

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

## Solve persistent Northwest elk problems

Ask ranchers or farmers across much of the Northwest what they think of elk.

"They're robbing feed that is intended for livestock," said Veril Nelson, who ranches near Sutherlin. He estimates 50 to 60 elk dine on his pasture each night. A mature elk eats as much as a 600- to 700-pound steer, he said.

The elk problem has migrated to coastal towns such as Warrenton and Gearhart, where the mushrooming population of elk has menaced citizens, torn up a golf course and caused traffic accidents. This will become more of an issue as human population pressures expand into traditional elk range.

The problem isn't confined to Oregon.

Near Salmon, Idaho, farmer Lowell Cerise told the newspaper last fall that elk were eating his hay crop. Near Challis, Idaho, elk have been raiding rancher Steve Bachman's haystacks.

And in Skagit County, Wash., farmer Randy Good estimated in a letter to the editor that local farmers lose \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year from elk damaging their feed crops.

It appears to us that state wildlife managers across the Northwest have a problem: the nearly 300,000 elk that live in the region. It's an incredible success story for a species that was hunted down to a few small, coastal herds by the early 1900s.

It's the states' job to manage wildlife, but for some reason some wildlife agencies appear to be shy about doing that when it comes to these prized game animals. Feeding sites have been set up in some spots here in northeastern Oregon, but overall there are just too many elk. They overrun ranches, farms, towns and anywhere else they find food.

The irony is that many hunters see elk as a highly prized game animal. It would

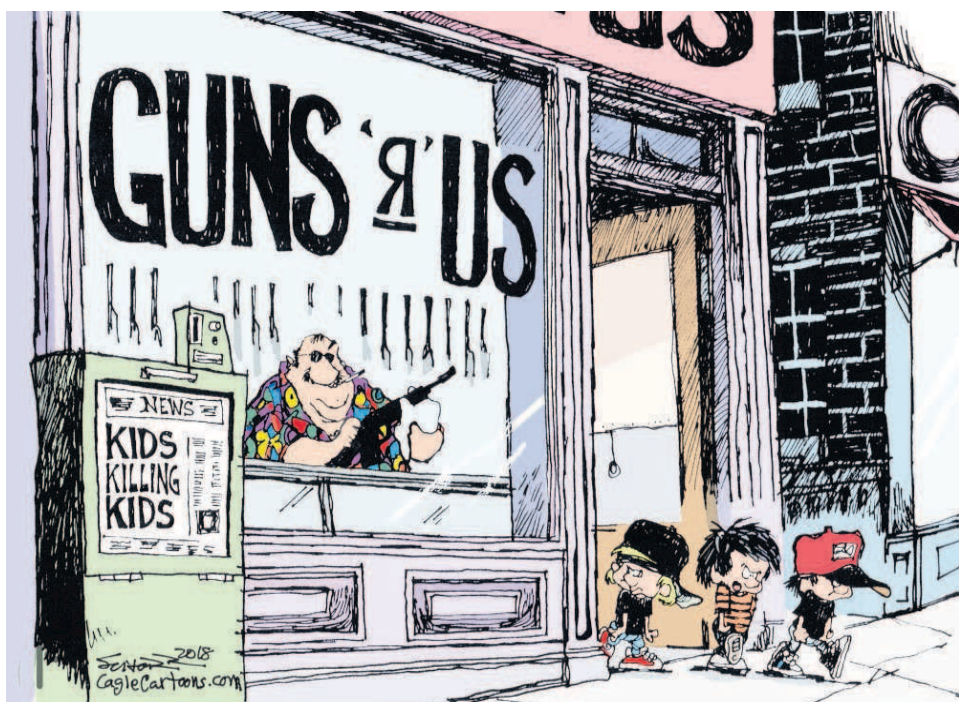


Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Ten state-managed feeding sites along the Elkhorn Range in northeastern Oregon are intended to keep elk and deer from venturing onto private land where they can damage fields, fences and haystacks. Many ranchers across the Northwest report losing tens of thousands of dollars to elk damage.

seem that extending the season on elk in many places would take care of the problem. Another solution would be to trap and kill some of the elk and donate the meat to food banks.

