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**OUR VIEW**

**Despite setbacks, light of progress shines**

Britain votes to exit Western Civilization, Donald Trump whips up crowds with calls for waterboarding and religious-based bans, a lunatic opens fire at a Florida bar, ISIS bombs airports and anything else they see as signs of progress.

It is a scary and frustrating time for the world.

But perhaps, in all this doom and gloom and apprehension, it is possible to appreciate how remarkable it is that we even made it this far. That civilization itself is a far cry from our human nature, and that we've come a long damn way.

And as we ready to celebrate America's birthday, we must recognize this country as having come the farthest. The United States is far from perfect, and our history is peppered with outright failures. The USA was born on the Fourth of July, but it was also born on the back of genocide against native populations and slavery against those deemed sub-human. It's hard to start any lower than that.

Our society is nowhere near equal and the remnants of the Dawes Act and slavery and lack of universal suffrage and private ownership remain. But we've improved a lot.

We are generations ahead of our European counterparts, whose response to the slaughter near their border has been overwhelmingly distasteful. The cruelty faced by immigrants along the border of the European Union, in places like Greece and Hungary and Croatia,

has been atrocious. The rise of authoritarian, nearly fascists parties in France, England, the Benelux countries and even Scandinavia, is reprehensible yet all too familiar.

The rise of Islamic fundamentalist parties in the Middle East, and their attraction to a small minority of everyday Muslims, has been greatly distressing and the root cause of the global crisis of the moment. The continual tribal warfare, which has exploded in scope, is humanity at its most base.

And when in crisis, it is hard to be an optimist. But we should be.

For the better part of the last 50 years, civilization has made great strides. We've combated diseases, we've reduced warfare, we've made momentous gains in quality of life.

The United States, as has been the case through most of our 240 years, has led the way.

But globalization and technology have definitely left some people behind, and the global economy barrels forward with little regard for those it runs over.

Yes, we are in a momentary decline in economic might and personal freedom and general human decency. In Anakara and London and Malheur, we see the real stresses pulling at the cracks in civilization. But as Leonard Cohen sang: That's how the light gets in. Only by seeing how close the darkness is around us can we appreciate the sparkle of light that illuminates much of our world. It's why we like fireworks so much, too.

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Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainer. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

**OTHER VIEWS**

**GMOs can harm rural Oregon**

The Bend Bulletin

While genetically modified organisms are not the Frankenplants their opponents

would like you to think, they can have problems. Roundup Ready creeping bentgrass offers a case in point.

Scotts and Monsanto developed GMO creeping bentgrass in the early 2000s and tested it in Jefferson County. One anticipated market would be the grass for golf courses.

All went well until 2004, when nine plants were discovered outside the 11,000-acre growing area north of Madras, according to *The Bulletin's* archives.

Today, the grass can be found along ditches in both Jefferson and Malheur counties, and that's got some farmers and the state Department of Agriculture worried.

They're worried for several reasons. So far, efforts to control it have been unsuccessful. In Malheur County, creeping bentgrass is considered a Class A weed, meaning those who find

it on their land are required by law to eradicate it. The weed also thrives along irrigation ditches, clogging them if the infestation is heavy. Too, if traces of the crop end up on such things as alfalfa hay or hybrid carrot seed, farmers may not be able to sell their crops in countries that ban GMO crops.

So far, Scotts has been a leader in the effort to eradicate or contain GMO bentgrass. While it assures farmers that will continue, many remain unconvinced. Its agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture would allow it to take a smaller role in the effort in just a few years. That's got both farmers and ODA worried, so much so that Katy Coba, who heads ODA, wrote the bureaucratic equivalent of a blistering letter to the USDA.

She, farmers and the Oregon congressional delegation should keep the heat on both Scotts and USDA. Agriculture is by far the biggest industry east of the Cascades, and much of what is grown here finds its way overseas. Contamination could change that, hurting rural Oregon in the process.

**If traces end up on such things as alfalfa hay or hybrid carrot seed, farmers may not be able to sell their crops in countries that ban GMOs.**

**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.

**OTHER VIEWS**



**Patriotic presidential quiz**

Independence Day weekend's coming — time to show a little patriotism. Budweiser beer just renamed itself "America," for heaven's sake. If a Belgian brewing company can do that, the least you can do is show you're a well-educated citizen. Let's see whether you've been keeping up with the presidential race:

1. Since endorsing Donald Trump for president, Chris Christie ...

A. Tracked down the man he once chased down the boardwalk while waving an ice cream cone and apologized.  
B. Got the support of a full 18 percent of New Jersey voters on whether Trump should pick Christie as his running mate.

