

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

Neuberger was 'amazingly ahead of his times'

In every era the new generation of historians and readers reconsiders the prominent figures of the past. America's oldest universities have been going through this process.

One of the most prominent revisions occurred at Yale University, where the name of John C. Calhoun — who left the U.S. Senate for the Confederacy — was removed from one of its colleges and renamed for a woman who was a pioneering admiral in the U.S. Navy.



STEVE FORRESTER
COMMENT

Portland State University does not have that challenge, because it is such a young institution.

Nevertheless, last week it corrected a lesser injustice and redeemed itself by naming its administration building, which houses the president's office, for U.S. Sen. Richard (Dick) Neuberger and his wife, Maurine.

Another building at the university had been named in 1972 for Dick Neuberger, but later renamed for a major donor.

I was invited to speak at last week's dedication. Retirement from daily journalism has allowed me to resume the research on Dick Neuberger that I began in 1978. "Eminent Oregonians" will be the title of a book I am assembling with four other writers. One of the five chapters will be dedicated to him.

Dick Neuberger was one of the most exciting Oregon personalities of the first half of the 20th century. When he died in 1960 at the age of 47, he was one of America's most prolific freelance writers and the author or co-author of six books.

In 1954, he became the first Democrat Oregon had elected to the U.S. Senate in 40 years. In 1940, when he was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives, the state's Democratic party was a stagnant and inarticulate backwater. He became the voice of a new party that was articulate about an array of concerns ranging from the envi-

*DICK NEUBERGER
AUTHORED THE 1956
ENABLING LEGISLATION
THAT CREATED THE
FORT CLATSOP NATIONAL
MEMORIAL*

ronment to human welfare and government structure. In essence, he created the intellectual foundation for Oregon's postwar, modern Democratic party. The likes of Ron Wyden, Earl Blumenauer and Vera Katz are his political descendants.

Neuberger's sister, Jane Goodsell, captured the significance of her brother's iconoclastic public career. "He was amazingly ahead of his times," she told me in a 1978 interview.

Dick's legislative partnership with Maurine in the Oregon Legislature — he as a state senator, she as a representative — is without peer in Oregon history or, to my knowledge, in any other state legislature.

The word environmentalist was not in our lexicon during his lifetime, but he was one, referred to as a conservationist. Two of his legislative achievements were the Highway Beautification Act and his sponsorship of what would become the National Wilderness Act of 1964.

A history buff, one of Neuberger's books was the landmark book for children titled "The Lewis and Clark Expedition." He channeled his enthusiasm for the Lewis and Clark story into the 1956 federal enabling legislation that created the Fort Clatsop National Memorial.

My fascination with Neuberger began when I was about 8 years old. My father had known Dick since the 1930s when they met as writers at *The Oregonian*. Following his Senate election, the Neuberger family came to our home in Pendleton. Over lunch Neuberger spoke as he ate, about the falcon he had seen at an Air Force Academy football game with one of the Oregon universities.



The Oregonian/The Daily Astorian

Maurine and Richard Neuberger.

Following that game, Dick had read everything he could find about falcons and proceeded to share his newfound knowledge with us. I had never seen someone with such an enthusiastic, voracious intellect.

My research has been an adventure — taking me primarily to the University of Oregon Special Collections in the Knight Library. My wife joined me for a research trip to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park. I drove across Kansas to the Eisenhower Library and also mined the Harry Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri. In March I will be

combing a collection of publications in the New York Public Library.

Research on a long-deceased public person becomes a bit like an Easter egg hunt. I recently shared one of my discoveries with a historian friend. He shared my elation, describing the thrill one feels at opening a box of papers that no one has seen in decades.

