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**OUR VIEW**

# Closing the book on open secrets

It's hard to think of a more embarrassing oxymoron than the "open secrets" being exposed with seemingly increased regularity in our country, from Hollywood to the Fox News studios to Silicon Valley to Washington, D.C.

It's shameful that it often takes victims, by definition in a powerless position, to step forward and say what many of these powerful men's associates and colleagues already know. It's also shameful how quickly and easily some dismiss the claims of sexual harassment and abuse, especially when credible witnesses know for certain what has happened and continues to happen.

Sexual harassment is a relatively new concept for us — the term wasn't coined until 1975 and protections for its victims have faced an uphill climb ever since. But that gives no excuse for us to remain unaware of its pervasiveness, or look the other way as it goes on.

In the wake of the most recent complaints against film producer Harvey Weinstein, celebrity women began sharing their stories. The movement took off, and this week women of all backgrounds joined in, sharing "Me too" on social media to shine a light on the breadth of the problem. It's a courageous act to admit being a victim, and understanding that it's not just a

Hollywood problem, or a D.C. problem, or a "somewhere else" problem is key.

Also key is making sure we're not perpetuating the problem by accepting sexual harassment at any level. It certainly begins at home, but it must be addressed in schools, too, where we form the model for how we behave as adults. Imagine the repercussions of dismissing

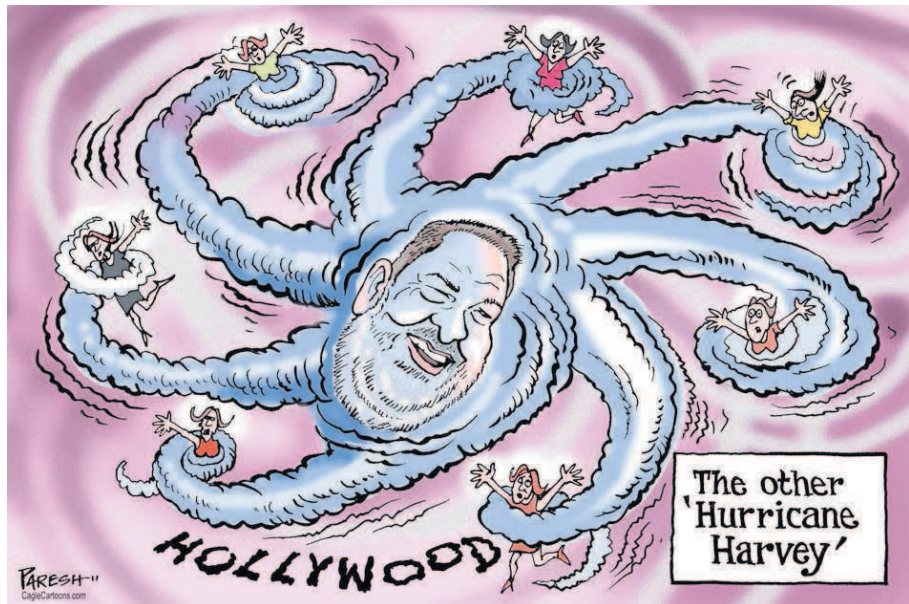
**It's shameful that it often takes victims, by definition in a powerless position, to step forward and say what many of these powerful men's associates and colleagues already know.**

the allegations of a victim who first comes to a trusted adult with a problem. Would she have the courage to do so again? And the same goes for a harasser who is allowed to get away with the conduct. What are the chances he knocks off that behavior after being given a free pass the first time?

If you're still unsure what to do or if there's even a problem, we

suggest you ask a simple question to a woman in your life who you care about. "Have you ever been sexually harassed or assaulted?" This question is especially important for men to ask and consider. It's easy to dismiss a problem you've never dealt with, but you may be surprised how close to home it actually hits.

