

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A tip of the hat and a wave off stage to Craig McIntosh, the longtime leader of Blue Mountain Community College's theater scene.

McIntosh retired this year from the college's arts instructor and director positions, making a sizable impression during decades in the spotlight. That impression was all the more memorable because of McIntosh's health struggles, which gave him and others more of an appreciation of play, of voice, and of theater as a vehicle for becoming other people and living other lives.

We appreciate his contribution to making Umatilla County a more theatrical place.

A kick in the pants to a few bad

apples who bloodied up an otherwise fun and successful Pendleton Bike Week.

As we noted earlier this week, there was a serious public safety problem in the middle of the festival's biggest event Saturday night. It left a local man seriously injured, and it could have been much worse. What was perhaps more disturbing, however, was the lack of security follow-up and a long-delayed call to 911.

The annual gathering has grown in popularity in its few years in the Round-Up City. But that growth in attendance carries with a growth in responsibility. And organizers must redouble efforts to keep the event, its patrons, and Pendletonians safe and



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Robert Younger holds his arm out to allow judges to see his tattoo during a tattoo competition Saturday during Pendleton Bike Week.

happy during the event.

There is no reason it cannot continue successfully and exponentially into the future. But public safety must always

be first and foremost — and problems must be addressed so that the majority of folks here to have fun and games get to do just that.



### YOUR VIEWS

#### Judge Temple not allowed to defend herself in media

The *East Oregonian* story on Judge Temple being "disqualified" by the Umatilla County DA omits some important points.

First, any lawyer (including a DA) can "disqualify" up to two judges on any case — such a request is automatically granted. No one looks into whether the disqualification is valid or not.

Second, the DA here has chosen to discuss his views with the *EO*. A judge, on the other hand, is prohibited from publicly discussing the matter. So the public will not hear from Judge Temple, even if she has relevant information which would counter the statements of the DA.

I served on the Oregon Judicial Fitness Commission for eight years. During that time we evaluated the conduct of many judges, and complaints about those judges, throughout the state. I am familiar with the standards expected of judges. Judge Temple is held in high regard by her colleagues and by me.

I encourage the public not to draw any conclusions about her conduct, expertise or reputation from a story, which by its very nature was one-sided.

Gene Hallman  
Pendleton

#### Media only looks for dirt on President Trump

The *East Oregonian* claims it is not the enemy (of President Trump), in fact, "it is the news media's responsibility to make life uncomfortable for people in power." Unless the liberal press (that's you, *EO*) is comfortable with those in power because they share the same liberal socialist global agenda.

You could count on one hand the "uncomfortable" press the Obama/Clinton regime received during the totality of their administration. Benghazi? Obama's Iran bribe? Obama's hot mic collusion with Medvedev? Clinton-Lynch tarmac collusion? Hillary Clinton leaked emails? Obama FISA abuse? Peter Strzok? Obama weaponizing of FBI? Clinton Uranium collusion with Russia? Weaponizing of IRS?

The *EO*, in concert with the national liberal press, use what they consider objective journalism to undermine and destroy a duly elected president. Ninety-five percent of the deep state press "news" and editorial opinion is hostile, malicious and critical of the President of the U.S. The leftist press is undermining our republic, our liberty and our way of life by their biased definition of journalism.

Our duly elected President calls it "fake" news, engineered to defeat his administration. He speaks truth. The moral authority of the press must be based on truth and integrity. The present liberal national press exercises neither and in fact provides cover for treasonous acts and villains that threaten our freedom and liberty, hence Trump's position.

Fortunately, your tabloid-style incessant Trump attacks have become the boy that cried wolf and your redundant vilifying of the President of the United States has produced embarrassingly nothing regarding Russian collusion. Unfortunately, your liberal politically correct agenda has ruined the federal appointment of one of our finest East Oregonians, Ryan Bounds. The sad truth is you (*EO*) think you are doing your job as a journalists and have no clue your politically correct agenda just robbed America of the brilliance and integrity of Ryan Bounds.

Stuart Dick  
Irrigon

### CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

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### OTHER VIEWS

## How Trump won re-election in 2020

A sneak peek at *The New York Times*' news analysis from the future.) Nov. 4, 2020

In the end, a bitterly fought election came down to the old political aphorism, popularized during Bill Clinton's successful 1992 run against George H.W. Bush: "It's the economy, stupid." This time, however, it was the Republican incumbent, not his Democratic challenger, who benefited from that truism.

