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OUR VIEW

Similarities abound in governor and presidential races

There are a lot of commonalities between the race for Oregon governor and the race for next president of the United States.

In both, a life-long politician — in both cases a woman and a Democrat — is facing off against a challenger who has never held public office.

Hillary Clinton and Kate Brown have similar experiences, having been involved in numerous levels of state and national politics for nearly three decades. Brown, a Democratic super delegate, came out in support of Clinton when the party's nomination was still up for grabs.

The similarities do break down a bit when we compare the Republican candidates.

Bud Pierce is a smart, honorable man with solutions and ideas. Donald Trump is not that, and he doesn't have those. Pierce now says he does not support Trump, and is clearly going out of his way to distance himself from the divisive national embarrassment.

Yet both men are trying to use some of the same tactics to turn their opponent's experience against them, forcing Brown and Clinton to answer for the problems that existed when they first stepped into public life and remain ensconced today.

Editorial board member Tim Trainor, who was a member of the panel that peppered the candidates with questions at last Saturday's debate, had an up-close-and-personal look in Bend. During that debate, Brown routinely touted her experience and expertise as reasons to vote for her: She knows the problems. She understands them. She has worked to fix them.

Pierce attacked that same

experience at every turn — noting that with decades to get things done, and thousands of opportunities to make improvements, why are Oregon's graduation rates still so poor, our transportation system still in shambles, our tax structure still so out of whack?

Two lifelong politicians — both Democrats and women — are facing off against challengers who have never held public office.

It's the most pressing point of his campaign against Brown. A vote for Pierce, he argued, is a vote for someone who would at least try something new. And he argues what we've been trying in Oregon isn't working.

To an extent, that is the same argument Trump is making. Although his argument is often drowned out by boatloads of racism and sexism and narcissism, he's the outsider candidate to end all outsider candidates. And in a moment when many Americans are nervous about the direction our country is headed, he gives voters the ability to imagine a different future.

We know politics is a difficult business, that change is glacial and the best of intentions can quickly be swallowed up by cynicism and survivalism. Thrown into that system, candidates like Pierce and Trump would most likely be spit out older and harder than they came in.

But the optics now are interesting. We've never had a female president of the United States, yet Clinton is the insider. Oregon has only elected one female governor, and never a bisexual one, yet Brown is the insider. Meanwhile two white men — the ruling class in the U.S. since its foundation — represent those wanting to upset the system.

It's strange to see those dynamics at work, as outsider candidates look to turn political experience into a negative.

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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Everyone has right to opinion on public lands

County Commissioner George Murdock thinks U.S. Representative Blumenauer should mind his own business and not involve himself in American public land issues. Murdock thinks public lands belong only to him and his buddies. But they belong to us all.

Blumenauer wants to protect outstanding publicly-owned natural areas from continuing degradation, degradation that's been going on a long time. So do most Americans. He wants to protect animals from the detestable horror of being caught in body-gripping traps, a horror visited indiscriminately on animals whether they are targets or not. So do most Americans.

Public lands should reflect public values, and American public values today include conservation of our country's most beautiful and environmentally precious lands. And they include a rightful disgust for cruel, unwarranted and unjustifiable treatment of animals, which is what commercial and most "management" trapping is.

