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OUR VIEW



AP Photo/Steve Helber

This August 8 photo shows members of the KKK escorted by police past a large group of protesters during a KKK rally in Charlottesville, Va.

Nazi or America — pick a side

It was hard to dispassionately watch and read the news last weekend, as groups of neo-Nazis and counter-protesters clashed on the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia. One woman was murdered. Two police officers died in a terrible accident.

That much anger, hate and violence is hard to stomach, and it surely left Americans across the country seething on their couches as Nazi and Confederate sympathizers marched angrily through our public space.

There were dozens of major issues at play in Charlottesville, and we could write a tome on each and every one.

But we would like to expand on just one small fact that can hopefully find universal agreement: You can either be an American, or you can be a Nazi — you can't be both. You cannot call for the overthrow of America's core principles and still call yourself a patriot.

Photos of protesters waving American, Confederate and Nazi flags are incongruent. Those governments — their principles and their history — are opposites, enemies. They opposed each other, they warred against each other.

Take just the historical facts: The Confederacy waged war against the United States, the bloodiest and deadliest war this country has ever fought. To wave those flags together, and to support and glorify

Confederate generals and members of the Confederate government, is anti-American.

And to all those who think removing those flags from public spaces and tearing down such statues is “erasing history” — don't be so

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obtuse. Germany would not be stupid enough to allow monuments and statues to Nazis to remain standing — they were long ago unceremoniously destroyed. Yet as we can see, knowledge of Nazis and their history has not been erased — it has been so well studied and

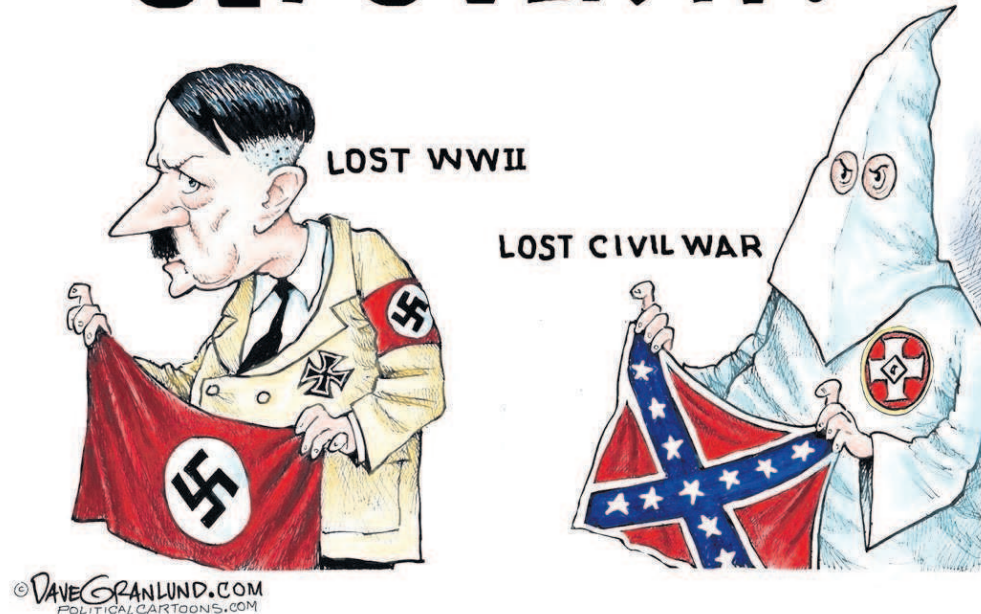
documented that most citizens are crystal clear on what the swastika stands for. And what it stands for is undergoing a resurgence here in America.

There is no reason a patriotic American would tolerate or promote Nazi ideals. It's the flag of a government that declared war on the United States, that killed hundreds of thousands of our brave soldiers and millions of their own people. A government that turned the world to war, too.

We have freedom of speech in this country — even for Nazis. It's one of the perversions that remind us of our principles. But the allowance should never be confused with acceptance. The Anti-American ideas and speech that was on display in Charlottesville should be challenged everywhere they raise their ugly head.

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.

GET OVER IT!



OTHER VIEWS

March to support Bundys planned Wednesday in Pendleton

By HOLLY JO BEERS

As Americans, we must stand together and stop the tide of corruption occurring in our courtrooms. The Constitution, the supreme law of the land, is no longer allowed in Judge Gloria Navarro's U.S. District Court in Las Vegas, Nevada. But the problem is no longer just about the Bundys. It is about you and me. There are four men on trial there, charged with several crimes stemming from the protest in Nevada which occurred in April 2014.

Judge Navarro is denying these men any of their constitutional rights. The judge and the prosecutors demanded that the defense witnesses present their testimonies out of the hearing of the jury to see if they had anything relative to say in front of the jury. Some of those people were at the Bunkerville protest and could have provided context to alleged allegations. There were more than 100 witnesses to be called to testify for the defense. She successfully stopped all of them from testifying on the defendants' behalf. Two of the four defendants decided to testify on their own behalf.

As the first one attempted to testify under the strict guidelines imposed upon the defense, the Judge ripped him off the witness stand, will not allow him to testify anymore and struck his entire testimony from the record in front of the jury. The judge ordered that the men be shackled in court, contrary to a higher court's ruling that it would suggest that the defendants were guilty. Judge Navarro prohibited the mention of the First or Second Amendments or any Constitutional rights as it “might result in jury nullification.”

Defendants could not mention the “First Amendment area” set up for protesters far from the site of the conflict. Those attending court were not allowed to carry pocket Constitutions in shirt pockets into the courtroom. The defense was not allowed to show Bureau of Land Management actions and conduct leading up to the confrontation. The prosecution introduced heavily redacted statements, changing the meaning and context,

allegedly tying a defendant to Timothy McVeigh.

