

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

CHRISTOPHER RUSH
PublisherKATHRYN B. BROWN
OwnerDANIEL WATTENBURGER
Managing EditorTIM TRAINOR
Opinion Page Editor

Founded October 16, 1875

OTHER VIEWS

On Ryan Bounds, the Senate took the wrong stand

By VERONICA VARGAS STIDVENT

On July 19, Ryan Bounds' nomination to the 9th Circuit of Court of Appeals was withdrawn. The main issue raised was the nominee's stance against multicultural divisions at Stanford University in the 1990s. In tarring Bounds as a racist, Oregon's senators — and others — showed just how wrong they can be.

On college campuses in the 1990s, debate raged about the use of affirmative action and how best to create inclusive, accessible campuses for all. Lines were often drawn between those who believed in "color-blindness" as the best way to get past racial and ethnic divisions and those who championed multicultural or race-conscious methods to achieve diversity. Although multiculturalism eventually won the day, this was a legitimate debate among well-intentioned people trying to achieve the same goals.

As a right-of-center Latina student, I heard the epithet "coconut" more than a few times. In his college writings, Bounds lamented the use of such terms to disparage students of color who did not think according to preconceived notions. He also criticized pigeonholing minority students and separating students by race or ethnicity. I recall visiting the Stanford campus as a prospective freshman and feeling uncomfortable being assigned to "Casa Zapata," the "theme house" for Hispanic students. Later, as a prospective law student, I was once again disappointed



AP Photo/Paul Sakuma

An artist drawing about illegal immigration is shown in the Center of Chicano offices on Stanford University campus as students study in background in Stanford, Calif. in 2012. Ryan Bounds, who as a student at Stanford wrote several op-eds for the student paper, recently lost his nomination to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals because of those writings.

when the university offered to pay for me to visit — as long as I visited during minority student weekend. So I understand when Bounds apologized for his rhetoric, but not for his argument that universities should strive for inclusion rather than separation of students by color.

Taken in context, Mr. Bounds' college

writings were appropriate for the time period and his age. My former classmate David Lat has written about the dangers — including the chilling effect on students — of considering a nominee's writings from their college years. Bounds' writings advanced an ongoing debate in the style of a student writer aiming to invite challenge

from the opposing side. (Indeed, my own nomination was almost derailed by a college op-ed mocking a speech by President Clinton.)

As lawyers, we learn that an inflammatory style so often used in opinion pieces is not the most persuasive or effective in court. A more accurate measure of Bounds would be a review of his professional record.

I have known Bounds for more than 20 years. Like most of our exuberant classmates, we learned from each other, and our ideas have matured with age and experience. In his personal and professional life, Bounds has worked to extend opportunities to students and lawyers from underrepresented communities. He is a serious lawyer and a person with genuine intellectual curiosity. He is by no means a racist. In a time when there is so much to decry, it is a tragedy for the Senate to choose instead to wrongly label this man.

In the aftermath of his failed nomination, my phone lit up with texts from Bounds' shocked friends. The irony was not lost on me as a Jewish Democrat, a gay Asian, a Hispanic woman, and a black Republican wondered what to do next. Our friendship and deep concern overrode any differences one might note among us. It exemplified the very ideal Ryan Bounds had espoused.

Veronica Vargas Stidvent served as assistant secretary for policy at the U.S. Department of Labor. She is the principal of Stidvent Partners based in Austin, Texas.

OTHER VIEWS

How Trump lost re-election in 2020

Last week, my colleague Bret Stephens imagined a news article on the morning after President Donald Trump's re-election. Today, I imagine a different outcome.

In the end, it was a lot simpler than it often seemed.

Donald Trump, who spent much of the past four years as a historically unpopular president, lost his bid for re-election Tuesday. His approval rating hasn't approached 50 percent since he took office, and neither did his share of the vote this year.

In an era of deep national anxiety — with stagnant wages, rickety health insurance and aggressive challenges from China and Russia — voters punished an incumbent president who failed on his central promise: "I alone can fix it."