Donald Trump has been decisively re-elected as president of the United States, winning every state he carried in 2016 and adding Nevada, even as he once again failed, albeit narrowly, to gain a majority of the popular vote. Extraordinary turnout in California, New York, Illinois and other Democratic bastions could not compensate for the president's abiding popularity in the states that still decide who gets to live in the White House: Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida.

Yet, unlike 2016, last night's outcome came neither as a political upset nor as a global shock. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have consistently polled ahead of Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and her running mate, Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio, since July. *The New York Times* correctly predicted the outcome of the race in every state, another marked change from 2016.

In exit poll interviews, Trump's supporters frequently cited the state of the economy to explain their vote. "What part of Dow 30,000 do the liberals not understand?" Kevin O'Reilly of Manchester, New Hampshire, told *The Times*.

Warren and Brown never seemed to find a compelling answer to that question, despite an economy that continues to struggle with painfully slow wage growth, spiraling budget deficits and multiplying trade wars that have hurt businesses as diverse as Ohio soybean farmers and California chipmakers.

Yet both Democrats are also skeptics of trade agreements such as NAFTA, which served to mute their differences with the president. And their signature proposals — Medicare for all and free college tuition for most American families — would have been expensive and would require tax increases on families making more than \$200,000. Trump and other Republicans charged they would "bankrupt you and bankrupt the country."

Meanwhile, the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3.2 percent in the last quarter, the third consecutive quarter in which growth has exceeded 3 percent. Unemployment remains low at 4.1 percent.

With neither a recession nor a major war to run against, Democrats sought instead to cast the election in starkly moral terms. Yet by Election Day, the charge that Trump is morally or intellectually unfit for office had been made so often that it had lost most of its former edge among swing voters.

"I don't care if he lies or exaggerates



BRET  
STEPHENS  
Comment

in his tweets or breaks his vows to his wife, so long as he keeps his promises to me," Leah Rowan, a self-described social conservative from Henderson, Nevada, told *The Times*, citing the economy and Trump's Supreme Court nominations as decisive for her vote. "And he has."

Many of Trump's supporters also said they felt vindicated by the conclusions of Robert Mueller's

report on Russia's interference in the 2016 election. While the former FBI director painted a damning portrait of a campaign that was riddled with Kremlin sympathizers and a candidate whose real-estate ventures were beholden to Russian investors, no clear evidence of collusion between Trump and Moscow ever emerged and the president was never indicted.

"It was always a red herring, just like Trump said," said Bernard Schwartz, a gun store owner from Houston, Texas. "Democrats wasted a lot of ammo on that one."

Democrats also failed to capitalize on, and may have been damaged by, winning back control of the House of Representatives, but not the Senate, in the 2018 midterms. Trump proved effective, if characteristically vitriolic, in making a foil of the House speaker, Nancy Pelosi. Efforts to impeach the president mainly served to energize his base. Polling surveys suggested that wavering voters saw a Democratic Party more invested in humiliating the president than in helping them.

As is often the case in losing presidential campaigns, it did not take long for campaign aides to Warren to offer damning appraisals of her performance as a candidate. Historical references abounded: The Children's Crusade; Pickett's Charge; the McGovern campaign of 1972. The common thread was that the campaign's moral fervor repeatedly got the better of its message focus.

"Trump succeeded," lamented one moderate former Democratic lawmaker who asked to speak on background. "He got my party to lose its marbles." The lawmaker cited calls by party activists to abolish the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency — calls the Warren campaign did not formally endorse but did little to refute — as emblematic of the party's broader problems.

"What do Democrats stand for?" he asked. "Lawlessness or liberality? Policymaking or virtue signaling? Gender-neutral pronouns and bathrooms or good jobs and higher wages?"

As is his way, Trump wasted little time rubbing salt into Democratic wounds. "Democrats used to stand with the Working Man," he tweeted Wednesday morning. "Now it's the party of Abortion and Amnesty. All that's missing is Acid. Sad!"

■  
*Bret Stephens won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2013. He began working as a columnist at The New York Times in April.*