

VOICE of the CHIEFTAIN

## A new way to learn about politics

Oregon's political life bursts with conflict. But the state will be in trouble if the political life is not anchored in a way that serves and represents all the people who live here.

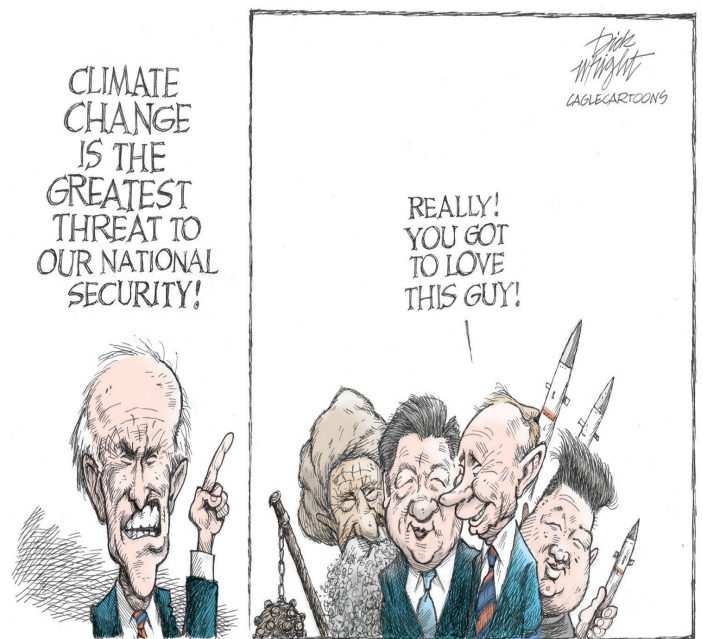
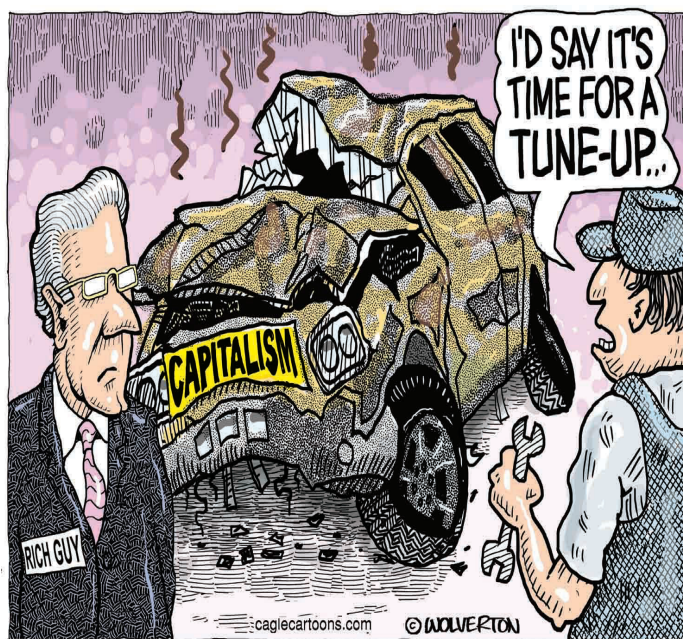
The state is an intricate mix of strong, rural, conservative traditions in many areas and what seems to be a growing dominance of a more progressive movement. National political events can also transfigure the local.

We probably all are guilty of falling into comfortable patterns of what we read or follow about Oregon politics. And maybe we don't seek out enough views that challenge our own.

We urge you to check out a new podcast called "The Oregon Bridge." It's put out by Ben Bowman and Alex Titus. They are friends. They often disagree. Bowman is a progressive, serves on the Tigard-Tualatin School Board and ran for state Senate. Titus is a conservative and worked as an adviser in the Trump administration.

Every two weeks or so they have been interviewing someone new, primarily in Oregon's political scene. They interviewed state Rep. Wlnsvey Campos, D-Aloha, a progressive endorsed by Bernie Sanders in one episode. In the next they interviewed Alex Skarlatos, the conservative who came about as close as anyone has to defeating Rep. Peter DeFazio. You may remember Skarlatos as the soldier, who with others, helped to stop a gunman on a train to Paris. They also interviewed Kevin Frazier, a law student from Oregon who submits columns to EO Media Group. Frazier hosts a blog, called The Oregon Way, which is a forum for political commentary.

The podcast isn't political mud wrestling. It's not people yelling at each other. They are thoughtful discussions. If you are looking for a way to enhance and broaden your understanding of Oregon politics, check out The Oregon Bridge. You can find it on Apple Podcasts and many other places.



### LETTER to the EDITOR

#### American capitalism at work

The American capitalistic system is based on the theory of supply and demand. When there is not enough product to supply the number of people who want and can afford it, the prices increase. When there is more product than people want or can afford, prices go down. Supposedly, this creates a balance which benefits both consumers and producers. According to the theory, there is no need for the government to be involved in this system.

Because of a global pandemic, production has been low. Workers were furloughed, laid off, or unable to work

because of disease. The economy tanked and not enough goods were produced to keep businesses going.

The government, in order to prevent a serious economic depression, provided subsidies for furloughed, laid-off or disabled workers to keep the people from doing without their basic needs. While receiving assistance to meet their needs, families survived and the economy began to show the possibility of improving.

To the surprise of many capitalists, unemployed workers are not eager to return to work for the low wage salaries they were barely surviving on before the pandemic. Apparently, the potential employees are reluctant to go back to the low paying jobs. They are unwilling to

accept jobs producing goods they cannot afford to buy.

Now our American capitalists conclude that government must become involved. Because they are not getting their workers back, employers are demanding that the government stop paying subsidies to help families survive. CEOs and business owners want the government to force workers back to work for less than sustaining wages.

So my question is, if capitalism works for pricing goods, why is it not useful for paying workers to produce the goods? Could not the economic theory of supply and demand apply here?

Evelyn Swart Joseph

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