Since he rode down the Trump Tower escalator to announce his candidacy five years ago, Trump has frequently looked like a man for whom the normal rules of politics did not apply. He won a shocking upset in 2016, which lent him an aura of invincibility. Pundits started to doubt much of what they had previously believed.

But as Trump seethed — and tweeted — in defeat late Tuesday and President-elect Elizabeth Warren celebrated, the arc of the Trump story is starting to make more sense than it has for much of his chaotic presidency:

The normal rules of politics do apply to Donald Trump, after all.

Four years ago, he became the fifth man to win the presidency while losing the popular vote. Now he becomes the fourth of those five — along with John Quincy Adams, Rutherford Hayes and Benjamin Harrison — to serve only a single term, and to be unpopular during most of it. The exception is George W. Bush, who benefited from being a wartime president.

In hindsight, the extraordinary nature of the circumstances that propelled Trump in 2016 have become obvious: the unpopularity of his opponent, Hillary Clinton; the help from Russia; the late involvement of James Comey, the then-FBI director who now hosts an ABC talk show; and Trump's razor-thin victories in several states.

Without that good fortune this year, Trump still won roughly 90 percent of self-identified Republicans and Republican-leaning voters. Yet it was not nearly enough.

"Trump said he was going to fix things, and he didn't," said Kevin O'Reilly, 54, of Manchester, New Hampshire, who voted for Barack Obama in 2012, Trump in 2016 and Warren this year. "I don't think he really cares about the middle class. He cares about himself."

Exit polls showed disillusionment across the swing states that Trump won

DAVID LEONHARDT
Comment

four years ago and lost this year, including Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. In a sign of the country's changing political map, he held on to Ohio and Iowa, two relatively old and white states — but became the first Republican since 1992 to lose Georgia.

Huge margins among women were central to the victory of Warren, who will become the country's first female president.

"I'm just tired of him," said Jennifer Diaz, a 47-year-old from Cobb County, Georgia, outside Atlanta.

Heading into the campaign, Trump's advisers believed they had two major advantages: the economic growth of the past four years and the undeniable liberalism of Warren and her running mate, former Attorney General Eric Holder. Neither panned out as the Trump campaign had hoped.

For one thing, solid GDP growth — similar to the rate during Obama's second term — has not translated into middle-class income gains. Average income growth, post-inflation, has hovered near zero since early 2018.

(In August, Trump became the first president since Richard Nixon to force out the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, accusing the agency of releasing "fake news" on wages. Outside economists said the charge was false.)

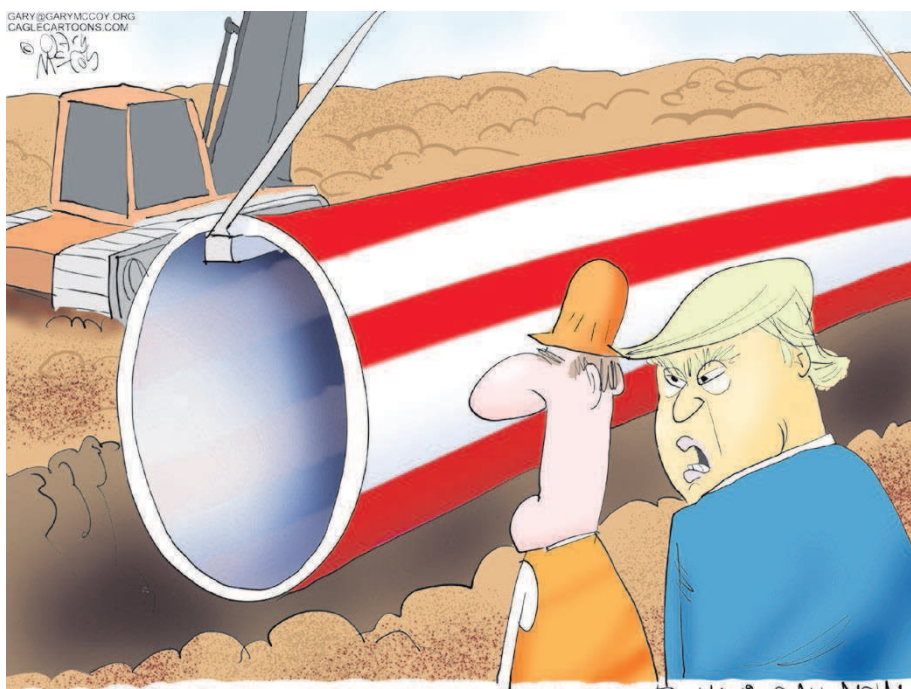
Warren's liberalism, meanwhile, did make some voters anxious, exit polls showed. But most swing voters do not follow the minutiae of policy debates, and many simply decided that she understood their problems better than Trump.