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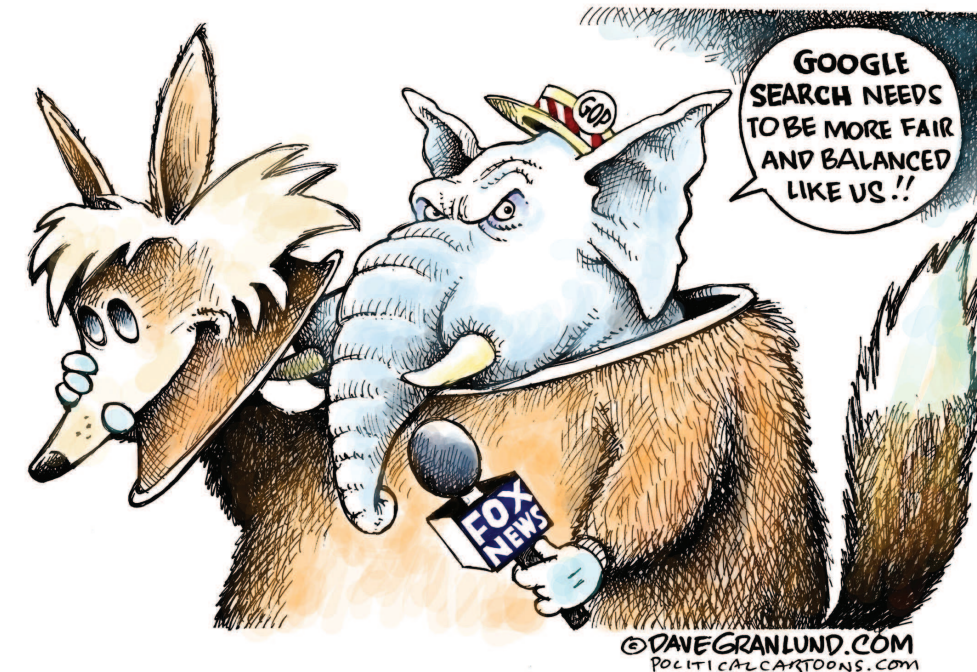
OTHER VIEWS

Bigger questions for Google than search bias

Washington Post

Google Chief executive Sundar Pichai's appearance before Congress on Tuesday augured an era of increased scrutiny for technology companies. The hearing was also a swan song for a Republican majority that has chosen to prioritize political posturing over more pressing issues about how powerful firms manage consumer data, and how they wield their influence in the world.

Members of the conservative majority on the House Judiciary Committee spent much of their time hammering Mr. Pichai with baseless accusations that Google rigs its search results to censor conservative content. Black-box algorithms will inevitably prioritize some content over other content, and to the extent companies can be transparent about how their systems work, they should be. But a single-minded and mindless focus on a nonexistent left-wing conspiracy within Google has had the paradoxical effect of discouraging companies from properly policing their platforms, as they hesitate to remove content that should be removed for fear of unfounded criticism. In a visit to *The Post* after his hearing, Mr. Pichai said the moderation of misinformation and domestic extremism on YouTube is an area where Google could improve. He also cautioned, fairly, that such actions must



be weighed against the importance of free speech.

The bias obsession has distracted from the more important subjects that Congress has failed to address these past two years. That seems likely to change when Democrats take control of the House in January.

The first subject likely to draw more attention is privacy. Mr. Pichai was pressed

to lay out, piece by piece, each treasure in the trove of information his company collects on consumers, from name to age to address to minute-by-minute location — mostly used for targeted advertising. Google has gotten ahead of the impending debate by signaling its support for a federal privacy framework, but it's up to lawmakers to turn vague protection principles

into meaningful policy. That means ensuring users know and have some say in what data companies are collecting from them, exactly what it is being used for and who else is getting to see it.

Committee members also expressed interest in examining Google's potential anticompetitive behavior. The incoming chairman of the antitrust subcommittee, Rep. David N. Cicilline (D-R.I.), indicated his interest in "structural antitrust," code for corporate breakups. But the broader appetite for so radical a move is probably limited. Initially, Google seems more likely to face increased attention to charges that it systemically downranks local search results from its competitors.

Finally, legislators lambasted Mr. Pichai over Project Dragonfly, Google's exploratory effort to launch a search engine in China. Mr. Pichai insisted time and time again that Google has "no plans" to re-enter the Chinese market, but he refused to rule out the possibility of a product that would aid in government repression and surveillance.

These questions represent only a start at confronting Google's role in society and how lawmakers might regulate it. Fewer minutes spent harping on bias allegations might have allowed time for further-reaching inquiries. Hopefully, that's what the new year will bring.

YOUR VIEWS

Holiday donations becoming an expectation

I wanted to comment about what has been going on in the grocery stores around here for the last seven weeks. When you get to the

checkout you are asked to round up to donate to the community. We live in a small community and most are on a fixed income or poor.

Asking people to round up at the checkout adds undue stress on people's budget when they already have a tight budget, especially

at this time of the year. We don't think people should be pushed to donate at checkout every time you go to the store.

What I found out is the checkers have to ask you to round up. They get in trouble if they don't get donations. That is really wrong and so is asking every time you check out.

My husband and I are on a fixed income. We donate to the food bank when we can afford to. I make hats, scarfs, and soap that we donate as well. Donating should be up to the individual.

Lenore Moody
Milton-Freewater

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