But we're not wildlife experts. Instead, we'll look forward to wildlife managers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho coming up with an effective solution to the elk problem, and soon.



"A SIX DAY WAITING PERIOD... NO FAIR... I CAN'T EVEN COUNT THAT HIGH..."

## OTHER VIEWS

## Public pressure as good (or better) at bringing about change

By St. Cloud (Minn.) Times

There was a time in the not-so-distant past when the outrage of the day was whether the star of a redneck reality TV show should lose his gig over expressing an opinion that homosexuality (and heterosexual promiscuity, and lying to boot) are sinful.

He didn't lose his job, although the comment sparked a national shouting match. He was suspended from "Duck Dynasty" for a time and a national restaurant chain stopped selling associated products. Still, the show lasted until March 2017.

At the time, the debate went like this: "He is entitled to his opinion. Plus, the First Amendment."

Conversely: "The First Amendment is about government interference with speech; it has no power over the public's right to denunciation. Plus: He's entitled to his opinion, but not to be free of consequences."

Ah, 2013 was a simpler time.

The "Duck Dynasty" dust-up was a relatively minor one compared to other times when public — not political — pressure was put on a business or organization to change.

It happened in the 1990s when the Boy Scouts of America struggled with its history of disallowing gay members and leaders and suffered the loss of donations and some supporters.

It has happened when countless TV shows ran afoul of audience interest groups and suffered advertiser boycotts.

It happens when small investors seek out mutual funds that don't run afoul of their personal ethics.

Every time it happens, some folks on the side of the embattled business or organization cry foul. You can't do that, they say. Or, you shouldn't do that. Even, it's un-American.

As the nation takes sides (again) over our national gun policies and politics (again) and interest groups put pressure

(again) on gun retailers, the National Rifle Association and businesses associated with it, here we are. (Again.)

Airlines, including Delta and United, have cut ties to the NRA. Car rental companies — including Enterprise, Hertz, Alamo, Avis, Budget and National — said they'll stop offering discounts to NRA members.

MetLife, Symantec, First National Bank of Omaha (the bank behind NRA-branded credit cards), SimpliSafe, Paramount RX and Starkey (the hearing aid company) have all announced they'll be ending discount and benefit programs for NRA members.

We name them here for a reason, but we'll get to that in a minute. First, this editorial board wants to go on the record:

This kind of social and economic pressure is exactly what people with strong beliefs should do. It's the most American thing we can do, short of voting.

In a nation that has built its economic consciousness on free market mythology and tells itself that we — Americans — stand up for what we believe it, this is exactly how it's supposed to work. When we codify money as speech in the context of campaign donations, we cannot be surprised when economic pressure comes to bear on political and social questions.

This is just another way — and an extremely powerful one — for people to be heard.

Back to companies that have pulled away from the NRA so far. Why do we name them? So consumers who disagree with those decisions have a chance to let their money do some debating, too.

When the people are savvy enough to use all peaceful means of protest at their disposal — including economic — to make societal change, we avoid the messy conspiracy theories and campaign-donation fueled doubt that can come from purely legislative solutions.

## OTHER VIEWS

## Hooray for Harvey-less Hollywood!

HOLLYWOOD — I ran into Harvey Weinstein at the Vanity Fair Oscar party last year. He should have been in his element, dominating and manipulating the Oscars, using the statuettes as a golden lure for young actresses, swanning around as a rare avatar of good taste and champion of roles for older women in an industry consumed with comic books and teenage boys.

But he was acting disjointed, talking smack to people from *The New York Times*.

Maybe with his sixth sense for great stories, he somehow knew he was about to become one of the most scorching stories in Hollywood history, with an ending echoing that all-time classic of female empowerment and great shoes, "The Wizard of Oz." As with the Wicked Witch of the West, all Weinstein's power and malevolence would go up in smoke when an ill-used woman (or in his case, 84) finally fought back.

The melting of Harveywood, the fervid hunt for other predators and the pulling back of the curtain on Hollywood's big little lies about sexual assault, harassment and sexism are making for a fraught awards season.

This is a town built on selling sex, beauty and youth. At the Oscars, actresses who have paid a fortune to dermatologists and surgeons will still vogue on the red carpet as they do the Roger Ailes twirl in gowns and jewels that they are paid handsomely to model.