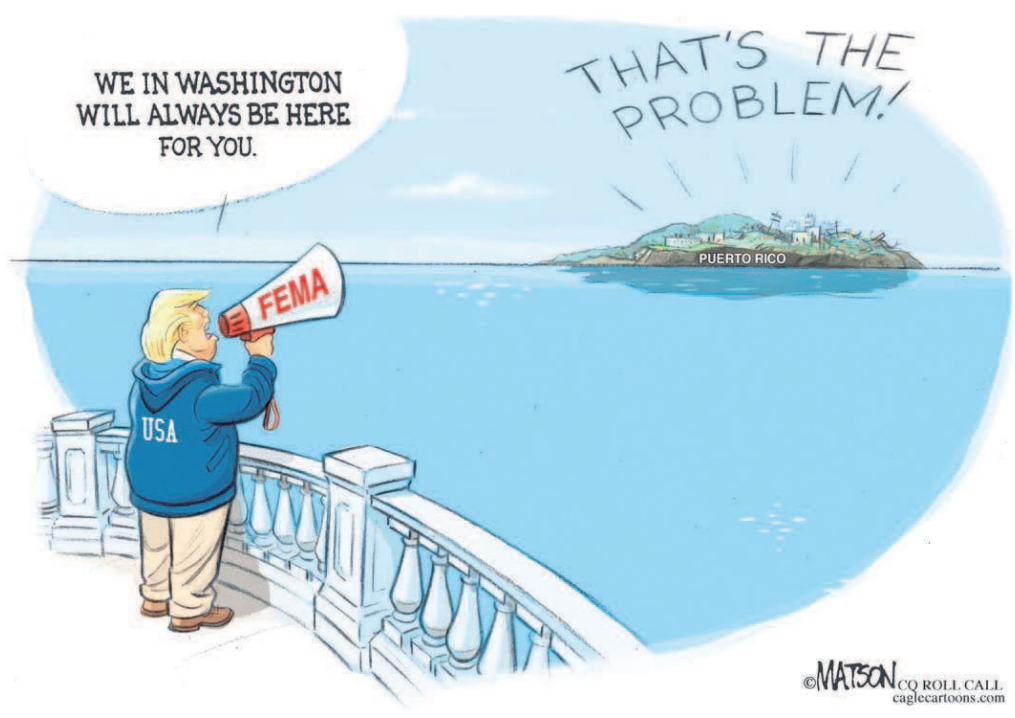
The problem will always be with us, but keeping it covered in winks and nods and knowing glances is not acceptable. We must look it straight on, call it what it is and make it clear it's not welcome in our society.



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.

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**OTHER VIEWS**

# What's behind Trump's new executive actions?

President Trump's most recent high-profile executive actions — on Obamacare, immigration and the Iran nuclear deal — do three big things.

First, they push Congress to act, which involves more than just calling the bluff of Republican leaders who talked big during the Obama years but failed to produce once the GOP controlled both Congress and White House. In a larger sense, Trump's actions point toward restoring a proper balance of power in which Congress makes law on issues that are clearly its constitutional responsibility. The president is using executive authority to pressure lawmakers to exercise appropriate legislative authority.

Second, Trump has reinforced what many of his supporters find most appealing about him — that he can act as a leader not clearly aligned with either party.

And third, Trump's actions galvanize support among some of Washington's most conservative lawmakers and thinkers, even some who have been highly critical of him in the past.

On the first point, Trump is pressing Congress to act in areas in which Republicans accused Barack Obama of executive overreach.

On Obamacare, Trump cut off the flow of cost-sharing reduction, or CSR, payments to insurance companies. The expenditures were never appropriated by Congress; the Obama administration carried them out to keep Obamacare afloat, regardless of the law. Now Trump has set the stage for a constitutional fix. On DACA, Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, Trump has challenged Congress to come up with a legitimate fix to an Obama executive action that all Republicans saw as overreach. And on the Iran deal, Trump's action opens the door for action in Congress, where Republicans said the issue always belonged, after Obama bypassed lawmakers.

"Each action undoes what Obama ought not have done without Congress (CSRs, DACA and Iran)," said a conservative lawmaker in a text exchange recently. "Restore constitutional government!"

On the second point, Trump's actions highlight the fact that a lot of his supporters still see him not as an insider but as an outside force pushing an entrenched, sclerotic Republican Party to act.

That was candidate Trump's pitch to voters, going way back. "Trump is about the closest thing to a third-party candidate without having to leave the party," Chuck Laudner, who ran Trump's Iowa campaign, told me in May 2015, when crowds were starting to take Trump seriously.

Not much has changed since then. "To a huge chunk of the electorate, Trump is not a Republican," a veteran GOP operative told me recently, after attending focus groups in several states key to next year's midterms.



**BYRON YORK**  
Comment

**Some conservative writers who have long criticized Obama's unilateral actions were happy to see Trump begin to undo them.**

That's also consistent with what Stanley Greenberg, the Democratic pollster, found over the summer in a Macomb County, Michigan, focus group. "What many Macomb voters value about Trump is that he represents an unaligned force in American politics," wrote The Atlantic's Franklin Foer of Greenberg's findings.

