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OUR VIEW

A legacy of statesmanship

Hardy Myers was a gentleman. That is a too-rare quality in today's political climate, but it was more of the norm during Myers' long tenure as a legislator, speaker of the Oregon House and attorney general. Myers, who died Tuesday at 77, will be remembered as one of the last of his breed, as well as a statesman in his own right.



Hardy Myers

For generations, "The Oregon Way" — innovation and collaboration despite partisan differences — governed state politics.

Remnants of that time, when the common good often trumped party affiliation and political ego, still remain. For example, Oregon candidates rarely indicate their party affiliation on their lawn signs and in their fliers, whereas in neighboring Washington state, political party is featured prominently in campaign materials. And in contrast with other states, Oregon officials don't plaster their names all over "Welcome to Oregon" signs; they usually drive their own cars instead of being chauffeured; and they commonly are on a first-name basis with constituents, as was "Hardy."

In that spirit of commonality a decade ago, Democratic state Senate President Peter Courtney and Republican House Speaker Karen Minnis worked together to improve the antiquated conditions at the Oregon State Hospital, where "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" was filmed, and to lay the groundwork for new psychiatric hospitals in

Salem and Junction City. It's no surprise that Courtney reacted to word of Myers' death by saying that the news broke his heart: "He taught me everything. ... He taught me to respect other people and other viewpoints. ... He was a genuinely nice human being."

Myers was raised in central Oregon, and following his conscience was more important than his ideology as a Democrat. As a state representative, he succeeded — for a short time — in blocking reinstatement of the Oregon death penalty. His conscience stood up to intense political pressure inside and outside the Capitol.

Republican U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith would later take a similar stand of conscience at the federal level, refusing to support physician-assisted suicide even though Oregon voters twice approved the process. Myers was on the other side, fighting to uphold the Oregon law.

In the days since Myers' death, he has been lauded for his national work on school safety after the Thurston High School shooting in 1998, his legal fight against tobacco companies and his tenacity in strengthening Oregon laws against domestic and sexual violence.

But above all, Hardy Myers should be remembered as a true Oregonian.
A man who kept his word.
A statesman.
A gentleman.

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.

OTHER VIEWS

Monuments and presidents

The Oregonian, Dec. 3

Two separate fights to protect two extraordinary patches of Oregon have in recent months escalated as President Barack Obama's term comes to a close. That's because he could, by the authority Congress granted to him in a far less populous time, singularly issue sweeping protections to the Owyhee Canyonlands in southeastern Oregon and the Cascade-Siskiyou Mountains in southwestern Oregon and northern California.

Roughly half of Oregon is owned by the federal government.

The drive to limit development and resource use in both areas makes sense but for different reasons. Oregonians will never get back the lightless skies at night or the lonely beauty of ancient, eroded terrain cut through by wild rivers in the Owyhee if given over to mining or highway-building. Separately, Oregonians risk losing some of the site-specific, mind-bending biodiversity that makes the forested Cascade-Siskiyou realm a delicate universe requiring limits on use.

But Obama should say no to designating national monument status to the 2.5-million acre Owyhee Canyonlands. And he should say yes to doubling the already successful Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Selective wilderness designations, river protections and broad prohibitions on mining would be strategic, consequential steps Congress could take to protect the Owyhee Canyonlands, the largest undeveloped expanse of land in the lower 48 states. Significantly, doing so would ensure that an economically vital and long-established ranching culture goes unthreatened by monument designation.

By contrast, in the more populated realm anchored by Ashland and Medford, the fish-bearing waterways and exotic flora that make the Siskiyou distinct face potential threat from fragmented lands and warmer temperatures from climate change. Immediate monument expansion would connect fragmented lands within and outside the monument,