"It's a perfect confluence of two industries historically built on the objectification, fetishization and peddling of women — fashion and Hollywood — and both are fighting for their reputation and relevance right now while still hanging onto their codependence, hoping the moment we are in doesn't subsume a pretty damn good business relationship," said Janice Min, former editor of *The Hollywood Reporter*. "How far can this moment really go without completely endangering and questioning everything Hollywood has held dear?"

Time's Up, after all, was born at CAA, the agency dominated by white men who, their despoiled clients charge, served as a conveyor belt to the Weinstein hotel suites.

This moment, with women feeling triumphant about finally shaking up the network of old, white men who run Hollywood in a sexist way, is a bit of an illusion, since the entertainment industry has been taken over by an even more impenetrable group of younger, white men from the tech universe, which has an even more virulent bro culture. It's like gasping with relief as you climb up to the mountain peak, only to discover that it's actually a much bigger mountain.

"Netflix is No. 1, spending 8 billion on original scripted television content and Amazon is No. 2, with 5 billion," said Scott Galloway, author of "The Four: The Hidden DNA of Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google." "Hastings and Bezos are the new studio chiefs, the new kings. Amazon could create the next 'Game of Thrones' and monetize it by selling paper towels."

On the surface, there are a lot of promising signs for women. There's the new Anita Hill-led Commission on Eliminating Sexual Harassment and Advancing Equity in the Workplace, which is looking into a technology system that would allow women to share information on predators. The guilds

MAUREEN DOWD  
Comment

have written new sexual harassment guidelines. Some companies are making employees sit through seminars where, as one top entertainment boss told me, they learn that "you can tell a woman her dress is beautiful as long as you do not comment on what's inside the dress."

This is a noted improvement in an industry where, for decades, men felt no qualms undressing in front of female executives, asking job

applicants to take off their tops and bringing in pea shooters to aim at the cleavage of female producers.

Yet many women here fear that the reckoning is merely a therapy session, or that "it's just Kabuki," as Min said. "When people talk about who will take over for Bob Iger when he eventually retires, no woman is ever in the mix. And so shouldn't we be questioning why that is and how do you start grooming women for those jobs?" Even when a woman gets to be a studio chief, there's a man above her helping make the final decisions for the biggest budgets.

The Oscar telecast is trying to keep out most of the politics — viewers don't like it — but they tried to have a symbolic moment by asking Ashley Judd, one of Weinstein's first accusers, to be a presenter. That, however, got overshadowed by news of publicists plotting how to steer their clients around Ryan Seacrest, a host of the E! red carpet show, who has been accused of sexual misbehavior.

Men are quaking. Business here has been on pause for months. As one male executive at the heart of the hive complained: "Men's heads are on sticks with blood pouring down their faces. Whatever happened to the fun boy-girl game?" A game, after all, that Hollywood made famous with dazzling directors like Ernst Lubitsch and Billy Wilder.

Physically abusive behavior will be curtailed, for sure. Men will think twice before coming out of showers exposing themselves. "So much of Hollywood is about what's perceived to be cool," said a top male producer. "And it's no longer perceived as cool to be a pig. Everyone here wants to win, but the way of winning will no longer include being a bully."

But an instant fix for sexism is wishful thinking. "All the stuff that allowed these guys to be protected is so subtle and baked into the cake, it's really hard to unravel it," one top woman at a major studio told me. "Men are doing a head fake, saying, 'Yeah, yeah, of course we want to fix it,' while what they're really thinking is, 'How do we get out of this looking like we do something without doing anything?' Men like to say, 'We choose the best people,' but the best people are always white men. The only place they think that they need women is as babes in films. As long as men have power over women, they're going to try to have sex with them."

But I'm sanguine for this reason: Men only give up their grip on power when an institution is no longer as relevant, like when they finally let women anchor the network evening news. And Hollywood, as we knew it, is over.

Maureen Dowd, winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary, became a columnist on *The New York Times Op-Ed page* in 1995 after having served as a correspondent in the paper's Washington bureau since 1986. She has covered four presidential campaigns and served as White House correspondent.