

Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
 Florence, OR 97439

Opinion

Joe Heller © 2016 THE CARTOONIST.COM



"...AND NOW ON TO THE TOP 10 FAKE STORIES OF 2016."

LETTERS

Ponderous Bureaucracy

In a deeply polarized nation where public confidence in governmental institutions is as low as negative campaigning was high, many people are worried about a rush by the winners to fulfill promises that, on the surface, are perceived by many to be fundamentally threatening.

Traditionally, we look to the Founders' genius in devising a government of three branches whose constitutional interplay of powers and duties provides the checks and balances designed to protect against arbitrary or unre-

strained exercise of power.

But, when all three branches are dominated by a single goal, checks and balances can be lost in the excitement of dominance.

An informal fourth branch, the news media protected by the First Amendment, has served as an impediment to callous governmental overreach. But, facing systemic and competitive changes in journalism, it failed to effectively alert the electorate to the flood of misinformation wash in our politicking.

An extra-constitutional fifth branch, the bureaucracy, is seldom seen in positive terms. This professional secretariat is the part of government that implements the promises of the winners. Its public image is one of red tape, obstruction and slow down.

Nevertheless, it makes possible the functioning of huge, complex and unique organizations like State, Defense, HHS, and Homeland Security even when they are headed by novices with no government experience.

The bureaucracy's structure, mirroring its duties and responsibilities, sets the pace of governing to ensure predictability and organizational stability through predetermined decision-making criteria.

The Founders never envisioned today's ponderous bureaucracy.

Still, they would find it consistent with their constitutional design to slow the process of policy change. Some 230 years later, with radical proposals by one-party rulership in the offing, this fifth-branch governor on governing is the last brake on unrestrained exercise of authority feared by the Founders.

The bureaucracy — who would have thought?

Arnold Buchman
 Florence

Lovely afternoon

One of the highlights of the Christmas season this year has been a delightful afternoon of pure

lovely Christmas music with the Community Chorus, Bell Choir, Florence Nightingales and Siuslaw Middle School choir

And of course, led by director Jennifer Weier, accompanied by Rhianna Haines.

The Presbyterian Church was almost overwhelmed by the attendance, but came through by accommodating all the people wanting to attend.

Thank you all and Merry Christmas!

David Johnsen
 Florence

Great concern

Let me say that I have never been an enthusiastic supporter of Hillary Clinton, and I believe she lost because she was a deeply flawed candidate.

I did vote for her as the lesser of two evils in my opinion. Supporters of the President-elect ask me why I can't give him a chance and the reasons are many.

To begin with, he lied as a candidate and continues to lie as President-elect. He claimed to save 1,100 jobs at Carrier in Indiana when, in reality, only 730 jobs were saved — and they were saved by the taxpayers of Indiana, at a cost of \$7 million in tax incentives.

Why should I believe he will change to a truth teller after the inauguration?

His proposed cabinet appointees cause me great concern. He claims to be the candidate of working people, yet he has named the Goldman Sachs CEO and other billionaires to his cabinet. If you believe these folks have your best interests at heart, think again.

His Department of Treasury nominee, Steve Mnuchin, made his billions aggressively foreclosing on people's homes during the housing crisis in 2008 and '09; Betsy DeVos, Department of Education nominee, has said she doesn't believe in public schools; Andrew Puzder, the nominee for Department of Labor, is against setting a federal minimum wage and

supports robots replacing humans in minimum wage jobs; Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson, said to be in consideration for Secretary of State, has been a friend of Putin since the early '90s.

Speaking of Putin, it seems our President-elect admires dictators and strongmen as leaders, even so far as to discredit 17 intelligence agencies that have agreed that Russia hacked the DNC and attempted to interfere in our elections.

It's not that I believe the outcome would have been any different. But the fact that they tried is scary enough. Putin is not a friend to Democracy; he is a thug.

We must ask what the President-elect's financial investments or obligations are with Russia. Unfortunately, we will never know because he refuses to show his tax returns.

Other cabinet appointees are concerning as well. Tom Price, Department of Human Services nominee, has advocated for privatizing Medicare.

Privatization is the final step to ending it altogether. Personally, I don't want anyone touching my Medicare.

Tom Pruiett, nominee for head of the EPA, says he doesn't believe the science behind climate change.

The President-elect has merely emboldened the far right white nationalists with his rhetoric and with the appointment of former Breitbart editor, Steve Bannon, sending the message that these neo-Nazi types are safe to attack, blame and discriminate against LGBT, Muslims, blacks, Latinos and other minority groups under his leadership.

Personally, I say "no" hate in my America.

For the sake of our country, I hope I am wrong about what I see happening. But, so far, the President-elect has given me no sign that I can expect anything but chaos during his presidency.

Marybeth Marengo
 Florence

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous and anonymous letters or poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:

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Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

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Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.
Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$71; 10-weeks subscription, \$18; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$94; 10-weeks subscription, \$24; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$120; Out of United States — 1-year subscription, \$200; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
 Website and E-Edition: www.TheSiuslawNews.com

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