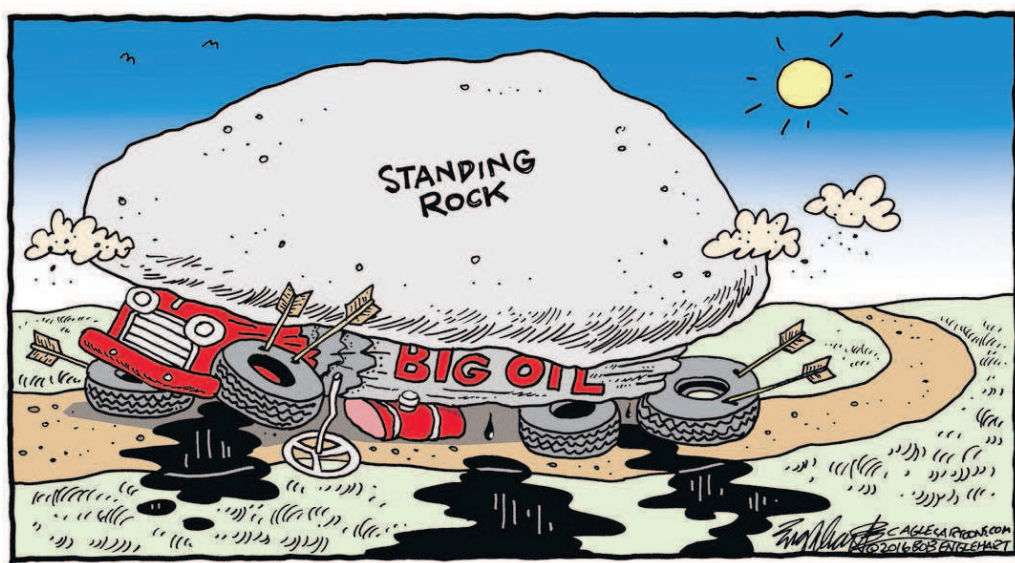
offering lifelines to potentially marooned species, and help preserve what the 2000 presidential decree called an "ecological wonder ... of rare and beautiful species of plants and animals, whose continued survival ... depends upon its continued ecological integrity."

Few dispute that President-elect Donald Trump might bring to the nation a different ethic about development and land use, and it remains true that roughly half of Oregon is owned by the federal government and run by agencies such as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest

Service. While most folks in rural Harney County and surrounding areas objected to the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, simmering resentments across the American West about public lands management came to the fore. So Oregon must have a voice in deciding what's right for the extraordinary landscape that Oregonians call home. That means the Owyhee and the Siskiyou warrant bolstered protections only by actions that honor on-the-ground sentiment, essential to declaring shared destiny and preserving democracy.

Years ago Idaho withstood fears that its Owyhee lands would win monument designation and dodged it by creating 518,000 acres of protected wilderness. It has worked well, among other things limiting mechanized uses of sensitive lands.

But Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley in June proposed legislation that would shield more than 2 million acres of the Owyhee Canyonlands from mineral exploitation, including oil and gas drilling. It was a clear call to leave the ground the way it is and do so in such a way that supports farmers and ranchers who work in an environmentally sustainable fashion. They should press Congress to approve the legislation while citing a report released just last month from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries showing plenty of untapped riches beneath the surface in southeastern Oregon.



OTHER VIEWS

Trump's agents of idiocracy

Last week when Donald Trump began his so-called Thank You Tour in Cincinnati, he had yet another opportunity to be magnanimous and conciliatory, to step beyond the division and acrimony of his campaign and into the unity and healing necessary to be president of a strained nation.

As is his wont, he declined, instead gloating and boasting, playing to the minority of U.S. voters who chose him, relishing his own impotence.

He is choosing to push the United States further apart rather than bring it closer together.

And be clear: It is not the job of the defiant to conform to a future president who makes them completely uncomfortable. The burden of unity lies with Trump, not his detractors.

"Just wait and see." "Give him a chance." But what if what you've already seen is so beyond the pale that it's irrevocable? What if Trump has already squandered more chances than most of us will ever have?

What if Trump has shown himself beyond doubt and with absolute certainty to be a demagogue and bigot and xenophobe and given space and voice to concordant voices in the country and in his emerging Legion of Doom Cabinet? In that reality, resistance isn't about mindless obstruction by people blinded by the pain of ideological defeat or people gorging on sour grapes. To the contrary, resistance is an act of radical, even revolutionary, patriotism. Resistance isn't about damaging the country, but protecting it.

There is no Electoral College clause that blunts ferocious opposition to the demeaning of women and racial, ethnic and religious minorities in this country; there is no Election Day reset on the coddling of white supremacy.

Furthermore, the emergence of Trump as a political figure has threatened to kill many of the ideals that we hold dear: decency and decorum, inclusion and empathy, truth and facts.

Trump and his agents of idiocracy are now engaged in an all-out crusade to exaggerate the scope of his victory, rewrite racial history, justify their vendettas and hostilities and erase the very distinction between true and false.

At a fiery exchange during a panel at Harvard, Hillary Clinton's communications director, Jennifer Palmieri, rightly accused the Trump campaign of emboldening "white supremacists and white nationalists."

The Trump campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, barked back: "Do you think I ran a campaign where white supremacists had a platform? You're going to look me in the face and tell me that?"

