

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

Welcome to Round-Up week

For one week out of the year, Pendleton is the center of Oregon’s attention. The Pendleton Round-Up is a cultural phenomenon that brings international tourists, politicians, filmmakers, university presidents, party seekers and, of course, rodeo fans to town for a week of Western fun. While rodeo might not be everyone’s favorite pastime, Round-Up week offers cultural, culinary and curious delights that require no previous experience with bucking brones or cattle roping. Just try walking from downtown to the Round-Up Stadium without having your attention pulled in by a display of fine bead work, the smells of roasting tri-tip or a cowboy riding down the street on his horse, getting ready to compete in front of an audience of thousands. So much of the week is driven by volunteers, from the rodeo itself to

the Happy Canyon Night Show to the Main Street Cowboys and Sidesaddlers to the local service clubs that put their time and energy into putting on an event everyone can enjoy. But whether you’re a volunteer or not, we’re all part of the welcome committee. Sure, there are some bothersome things about having tens of thousands of people come visit for a week. Streets become packed with transportation, both automotive and equine. Police work long hours helping draw the line between a good time and a bad one. Daily routines are dismantled. But we’d argue it’s more than worth the overtime budget, delayed commute and reworked schedules. This week is our chance to show the rest of the state what Pendleton does best. We can treat the new faces as strangers or friends. A stranger might drop a few dollars



A pennant bearer with the Pendleton Round-Up carrying the U.S. flag yells on Saturday during the Dress-Up Parade in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

into the local economy and be on their way with a few fun memories about their time in Pendleton, but a friend will become an evangelist for the city, spreading the tales of their time here with anyone who will listen. In the best cases, they won’t even be able to wait until next September to come visit again and will bring a truckload of their friends when they come back for more.

It’s shaping up to be a great week. The forecast is nearly ideal for an afternoon rodeo (if the rain could hold off one more week, we sure wouldn’t mind), the hotels are filling up fast and newcomers are getting out their bucket lists to check off the Pendleton Round-Up. Let’s make sure it’s a week they’ll always remember, and one they won’t want to miss again.

OTHER VIEWS

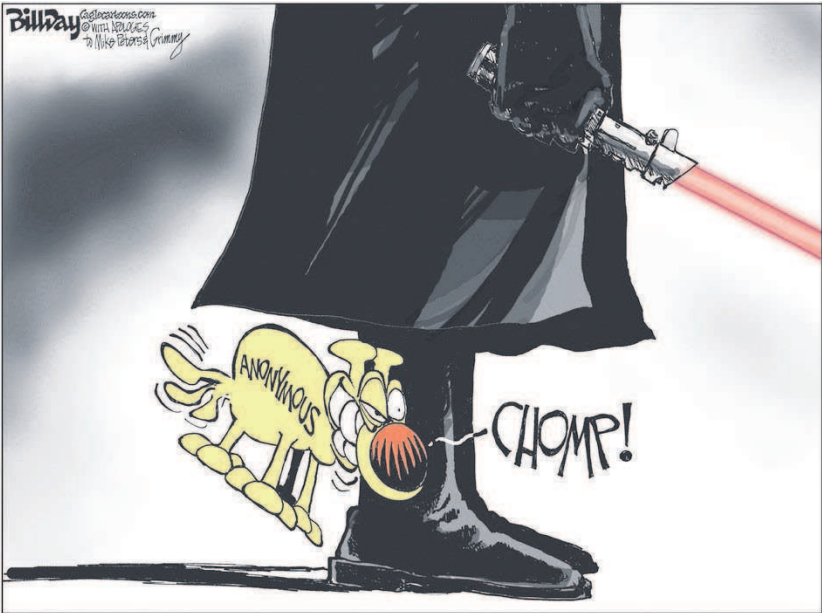
Thwarting Trump, or the voters?

After *The New York Times* Op-Ed page published an anonymous Trump administration official praising themselves and others for trying to keep the powers of the presidency out of the actual president’s hands, I found myself nodding along to two kinds of essays about this inside-the-administration Resistance — even though they were making superficially opposing points, one against resistance, one in favor of it.



ROSS DOUTHAT
Comment

The first sort of essay argued that by working to thwart a duly-elected president, the anti-Trumpers inside the administration aren’t saving democracy but subverting it — and setting us up for a bigger crisis down the road. Issues like free trade and foreign policy, where the anonymous op-ed writer vehemently disagrees with the president, “were hotly debated and thrashed out publicly in the campaign,” National Review’s Michael Brendan Dougherty pointed out, and “this adviser’s side arguably lost the popular debate.” When such a debate is fought and lost, The Federalist’s Ben Domenech wrote, the losers “should want the voters to reap the benefits of their bad (from their perspective) decisions: oh, so you want a trade war? Let’s do that then, and you’ll pay the price.” To choose internal subversion instead, Damon Linker complained in *The Week*, is to basically decide that if a conservative president is “an ideological heretic,” a non-Reaganite, he doesn’t get to govern on the agenda he put before the voters — which makes True Conservative ideological correctness “more important than honoring the outcome of a democratic election.” By contrast, the other kind of essay argued that because the presidency’s powers are so sweeping, having a president as personally reckless and unfit as Donald Trump simply requires people around him to supply some unusual forms of resistance and constraint. There are so few “practical checks on the executive branch’s ability to initiate force,” wrote Zack Beauchamp in *Vox*, that letting an unstable executive have his way can court unacceptable risks — like nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula, let’s say. “Surely,” wrote Quin Hillyer for the *Washington Examiner*, “if a president rashly orders the assassination of foreign heads of state (contradicting