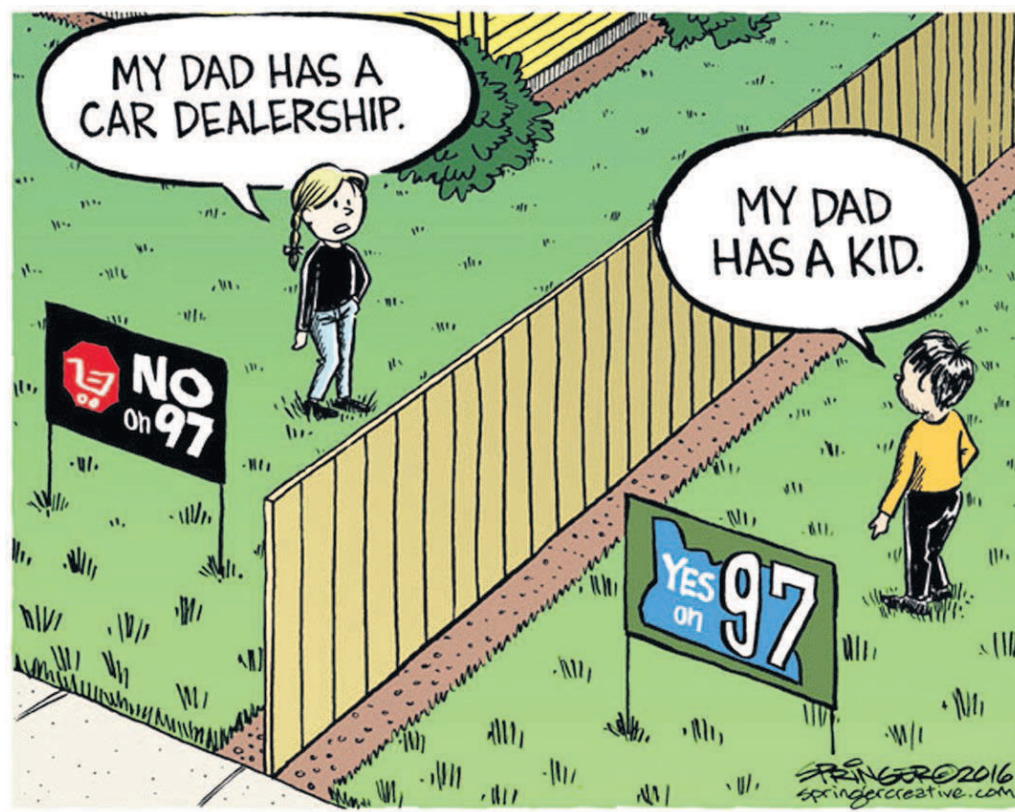
The Owyhee Canyonlands Monument proposal accords with American values,

and would not, as Murdock says, destroy Malheur County economically. National monuments are not wilderness areas or national parks. They are designed to protect certain stated qualities.

They can, have and do allow livestock grazing, OHV use, mining, logging, hunting, fishing and myriad other activities. The rules governing each national monument are different and unique to each monument. Once a monument is designated, a stakeholder group including local residents crafts the rules.

The use of body-gripping traps has been banned in most civilized countries and several states in the U.S. including California and Washington. Rep. Blumenauer's bill applies only to federal public land and would have exceptions allowing management trapping provided nonlethal measures failed. Recent science shows killing predators is often ineffective and can even lead to more livestock predation. The agency carrying out most of the management trapping, APHIS Wildlife Services, has been guilty of egregious cruelty to trapped animals, including dogs. Farmers and ranchers will still have the right to use traps on private land.

Murdock pretends all eastern Oregonians share his bias, but



OTHER VIEWS

The death of idealism

This presidential election is a contest between the oldest of the baby boomers. Yet Donald Trump, 70, and Hillary Clinton, 68, represent two very different decades in the formation of that generation. Donald Trump became famous as a classic 1980s type, while Hillary Clinton first attained public notice as a classic 1960s type.

It's interesting, and sad, to see how the promise of those two decades has aged.

Trump opened Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan in November 1983. Go-go capitalism had a lot of élan back then. Capitalism had washed away the stagnation of the 1970s. It was defeating the Soviet Union. During the Reagan years, writers celebrated capitalism not only as a wealth-generating engine but also as a moral system, a way to arouse hard work, creativity and trust.

Of course, Trump was always a scuzzy version of the capitalist type. Somehow I got on the guest list of a few of the '80s-era parties he hosted in the lobby of his skyscraper and would go for sociological entertainment.

They were filled with the sort of B-grade celebrities and corrupt city officials who were desperate for any mention on the front and sixth pages of *The New York Post*. A friend of mine came up to me at one of those parties and summarized the atmosphere: "Not indicted, not invited."

As we saw Monday night, Trump now represents capitalism degraded to pure selfishness. He treats other people like objects and lies with abandon. Proud to be paying no taxes while others foot the bill, proud to have profited off the housing bust that caused so much suffering, he lacks even the barest conception of civic life and his responsibilities to it.

His ethos is: Get what I can for myself, and everyone else can take care of themselves. As Alexi Sargeant pointed out in *First Things*, "Trump's policies, such as they are, usually come down to America breaking its promises." Trump would have America break its promises to its NATO allies, Japan, its creditors, its trading partners and its own Constitution.