"It did. Kellyanne, it did," said Palmieri. Yes Kellyanne, that is exactly what you did and no amount of personal outrage about being called out on it is going to rewrite that history. Furthermore, everyone who sees you should say that to your face at every



CHARLES BLOW
Comment

opportunity. Resistance is not about some sort of clairvoyant condemnation of acts yet uncommitted, but rather about the resilience of memory, the rigidity of morality and the depth of wounds.

The truest measure of a leader is as much about how he or she attains power as how he or she wields it; while the latter is yet to be determined, the former has been revealed in devastating clarity.

A Pew Research Poll released last month found that "voters 'grades' for the way Trump conducted himself during the campaign are the lowest for any victorious candidate in 28 years." The report continued: "For the first time in Pew Research Center postelection surveys, voters give the losing candidate higher grades than the winner."

Furthermore, Nate Silver responded to one of Conway's tweets: "Trump will soon become the first president who failed to win a majority of the vote either in the general election or in his primary," meaning the Republican primaries. He added, "That is to say, since 1972. Primaries weren't widespread before that. 45/46% of the vote can go a long way under the right circumstances."

And there are disturbing signs about how a Trump administration will conduct itself, from the early diplomatic blunders that signal a worrisome break in the continuity of protocol, to his team nursing vendettas and continuing to dangle the threat of jail in front of his opponents. Last week Conway appeared to waffle on whether Trump or a federal agency during his term might still pursue prosecution of Clinton; Trump lackey Corey Lewandowski forthrightly said of the executive editor of *The New York Times*: "He should be in jail."

And to add insult to injury, Trump surrogate Scottie Nell Hughes uttered this jaw-dropping line last week on *The Diane Rehm Show*:

"One thing that has been interesting this entire campaign season to watch is that people that say facts are facts; they're not really facts. Everybody has a way, it's kind of like looking at ratings or looking at a glass of half-full water. Everybody has a way of interpreting them to be the truth or not true." She continued: "There's no such thing, unfortunately, anymore of facts." Folks, Dimwit-ism is a disease easily spread and denigrators of the absolutism of truth are its vectors.

This is why resistance isn't only principled, but essential and even existential.

We are not in an ordinary postelection period of national unity and rapprochement. We are facing the potential abrogation of fundamental U.S. ideals. We stand at the precipice, staring into an abyss that grows darker by the day.

Charles M. Blow is *The New York Times*'s visual Op-Ed columnist.

YOUR VIEWS

No more half-baked plans

It's decision time at Pendleton City Hall. Had an ADA-compliant sidewalk been included in the rebuild of the 15th to 13th Street project, the waste of time and money discussing the 13th Street stairway would never have occurred. Now, rather than admitting a mistake and proposing a permanent solution, the public works director is suggesting a temporary fix, a gravel path that is not ADA-compliant, without lights or hand rail, and may be paved at a later date. Wouldn't it be nice to get a project done right the first time rather than a half-baked plan that is not a permanent solution?

An issue like this is what's important to taxpayers, rather than how many trees are needed in the Crabby's parking lot to replace dead or dying crabapple trees — trees that seem so important to one council member, yet whose maintenance has been ignored by the city. Take a look next time you pass that lot. Unfortunately this is all too common on city trees throughout city property.

Will the city council make the right decision or kick the can down the road for a future generation to deal with? Tune into the next city council meeting and see if the right choice is made.

Rick Rohde
Pendleton

The tale of two cities

The front page of a recent *East Oregonian* repeated the narrative of where two cities are going. One article described a new business coming to Hermiston (Ranch & Home), purchasing land, building a new facility, increasing the city's tax base and employing people. The other article was another meandering diatribe regarding Pendleton's UAS range up by the Road to Nowhere, and its

new, highly experienced range manager. After all the glowing suppositions about the future, the proverbial bottom line comes when our range manager states his "GOAL" is to make the range "self-sustaining, and he believes it's well on its way." It's well on its way to being self-sustaining, even with a skeleton crew?

"Self-sustaining" means you generate just enough income to cover your expenses. How about generating enough income to provide for a couple dozen family-wage jobs at the UAS range, plus turning a profit for the city? If that's not possible, I'd suggest our part-time economic development director broaden his search for economic growth for our city.

Also this week the *EO* reported Hermiston is considering a bond election to build more school facilities. It stated they are bursting at their seams. And for the last several years the number of students in Pendleton's schools has been declining. That is another sign of the health of your community. Do you have more families moving to your community, or moving away from your community?

Bill Bridges
Pendleton

LETTERS POLICY

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