federal law) or, Lord forbid, a tactical nuclear strike without ample justification, all Americans would want senior officials to slow things down rather than immediately implement those orders.” One might say the same of Trump’s obvious impulses toward politicizing his own Justice Department, firing Bob Mueller, and more. The fact that I found both sets of essays compelling suggests that their arguments can be harmonized — and I think they can, to some extent. One might say that insofar as the officials resisting Trump are trying to prevent his temperamental unfitnes from leading to some mass-casualty disaster or moral infamy, they are doing the country a great service. But insofar as they are just trying to prevent him implementing possibly misguided populist ideas, they are being presumptuously anti-democratic and should resign instead. The trouble is that there is obviously a gray area between these two categories. And it’s in the nature of ideology to convince people that only their preferred policy ideas stand between the country and disaster. So, for instance, in Bob Woodward’s account of White House maneuvers, the example of James Mattis slow-walking a fleeting presidential desire to decapitate the Assad regime strikes me as the admirable sort of internal resistance. But then the example of Gary Cohn stealing a letter off Trump’s desk to prevent him from dissolving the U.S.-South Korean trade compact seems closer to an example of the anti-democratic vice — because after all, Trump campaigned on renegotiating trade deals, didn’t he? And yet I’m sure Cohn justified himself on more existential grounds, imagining the

unraveling of the peninsular security arrangement and, eventually, a horrifying war. Russia policy presents a similar gray area. Our nuclear arsenals and security commitments make it an area of existential danger where ignorance and rashness need to be restrained. But at the same time Trump explicitly campaigned on a Russian rapprochement — so should we really cheer foreign policy hands who boast about frustrating that promise? But then on the other other hand, Trump’s personal behavior around Putin is, let’s be frank, super weird, in ways that make internal resistance more defensible. Such uncertainty means that sustaining the combination that I’ve suggested — yes to prudent resistance to rash behavior, no to ideological resistance to populist policy — would require constant self-scrutiny among the people trying to manage this presidency from within. And the most troubling thing about the anonymous op-ed — apart from the dubious judgment that inspired its writing — is that the author doesn’t seem to recognize this issue, or acknowledge any distinction between protecting America from Trump’s erratic personality and extra-constitutional whims and frustrating the agenda that won our president the White House. An internal resistance that conflates those two missions may prevent certain disasters; let us hope it does. But it will not save the country or its party from populism; it will only make the next surge that much stronger, and ease the next Donald Trump’s ascent.

Ross Douthat is an op-ed columnist for the *New York Times*.

OTHER VIEWS

To keep communities safe, vote no on Measure 105

By RON LOUIE

Community safety is top priority for law enforcement officers. That’s why I’m urging voters to reject Measure 105, which would get rid of Oregon’s anti-racial profiling law. Good policing isn’t just about responding to 911 calls; it’s about being a resource to help identify issues and solve problems before they escalate. It’s about being someone that the community feels comfortable turning to for help when they have been victimized, or when they witness a crime. That’s why, when I heard about the effort to eliminate Oregon’s 31-year-old anti-profiling law, I felt the need to speak out. If we eliminate this law, we’ll lose the trust we’ve worked so hard over decades to build — and in turn, local communities will become less safe. Please vote no to keep this law in place. Let me give you an example of how working to build trust with communities makes a difference. We do a lot to build trust with communities because when people trust the local police, they’ll turn to us when they need help, report crimes, testify in a trial and more. I can remember one time when local nonprofits teamed with corporate partners to provide laptops and technology to local Latino youth in the neighborhood. We had police officers help out, and I recall more than one occasion sitting down with parents and grandparents who were so very proud of their child being able to navigate these new computers, but also nervous of the uniformed police officers in the room. Their excitement of seeing their children playing on the new devices, and seeing how local police helped make this program possible, overruled their fear of police. They began to trust us. As time went on, these community members felt more comfortable approaching us, and with every interaction they were able to see that we were there to serve as a resource. This experience and others like it showed me how community policing, particularly within marginalized communities, provides much-needed resources and increases trust, solves problems, and makes us all safer.

But Measure 105 would erode that trust, and that’s exactly why, to keep communities safe, we must vote no on Measure 105. When local police begin to do the work of federal immigration agents, people no longer feel safe calling us for help, crimes go unreported, and witnesses do not come forward. Measure 105 is bad public policy and will hamper law enforcement from effectively providing public safety services. As police officers, we’re trying to build bridges with people living in fear, not erode them by making them more afraid. If police officers serve the role of ICE agents, their ability to deal with issues such as domestic violence and crime prevention will be severely curtailed. Under current law, we can already hold people accountable who commit crimes and harm our neighbors — while also providing important civil rights protections. The current law keeps local police focused on local communities. We shouldn’t divert Oregon taxpayer money to do the job of federal immigration enforcement. That’s why, to keep communities safe, I urge you to vote no on Measure 105.

Ron Louie has more than 33 years of law enforcement experience, 20 of which were spent as police chief of Astoria and Hillsboro.

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