Trump reminds us — even those of us who champion capitalism — how corrosive capitalism can be when unaccompanied by a counterbalancing ethos of moral restraint.

Rod Dreher of *The American Conservative* points out that when a leader consistently breaks promises, communal life is impossible. "If you cannot count on people to honor their vows, you never know what is real," Dreher writes. Trump is the low, dishonest detritus of a once bright decade.

Clinton gave her Wellesley commencement speech in the spring of 1969. It was filled with

that '60s style of lofty, inspiring and self-important idealism.

"The challenge now is to practice politics as the art of making what appears to be impossible possible," she said. "We're not interested in social reconstruction; it's human reconstruction," she continued. "We're searching for more immediate, ecstatic and penetrating modes of living."

She dreamed of a society in which trust would be restored. "Where you don't manipulate people. Where you're not interested in social engineering for people." The words were grandiose, but at least there was a spiritual ambition to them.

That poetic, aspirational quality is entirely absent from what has become the Clinton campaign. Clinton can be a devastatingly good counterpuncher, but she lacks the human touch when talking about the nation's problems, and fails to make an emotional connection.

When asked why she wants to be president or for any positive vision, she devolves into a list of programs. And it is never enough just to list three programs in an answer; she has to pile in an arid hodgepodge of eight or nine. This is pure interest-group liberalism — buying votes with federal money — not an inspiring image of the common good.

The twin revolutions of the 1960s and the 1980s liberated the individual — first socially and then economically — and weakened the community. More surprising, this boomer-versus-boomer campaign has decimated idealism.

There is no uplift in this race. There is an entire absence, in both campaigns, of any effort to appeal to the higher angels of our nature. There is an assumption, in both campaigns, that we are self-seeking creatures, rather than also loving, serving, hoping, dreaming, cooperating creatures. There is a presumption in both candidates that the lowest motivations are the most real.

Ironically, one of the tasks for those who succeed the baby boomers is to restore idealism. The great challenge of our moment is the crisis of isolation and fragmentation, the need to rebind the fabric of a society that has been torn by selfishness, cynicism, distrust and autonomy.

At some point there will have to be a new vocabulary and a restored anthropology, emphasizing love, friendship, faithfulness, solidarity and neighborliness that pushes people toward connection rather than distrust. Millennials, I think, want to be active in this rebinding. But inspiration certainly isn't coming from the aging boomers now onstage.

David Brooks became a *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist in 2003.



DAVID BROOKS
Comment

There is an entire absence, in both campaigns, of any effort to appeal to the higher angels of our nature.

YOUR VIEWS

demographics and attitudes have changed since the 1950s. The economy is adding other types of industry aside from ranching. Improved environmental conditions benefit us all. Elimination of brutal cruelties, claimed as benefits by a shrinking minority of the population, are now favored by American citizens, and are a moral gain.

Commissioner Murdock, a member of the conservative elite, should refrain from so sourly and mendaciously injecting his prejudices into a matter of national policy affecting all Americans.

Wally Sykes
Joseph

County should sell its stake in burgeoning EOTEC disaster

Since its inception, EOTEC has been a bad idea, and so far the plan and its execution have been a disaster.

It's time to separate the county and the city of Hermiston's interests in the project. Since the whole purpose of the project was to relocate the county fairgrounds, there has been very little progress on the new county fair facilities and rodeo grounds, yet the city of Hermiston has their new event center. So much for a 50-50 partnership.

It's a little late now for county commissioners to finally demand that the fairgrounds portion of the project be completed by next year's fair when the driving force in the county for the whole EOTEC project has been commissioners Larry Givens and Bill Elfering, with Commissioner Givens also being on the EOTEC board.

Though appointed to that board as a watchdog for the county's best interests, he has instead been a cheerleader for the project and should be held accountable for placing the entire county into a bad situation.

If the event center is the centerpiece of the fair, why is it not used for storage of county fair equipment rather than sticking the taxpayers for another \$30,000 for storage containers? The being a 50-50 partnership with the city of Hermiston, why is it that county is stuck with the bill?

It just looks like, in the end, the entire county is going to get stuck holding the bag for a project financed with a lot of county money for the city of Hermiston.

I say let them buy back our interest. After all, the Umatilla County Fair is only one week each year.

Rick Rohde
Pendleton