C. Told reporters he does not want to be the vice-presidential nominee because "really, my life is ruined already."  
2. When Marco Rubio ran for president, he made it clear he was done with being a senator forever. ("I have only said like 10,000 times I will be a private citizen in January.") This month he ...

A. Told reporters he was pursuing a lifelong dream of playing defensive back for the Miami Dolphins.  
B. Said he was running for re-election because "I've discovered I'm not worth nearly as much money as I thought in the private sector."  
C. Said he was running for re-election because, "Control of the Senate may very well come down to the race in Florida."

3. After the demise of his presidential campaign, Ben Carson joined the Trump team. When his candidate claimed a federal judge was biased due to his Mexican heritage, Carson said that Trump ...

A. "... was probably talking out loud rather than thinking."  
B. Believes all jurists should be examined for "the fruit salad of their life."  
C. Has many good Mexican friends among the caddies at his golf courses.

4. Paul Ryan began the month by endorsing Donald Trump for president. Since then, he's denounced several of the candidate's more outrageous statements. When asked how many times he could do this without washing his hands of the whole campaign, Ryan said ...

A. "Four."  
B. "I don't know the answer to that, either."  
C. "Did I tell you I saw John Boehner in Florida? God, that man looks happy."  
5. Duncan Hunter of California, one of the first members of Congress to endorse Donald Trump, announced he's going to stop trying to answer for things the candidate says. But he's still on the Trump bandwagon because ...

A. "Everybody makes mistakes."  
B. "... him talking about things and saying things about things is different than him saying what he's going to do."



**GAIL COLLINS**  
Comment

C. "Hell, I don't know. Go ask Paul Ryan."

6. After he dropped out of the Republican race, Sen. Lindsey Graham endorsed Ted Cruz, whom he loathes. Then when Cruz dropped out, he ...

A. Endorsed William Howard Taft, noting, "He's dead, but nobody's perfect."  
B. Said he'd "probably write somebody in or just skip the presidential."  
C. Compared the current campaign to "Game of Thrones" and announced that it was "time for a woman president, but only if it's Daenerys the Dragon Queen."

7. Bernie Sanders' biggest post-primary news was that ...

A. He's going to endorse Hillary Clinton (but that doesn't mean he'll vote for her).  
B. He's going to vote for Hillary Clinton (but that doesn't mean he's endorsing her).  
C. He needs to take one more look at Martin O'Malley.

8. When Britain voted to exit the European Union, Donald Trump was visiting his golf course in Turnberry, Scotland. Asked for his analysis of the big event, Trump said ...

A. "You know, when the pound goes down, more people are coming to Turnberry, frankly."  
B. "Analysts have drastically overstated the impact on the British economy; we will of course have to keep a close eye on the manufacturing sector."  
C. "Vote? What vote?"

9. A former White House Secret Service officer has written a tell-all book about the Clintons in which he claims to have seen evidence that Hillary once ...

A. Broke a law.  
B. Broke a promise.  
C. Broke a vase.

10. Campaigning in New York, Hillary Clinton demonstrated she had lost some of her old city sophistication when she ...

A. Had trouble getting into the subway.  
B. Made eye contact with a fellow passenger in the subway.  
C. Posed for a selfie in front of Trump Tower.

11. When Clinton made her big speech on foreign policy this month, people couldn't help noticing that she appeared on stage in front of ...

A. Huge pictures of Abraham Lincoln, Oprah Winfrey and the pope.  
B. Her grandchildren.  
C. 19 American flags.

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B, 5-B, 6-B, 7-B, 8-A, 9-C, 10-A, 11-C

Gail Collins joined *The New York Times* in 1995 as a member of the editorial board and later as an Op-Ed columnist.



**SPIRIT OF '16**

**YOUR VIEWS**

**Important to get location of new fire station right**

The site is large and has easy access to all major highways. Also, the east side needs the development due to the relocation of the old hospital. It is a good anchor to bring more redevelopment to an area of the city that sorely deserves it.

There are plenty of lots in this area that can support new housing also. If the residents of the area express interest, perhaps a redevelopment committee could focus on this area and give it a boost. Adding a fire station along with the new school could be used as twin anchors to the area. Emphasizing new housing on empty lots with close access to downtown would also revitalize an area that can absorb quite a few more people. The river walk is another great selling point.

I was concerned enough to write this letter because the siting of the new fire station needs to be considered carefully. Taking a beautiful park site in the center of the city is a non-starter; this should not even be on the table.

To me it is obvious the best location is the old hospital site for several reasons. Power, water and sewer are all available for large buildings right on site, no new infrastructure is needed. I am sure a decent deal with the corporation that owns the land can be struck if we just negotiate with the right people. St. Anthony has their new hospital and will probably appreciate disposing of the old property for a reasonable price.

Scott Newell  
Pendleton