She and Holder consciously borrowed from the populist strategy of Obama's 2012 campaign against Mitt Romney. Rather than emphasize Trump's personal behavior, as the 2016 Clinton campaign did, they cast him as a greedy billionaire who corruptly used the presidency to enrich himself further.

The Democrats paired their message with broadly popular economic proposals: tax increases on the rich, expanded Medicare and child care, free community college and — highlighting an unfulfilled Trump promise — an infrastructure program. Budget watchdogs said the Warren agenda would increase the deficit. Many voters, evidently, did not care.

A final vote tally will not be available for weeks, but The New York Times' "election needle" projects Trump to win 46.1 percent of the popular vote. If that holds, it would be nearly identical to his share in 2016. This year, however, third-party candidates won fewer votes, and Warren is on pace to clear 50 percent.

— David Leonhardt, *New York Times*.



YOUR VIEWS

Sterilizations won't make dent in wild horse population

It is unfortunate that people like Joanna Grossman offer up false hope to people concerned about wild horses. No amount of birth control is going to alter the fact that there are too many wild horses.

The Appropriate Management Level has been determined by range scientists to be 26,690 horses and burros. On March 1, 2018, it was estimated there were 81,951. This is an increase of 13 percent over the March 1, 2017 estimate. Even if all the animals were sterilized, that would still result in 55,260 animals exceeding the AML. The environment would be compromised. Because horses have no predators, it is conceivable that those 55,260 could still be around in ten years. But, a lot of the other members of the flora and fauna of the high desert biome might not.

I have said it before and I shall repeat it now: Cattle, sheep, and pigs were also living symbols of the west and many peoples lives and livelihoods depended upon them. What makes the horse so sacred that its flesh cannot be offered to the poor children in our community. If there is anyone more in need of protein in their diet, it is the children of the poor. Further more, why can it not be offered to people who would desire a source of lean protein superior to beef without any chemical additives.

If the population were to be reduced to the AML, then the various birth control methods might have a chance to become effective.

As for the author's concern that sterilization could result in a nonviable population is laughable. All that would

be required to meet the government's definition of free-roaming would be for the government to go to horse sales and buy up non-branded horses and turn them loose.

Carlisle Harrison
Hermiston

Arlington adopts 'Rule of Law' resolution

There are doubtless a number of readers of this paper who, while traveling on Interstate 84, have stopped in the city of Arlington to gas up, get a snack, and maybe have even spent some time at the marina swimming or boarding off the wide span of the Columbia north of town.

Sadly, I wish to bring to the attention of the readership the fact that the Arlington City Council, in their May 9 meeting, unanimously passed a resolution, number 685, to declare Arlington (quotes are from the text of the resolution) "not a sanctuary city" but rather "a Rule of Law City in regards to upholding immigration laws."

The pretext for this resolution, which runs contrary to the laws of the state of Oregon, is that Arlington supposedly has suffered a number of burdens due to so-called illegal immigrants, including "decreased job opportunities" as well as fiscal hardships in the areas of "education, law enforcement, healthcare, and other social services." While no action has been taken yet by the city council to make the spirit of this resolution an enforceable ordinance, travelers may want to keep this information in mind when deciding whether or not to stop in and patronize the city of Arlington.

Nathan Welp
Arlington

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

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. 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.