

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OTHER VIEWS

Let ‘her’ buck

Writing as a stockholder of the Pendleton Round-Up Association, the following is a Pendleton Round-Up Board Resolution that I wish would come before us for a groundbreaking discussion.

WHEREAS, following a July 4th celebration in 1909 consisting of bareback and saddle bronc riding, horse races by Indians and Non-Indians, Indian feasts and war dances, greased pig contests, sack races, foot races and fireworks, some community and area leaders conceived the idea of an annual event to be known as the Pendleton Round-Up. Also, at that time, the Let ‘er Buck slogan, which is symbolic of the Round-Up, was inspired; and

WHEREAS, the first Pendleton Round-Up was to be “a frontier exhibition of picturesque pastimes, Indian and military spectacles, cowboy racing and bronco busting for the championship of the Northwest”; and

WHEREAS, the 1929 Round-Up program reads, “The Only, Original Round-Up. The Epic Drama of the West. A Panorama of the Old West, the Frontier, Mountains and Ranges. Wild and Woolly, Fast and Bully”; and

WHEREAS, until 1929 cowgirls were the actual stars of rodeo including Mabel Strickland, Vera McGinninis, Bonnie McCarroll, Dorothy Morrell, Tad Lucas and Florence Randolph who are in the National Cowboy Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the Official History continues, “Long before women’s lib, the fairer sex got into the act at the Round-Up — cowgirls in the early days of the Round-Up could be as tough as men. In 1914 Bertha Blanchett, wife of cowboy Del Blancett, came within 12 points of winning the all-around title”; and

WHEREAS, of the 27 formal events on the 1929 program, the women’s included: the Cowgirls Relay Race For The Championship of the World, Exhibition Steer Roping, Cowgirls’ and Cowboys’



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Grand Mounted Parade, Trick Riding [both women and men], Trick and Fancy Roping [both women and men], and the Cowgirls’ Bucking Contest; and

WHEREAS, going forward the Round-Up will always need the boldness, ingenuity, and the sense of tradition and adventure that drove its founders, men and women, red and white; and

WHEREAS, with its support of barrel racing the Board has already added women competitors to Round-Up events; and

WHEREAS, the Board now realizes that it is essential that the Round-Up grows a new audience for tomorrow’s Round-Up, that it cannot always depend on alcohol sales and its current program with its surplus of roping, and that it must therefore become a more family-oriented event; and

WHEREAS, it’s time to rededicate the Round-Up as an Epic Celebration of the American West; and

WHEREAS, going forward, if the Round-Up brought skilled cowgirls back into roughstock, Pendleton would become the national pace setter for innovation and change and a return-to-roots movement in the now PRCA-dominated rodeos; and

WHEREAS, both tradition and the more recent availability of talented cowgirls competing in regional ranch rodeo championships provides the Board with a clear way forward; and

WHEREAS, while risks in any new venture are inevitable, we believe that the Pendleton Round-Up can still be Wild and Woolly, Fast and Bully;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board puts itself on record that it supports bringing cowgirls back into active participation in their traditional events of the Round-Up from which they have been absent for almost 90 years; specifically, since September 19, 1929 when the era of the professional rodeo cowgirl ended at Pendleton with the tragic death of Bonnie McCarroll in the



Photo by R.R. Doubleday

Dorothy Morrell rides saddle bronc at the 1920 Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo. She was a regular competitor in the Pendleton Round-Up before women were barred from the sport.

worst horse wreck in rodeo history. Within two weeks the Round-Up board canceled cowgirls in rough stock and America’s rodeos followed suit; and

RESOLVED, women returning in rough stock at Pendleton will begin with several successful ranch rodeo cowgirls competing in stock saddle bronc riding at this coming September’s Round-Up;

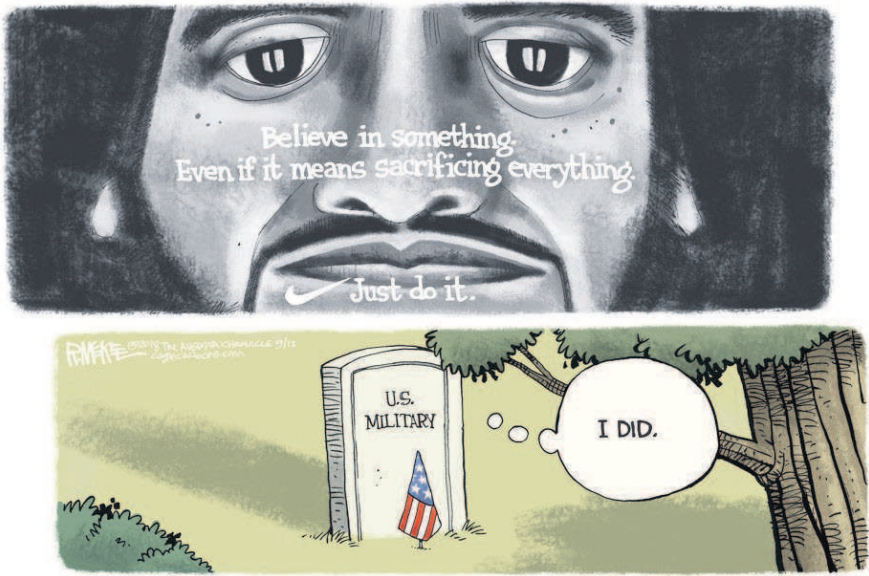
AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this initiative shall include a review of other possible historic program events followed by an action plan

to be presented by staff to the Board within thirty (30) days of this date. They could include some of the universally entertaining events of years past like chuck wagon racing, chariot racing, trick and fancy riding, Roman riding, Indian hide racing, and Cowboy vs. Indian horse racing.