It's a scenario in which the GOP leaders of Congress are the villains. When Greenberg showed those Michigan voters photos of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, they became visibly angry. That's also what the veteran Republican operative found. "Trump's supporters think it's amazing he's getting so much accomplished, seeing how Ryan and McConnell are trying to screw him every day," the operative told me.

Finally, on the third point, Trump is getting high marks from some conservative Republicans and thinkers. When I asked one deeply conservative lawmaker, who in turn polled what other members had told him, he said they are glad to see the president putting Republicans to the test: Will they just talk like conservatives, or will they actually legislate like conservatives?

Some conservative writers who have long criticized Obama's unilateral actions were happy to see Trump begin to undo them. On Obamacare, National Review — which published an "Against Trump" issue in the primaries and has had a bumpy relationship with the president since — reacted with an editorial headlined "Trump's Sensible Health-Care Actions."

On DACA, a lot of conservatives slammed Trump when there were reports he had reached a "deal" with Democrats Charles Schumer and Nancy Pelosi. But now that Trump has attached a wish-list of tough border and interior enforcement priorities to any DACA legalization, many see it as a chance for Congress to take actual action on immigration. (And even if Republicans cave and pass a simple legalization, doing it through Congress would still be a constitutional solution, unlike Obama's original action.)

On the nuclear deal, the Weekly Standard, which has at times been a center of NeverTrumpism, published a reaction with the headline "He's right about Iran." "We believe (Trump's) instincts are sound," the magazine's editors wrote.

Trump's actions might not work. After all, he is pressuring Congress to act, but that doesn't mean Congress will act, especially when the president is feuding with some key members. But Trump's moves are a step in the direction of fixing some of the worst excesses of the Obama administration — if Republicans will take the opportunity.

*Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.*

**YOUR VIEWS**

### Walden cares about Eastern Oregon issues

My wife and I have had the privilege of knowing Greg Walden since we moved to Oregon in 1989. Greg was representing Oregonians in the Oregon House of Representatives when I first met him and was later elected to the Oregon Senate. In 1999 Greg was elected to represent Oregonians in the 2nd Congressional District, a position he continues to fulfill with integrity and vision.

Congressman Walden has always taken the time to learn about and work with us on issues important to our region. Vital economic issues such as growing our job base, prudent use of our natural resources and diversified energy sources are all part of his forward thinking agenda.

Congressman Walden understands the importance and use of all types of domestic energy. I have found that Congressman Walden recognizes the connections between capitalizing on America's energy abundances in hydropower, natural gas, wind and coal, with improving our energy infrastructure and job creation. Clean,

efficient hydropower generates 42 percent of Oregon's electricity generation needs.

As chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, he plays a key role in shaping America's energy and commerce policies, including hydropower, Oregon's largest single producer of low cost power. I appreciate the importance his role plays in shaping the future of Oregon in critical areas such as energy as well as many more.

Our region, as do others, shares a passion for education and technology, subjects that Greg supports in numerous ways as we push forward to expand our educated workforce.

The staff who expertly assist Congressman Walden in the field and Washington, D.C., are predominantly Oregonians. They do an outstanding job listening and helping us with concerns and issues along with providing Greg the support he needs to effectively represent the citizens of the 2nd Congressional District.

Please join us in supporting and voting for Greg Walden to continue to represent us in Congress.

Gary and Kathy Neal  
Boardman

### Another dangerous voice given power

Angela Merkel won a fourth term as Germany's chancellor in the national elections in September, although she lost one million votes to the AfD, which now will have a national platform on the floor of the Bundestag where they can present their noxious views.

The AfD campaigned against immigration, in particular opposition to Muslim immigrants, citing racial mixing would create a mongrel people. The AfD contend the German remembrance of the Holocaust has become a cult of guilt, and homosexuality as immoral.

The German media has contrasted

Germany's political scene to that of America's, stating contempt, crude, ignorant and vindictive language will become ordinary with the rise of the far right. With the AfD in government, most feel its representation is a huge backward step for Germany.

Chancellor Merkel is a practical leader, unlike our impulsive Tweeter, and will find most European countries behind her — Denmark, France, the Netherlands, and countries in support of the Paris Climate Accord. It's an alliance of pragmatism and the United States is going to need them if we go to war against another ignorant, selfish, arrogant and unrealistic numskull.

Dr. Dorys C. Grover  
Pendleton

**LETTERS POLICY**

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