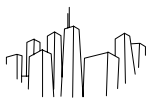


Editorial & Opinions

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The Ravensgate Oregon Journal

Jean-Pierre d'Aubaine, President and Publisher

Your voting choice in November is clear

The April Fool's Day riots and armed insurrection point to a clear and present danger in Ravensgate—its own criminal element. Many have decried the criminal infiltration of the Ravensgate Bureau of Public Safety. It's an easy cheap shot to call our policemen "Checkerheads," even our own finest use the name themselves.

But who has stepped forward not only to call for reform but to take action? Superintendent of Public Safety, and presumptive GOP mayoral nominee, Philip Snow? No. Snow has taken blanket immunity and testified in secret to the Sinclair Commission, prompting the armed insurrection that almost killed him. He has made great progress in community policing, his Street Crimes Unit's anti-gang successes being a case in point, but his overall leadership is a disaster. And what is he hiding with that blanket immunity, anyway?

The Journal is at a loss to think of any police chief in the modern industrialized world whose own men would go so far as to gun him down in the very streets he's sworn to protect. This in itself speaks volumes about him. If he's not safe in this town, are *you*?

Mayor Salome Throckmorton-d'Aubaine is our publisher's only daughter, yes, but she is more than just another pretty face. Her uncle picked the young supermodel as his chief of staff three years ago because of her prescient opinions and an outsider's perspective from her years of traveling abroad.

Miss d'Aubaine holds a Stanford University public administration degree, which she financed with her own modeling earnings. She has been active in community affairs since the 1986 Oregon Girls' State convention, has met and discussed politics with four Presidents of the United States, and managed her uncle's last re-election campaign.

Snow is a stark contrast. A public-administration graduate of Portland State University and the Oregon State Police Academy in Monmouth, his 30-year career is distinguished by graft and bribery investigations. Despite his successes with the Street Crimes and Gang Enforcement units, which recently merged, he has failed to quell ethnic strife within his ranks. Snow is known to play favorites, and those favorites include two former homicide detectives with histories of insubordination and excessive force.

That Snow would run as a reformer is terribly convenient for him, but at the worst it is laughable. He's had three decades to rock the boat, so why wait until now?

Normally, The Journal dismisses the irresponsible polemics of KRGO's Vic Charlton, and especially the "Throw The Bastards Out!" recall campaign he inspired. But with the corruption indictments of Nehalem County District Attorney Delbert Yoakham and seven City Assemblymen looming large, we will make a few exceptions. By and large, the Office of the Mayor of Metropolitan Ravensgate and other city bureaus have been untouched by the corruption which permeates the Bureau of Public Safety.

It should be noted that then-Mayor "Bottle Bill" d'Ambrosio created the RBPS in 1923 because the Nehalem County Sheriff avidly enforced Prohibition. It also should be noted that no cop or ex-cop has ever been elected to public office in Ravensgate—with the exceptions of Yoakham and Nehalem County District Court Judge Inakimoto "Mad Moe" Ishii. One is under indictment, while the other is facing nepotism accusations as the new chairman of the Sinclair Commission. Ishii's nephew, Lt. Matt Shinmen, is head of the Street Crimes Unit, a key commission witness with blanket immunity, and one of Snow's aforementioned favorites.

We wish for Philip Snow to get well soon; we have a shortage of cops with a pulse on the street right now. He has a major decision of his own to make. His choices are to retire and collect his pension in Palm Beach, or stay on the job long enough to clean up the police force if he is sincere about his reform agenda. If the city administration even will want to retain him after all that's happened.

Regardless, the people's choice this November is a no-brainer: Elect Salome Throckmorton-d'Aubaine to a term of her own.