AND, that said Resolution has not been modified amended or repealed and is in full force and effect.

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Tom Hebert is a writer, public policy consultant and East Oregonian columnist.



YOUR VIEWS

What do we teach our kids?

Do we want our kids to grow up believing that winning is always the objective rather than sportsmanship? We “baby boomers” frequently wonder what is happening to the world with the behavior of our young people with violence and bullying in and out of school.

I know that I am probably naïve in thinking that part of sports was learning about sportsmanship.

I attended a game of 8-man high school football Sept. 6. One team had 10 guys suited up, so you know that each of them would be playing almost the entire game.

The other team had enough players for a first string and a second string with extra players besides. They scored in the first few minutes and continued to score throughout the game. The score at halftime was so lopsided that I heard a fan of the winning team say that “if this was baseball they would call the game.” First string players continued to play in the second half. It was obvious that the small man team would lose.

So is sportsmanship taught by letting the second string play the entire second half and giving the small team some chance of at least scoring? No, we teach that kicking a man when he is down and then stomping on him so that he can’t get

up is an OK thing to do.

Shame on us who live in Pilot Rock.

What are we teaching our kids?

Risa Rikken
Pilot Rock

Nothing working in D.C.

Obviously the kids in D.C. seem to be destroying what they were sent there to improve. They call themselves Democrats and Republicans, but in truth they just have a mob ruling.

It may be time to address another way to get things done in Congress and, for that matter, locally. The suggestion would be to eliminate parties and elect people to just do the job — ones that would act alone rather than just group together. Quite frankly, we don’t need so many people in Congress.

Also, a report card annually would judge the benefits these people would provide for the country, not for their own personal gain. If they fail, they could be removed by a panel of their peers.

One further comment: I feel that it’s a shame that B. Obama now gets on his high horse and disrespects the President. Obama almost destroyed this country and is the worst president in history. Now he should shut his mouth and stay in retirement. We don’t need his poor comments.

James Tiede
Hermiston

OTHER VIEWS

‘Anonymous’ hiding in plain sight

More and more, I wonder if the disgruntled senior Trump administration official who wrote the anonymous op-ed in *The New York Times* was actually representing a group — like a “Murder on the Orient Express” plotline where every senior Trump adviser was in on it.

Why? Because the article so perfectly captured the devil’s bargain they’ve all struck with this president: Donald Trump is an amoral, dishonest and disturbed person, a man totally unfit to be president, but, as the anonymous author self-servingly wrote: “There are bright spots that the near-cessless negative coverage of the administration fails to capture: effective deregulation, historic tax reform, a more robust military and more.”

That’s the anonymous-Republican credo today: We know Trump is a jerk, but you’ve gotta love the good stuff — you’ve got to admit that his tax cuts, deregulation, destruction of Obamacare and military buildup have fueled so much growth, defense spending and record stock market highs that we’re wealthier and more secure as a country, even if Trump is nuts. So our consciences are clear.

This view is not without foundation. Economic growth and employment have clearly been on a tear since Trump took office. I’m glad about that.

But what if Trump is actually heating up our economy by burning all the furniture in the house? It’s going to be nice and toasty for us — at least for a while — but where will our kids sleep?

What if Trump’s tax cuts, deregulation, scrapping of Obamacare without any alternative and military spending surge were actually ill-thought-through, short-term-focused initiatives that all ignored expert opinion — because they mostly emerged from off-the-cuff remarks at Trump pep rallies — and collectively amount to a sugar high that not only will be unsustainable but will leave our economy far more vulnerable in the long term?

When Trump simultaneously cuts corporate taxes and withdraws America



THOMAS
FRIEDMAN
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from the Paris climate accord, tries to revive the coal industry by lowering pollution standards and weakens fuel economy standards for U.S.-made cars and trucks, he is vastly adding to the financial debts and carbon debts that will burden our children.

And he is doing this despite many economists warning that increasing the deficit when your economy is already growing nicely is really, really reckless — because you may need that money to stimulate your way out of the next recession.

And he is doing this at a time when virtually every climate scientist has warned that global-warming-driven extreme weather events — droughts, floods and wildfires — are sharply on the rise and we are staring through the last window of time to mitigate climate change so that we can manage the impacts that are already unavoidable and avoid the impacts that will be terrifyingly unmanageable.

In June, The Associated Press reported on the latest International Monetary Fund survey of the U.S. economy, which concluded that as a result of Trump’s “tax cuts and expected increases in defense and domestic programs, the federal budget deficit as a percentage of the total economy will exceed 4.5 percent of GDP by next year — nearly double what it was just three years ago.” Such a “big boost ... has not been seen in the United States since President Lyndon Johnson in the late 1960s boosted spending on the Vietnam War at the same time it was adopting Johnson’s Great Society programs.”

Faced with so much debt, which the country will not be able to grow out of, the AP story continued, paraphrasing the IMF report, the U.S. “may need to take politically painful steps,” such as cutting Social Security benefits and imposing higher taxes on consumers. (We’ll probably also have to limit spending on new roads, bridges and research.)

You might want to let your kids know that.

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Thomas Friedman is an NYT columnist.

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