help but think this might be the answer to the surplus wild (feral) horse problem faced by the Bureau of Land Management. They are presently holding 47,000 horses in corrals and feeding them at a cost to taxpayers of \$50 million per year. I have long advocated that these surplus animals be slaughtered and fed to the poor.

After visiting Iceland and rediscovering how savory horse meat can be and learning how nutritional it is, I propose it be marketed as a health food. These horses exist because of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. The BLM is charged with maintaining an Appropriate Management Level, which presently is 26,715 animals. Currently it is estimated there are over 67,000 roaming the land, and they are increasing at 15-20 percent per year. These numbers are damaging the range, waterways, grouse habitat and are fouling remote wildlife water holes. Those animals found to be exceeding the AML should be removed, but holding them in corrals would seemingly violate the spirit of the Wild Free-Roaming Act. Slaughter is the only logical solution and these

mobile units might be the answer.

Inasmuch as the BLM is spending over \$1,000 per horse per year it would seem they would see the value of spending \$70,000 per unit with all "the bells and whistles." I could see the BLM leasing these units to enterprising individuals, such as the individuals in your article. I can see the Oregon Food Bank utilizing one or more of these units since they are always short of meat. Doing the math, it is obvious that it will take a number of these units.

Since these animals do not receive medications they would be an excellent source of an organic health food. In a recent survey 64 percent of respondents say they would not eat horse meat, but this would indicate that 36 percent might. Winners would be the local fabricators who would build the units and the butcher/operators who would gain steady employment. People who would like to obtain a tasty source of a nutritionally superior meat free of additives could do so.

Those who might oppose a slaughterhouse in their back yard might favor horse slaughter if it was removed from their neighborhood. These units might also give the wimps in the BLM and Congress the courage to do the right thing.

Carlisle Harrison  
Hermiston

**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.