The body cameras worn by the BLM showing exactly what happened were prohibited from being introduced as evidence. The judge restricted the defense to events occurring on only one day, while the prosecution took great liberty presenting evidence covering two years. The prosecution requested that they and the judge review the defense attorneys' closing arguments prior to their presentation to the jury. Judge Navarro is allowing the jury to ask questions

of all witnesses by writing her notes in open court. Some questions she herself answers, others she says are not relevant. Today the defense attorneys asked for the day off so they could retain attorneys of their own due to a motion for sanctions filed against them by the prosecutors for violating the judge's gag order on the defense. It was denied. The gag rule on the defense has severely limited them from, presenting any

defense whatsoever.

Defendants may not state why they traveled to Nevada or what their state of mind was. Defendants have been told by the judge in open court that if they talk to a law enforcement officer of any kind while in possession of a weapon they could be charged with “assault upon an officer.” Nevada open carry laws are not recognized.

When a precedence is set in a court of law, it becomes as law. Judges rely heavily on what has occurred in previous cases. That means if precedence is set here and these men are found guilty, you and I can look forward to more of the same in courts across the nation. It is a now a concern of every American citizen. I am calling on all of you to attend a rally/march in support of American's Constitutional Rights on Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Museum Park behind the Chamber of Commerce in Pendleton.

Holly Jo Beers, of Athena, is a member of the Oregon Three Percenters, an American “patriot movement” that pledges resistance against the United States government regarding infringement of the Constitution.

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.

YOUR VIEWS

EO Group looks foolish, silly after first EOTEC fair

With this year's Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo, EOTEC hit a home run with its amazing new \$16 million fair and rodeo grounds built with no bonded debt. What does the *East Oregonian* do? Writes an editorial with no praise for EOTEC, the city of Hermiston or Umatilla County, but with dire warnings about the future, including crying that now the facilities will now start to deteriorate — so look out! Trouble ahead! Get real, *EO*. It's all state-of-the-art steel and aluminum. Brand new. As to the future, EOTEC is just getting started and will succeed just like this year's fair and rodeo.

Throughout the 10-year push to build EOTEC, the *EO* hasn't written one positive editorial about this visionary project to replace a decrepit and dangerous facility. Everything was negative. Their billboards of criticism were long, but some especially laughable. The “EO” Media Group oddly did not like using the acronym “EOTEC.” When more money was needed to complete the project, *EO* editor Daniel Wattenburger went to the first fundraiser, and then wrote a long and incredibly negative editorial. Called it “begging for charity.” Hilariously, in spite of Mr. Wattenburger's opinion, \$2.5 million was raised in six months. Last week, the *EO* ran a long and snarky “Other Views” of a private citizen saying how she did not like the new facility. The events

hadn't even started.

I can only guess that the EO Group would have liked to keep the fair in the middle of Hermiston on a 23-acre parcel with no parking, with decrepit and dangerous facilities, which the county commissioners found would cost \$8 million to simply bring up to building, electrical and plumbing code — with no new facilities. Eight million dollars the county did not have.

The *EO* has tried to kill this project from the beginning. It has failed. As I said in one of my many letters to the *EO* editor defending EOTEC, “In August 2017 the *EO* will look very foolish.” With the amazing facilities and great 2017 fair and rodeo, the *EO* was foolish. And now, just while the 2017 fair and rodeo are a rousing success, it whimpers about this stout steel and aluminum giant deteriorating and its future being dim. The EO Group not only looks foolish, but silly.

George Anderson
Hermiston

Trying to make sense of Russian investigation

For the past year or so many questions have arisen regarding our national politics and government that have me overwhelmed. There may be many more U.S. citizens that feel like I do. Most of the questions have gone unanswered. I'm asking some of those questions again.

Why is our government seeking

information from Russia regarding whether it interfered with the U.S. presidential elections? The one person that has the answer is an American citizen and now the president. He knows what happened. He is the one that should be answering the questions. If nothing untoward was done he would certainly be the one with the information.

Next question: Why did he need to seek input from an adversary of the U.S.A. and all the free world regarding how to win an election? Recently it was reported he gave that reason for his meeting with Putin. Putin is not known for allowing his Russian citizens much freedom and their elections have been in question. Therefore, why would an American citizen seeking the office of president think it appropriate to gather information from the source if the candidate desired democratic, honest, appropriate advice? I want the leaders of my country to stick to our ideology, our standards, our democratic values.

Also, surely our government and the investigating committee aren't expecting Putin to give any pertinent information to shed light on whether there was involvement with our presidential elections. The investigation needs to be pursued until there is an answer. Until our nation has a credible answer one way or the other I don't see how we can proceed.

If no fraud was done we have a president. If fraud did occur, do we still have that person as our president? The president

reportedly recently stated that we will never probably know.

Now how is that possible? Those involved do know if it did or did not occur. They can provide the information to clear up the matter. Why do they choose to withhold that information? If there was no wrongdoing I'd expect then to go out of their way to prove innocence.

In my 80-plus years I've never been so troubled by our presidential elections. I truly hope my fears are unfounded as I have complete respect for my country, my government and the presidential office. I do not want to have my country abused or disrespected by anyone. That applies to the citizens, the private sector, or those elected to serve and preserve our democratic nation.

Darlene Abney
Pendleton

Be heard!

Tell us if you're excited about Monday's total solar eclipse, or you think all the hubbub is overblown. Email your thoughts to editor@eastoregonian.com and we'll run some of them in the Saturday edition.