

Webb got it right

I so enjoyed Patrick Webb's so useful and insightful article, "Six things wrong with the America I love" (*The Daily Astorian*, Aug. 7). I couldn't agree with him more, and feel that what he wrote could well be used as a blueprint for making life-saving adjustments by people of good will, and honest politicians. Yes.

Too, it was a pleasant and welcome change from so much of the put-down condescension and righteous "gotcha" stuff so prevalent in print and on TV any more. Stuff which daily obscures reality and helps to dig us ever deeper into the mire. Which we do know, of course, is of huge benefit and profit to the particular few.

So then I opened up my Aug. 13 *Daily Astorian*, and here is this column, "Ignoring the reality of America's history," absolutely full of it: Full of condescension, and "don't you know nothing's new under the sun" — go study some history and check out what we're already doing today, then you'll be as qualified to talk about it as I am, and you'll see that we're already doing what we need to do, and we always have.

"Go out and do something positive." Oh blimey. That's exactly what Webb did by sharing his insights in the first place. He's way ahead of Don Anderson already.

And yes, of course, "the English are, and have always been, as rude as their Yankee cousins." Saying they "have a reputation for avoiding rudeness" simply means Brits are more subtle (and polished) in their expression of it, I think. Absolutely, I'd say.

VALERIE LINDHOUT
Astoria

Webb is wrong

Regarding the Writer's Notebook article by Pat Webb, former managing editor of *The Daily Astorian*, displaying his political bias (liberal/Democrat): Throughout his "Six things wrong with the America I love" item (*The Daily Astorian*, Aug. 7), he referred to President Ronald Reagan as "the failed celluloid unreality of Ronald Reagan." Apparently Webb forgot (or never realized) that it was Reagan who saved the nation from the tragicomedy that was the four-year debacle produced by that pathetic peanut farmer, Jimmy Carter.

Reagan restored the U.S. to her former status as a world leader after having sunk to the depths of worldwide humiliation, runaway inflation, endless motorist gas lines, and the "misery index" under the Democrat bumbler.

However, I do agree with Webb regarding the degeneration of our political leadership, especially at the highest level, beginning with the affirmative action so-called president — a Democrat, of course — who has imposed a disastrous health care program which isn't expected to last very long, who has renewed relations with a vicious, totalitarian communist dictatorship which still imprisons dissidents just 90 miles from our southern shores, and was recently hoodwinked by a gang of Iranian cut-throat mullahs who are ridiculing the incompetence and naiveté of our negotiators in a months-long nuclear agreement.

The current administration, highlighted by the Internal Revenue Service and the Justice and State departments, is rife with corruption and incompetence.

Webb referred to Donald Trump's presidential candidacy as making "some of the GOP candidates appear halfway civilized." However, he failed to mention the Democrat candidates, led by a woman who is an acknowledged pathological liar, whose only credentials is a long list of failures in her string of high-level government positions, with not one successful accomplishment. Her main talent appears to be an uncanny ability to stay out of jail — so far. An ancient socialist senator, Bernie Sanders, is another Democrat candidate, followed by a few other nonentities whose names are quite forgettable.

Webb failed to mention the disaster being engineered by an anti-semitic, Muslim sympathizer who occupies the White House, and also a member of the glorious Democrat par-

Help protect what we have in the Pacific Northwest

I can say that because my geology qualifications consist of building sand piles at the beach, where I have learned a little about erosion.

But first, a few facts. The Skipanon Peninsula is made up of dredge spoils, which I will refer to as a sand pile. It has no bedrock to, at least, a drilled 350 feet. The water table level is only 6 feet deep (two inches over my head), according to Oregon LNG's own geology report.

Given my sand at the beach experience, it leads me to wonder, if a sand pile is created (Skipanon Peninsula), and a heavy weight is put on it (Oregon LNG terminal), and a large hole is dredged beside the sand pile (131 acres or a 1.1 million cubic yard ship turning basin), and flowing water (river flow, rain) is present, is it possible the Skipanon could start eroding out into the turning basin, or possibly even the main channel, sort of like my beach sand piles?

Now, a few reasons why disrupting

the main channel and all that fish habitat would not be a good idea, in my opinion:

Approximated \$22 billion of commerce transports annually on the Columbia River. This directly or indirectly affects an estimated 44,000 jobs throughout the Pacific Northwest. The year of 2013 saw the Lower Columbia River fish docks unload more pounds of fish than any other West Coast docks. Yeah, we were No. 1.

Oregon LNG's proposal is to build a gigantic terminal that will export another of America's precious natural resources overseas, while releasing 2.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide, plus methane gas, annually into the atmosphere here. The terminal is proposed to be built near the water in an earthquake/tsunami zone, on dredge spoils, not bedrock.

For all those who are like me, I, too, thought, "Why would anyone even think of doing such a thing?" And, by now you may be wondering, "What can

'little ol' me' do to help?"

The Warrenton City Council will discuss the proposal at their meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2, at the Warrenton Community Center. Please attend and have your say.

Also, call Oregon Gov. Kate Brown (503-378-4582) and ask her to use the powers of the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Clean Air Act, to deny permits and stop the proposed Oregon LNG terminal. Remind her that the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) has upheld our Clatsop County commissioners' denial of the pipeline, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers appears to have an easement to dump dredge spoils on the land that Oregon LNG proposes to build their terminal on.

As I said, I'm no geologist, but I do know living in America is special, and living in our part of America is priceless. Please help protect what we have.

CARL DOMINEY
Astoria

ty. We have over 90 million Americans unemployed, more than 50 million on welfare and over 40 million on food stamps.

Finally, let me point out to Webb that with all our faults, the world keeps beating a path to our borders (often illegally), many in order to partake of our "freebies," but also some to "breathe free." We talk of building a fence on our border, not to keep people in, but to keep people out. With that, I bid Patrick Webb cheerio, tally ho and keep a stiff upper lip.

E. ROBERT NASSIKAS
Astoria

Beware reform laws

Regarding the editorial "Clearing the air" (*The Daily Astorian*, Aug. 18): It is not a legitimate function of government to create "disincentives," enforceable by law, to behavior that is not to some people's liking. From the smoker, you can walk away; but the reformer will pass laws from which there is no walking away.

LOUIS SARGENT
Gearhart

Attend LNG meeting

The city of Warrenton is holding a public hearing on Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 5 p.m. at the Warrenton Community Center to approve or deny the proposal for Oregon LNG to site their terminal on the Skipanon Peninsula.

To everyone in Warrenton: You have all heard the talk about the environmental risks, the tsunami risk, the two storage tanks taller than the Astoria Column, the disruption to fishing and charter boats leaving and entering the marina, etc. This is your community, your town, your future and your children's future.

If the terminal and pipeline are approved there are no do-overs. What are you waiting for? Why don't you attend the meetings? Are you planning to go, and if not, why not? I know, there are many reasons. You are just getting off work (coming late is fine); you're tired; the children started school; someone else will go so I don't have to; it doesn't matter because the city will do what they want.

It's only one night, maybe two, out of a year and if you don't let your mayor and city council know your feelings, how will they know to make the correct decision? So get off your couch. You don't have to speak if you don't want to, or you can give written testimony, but come to the meeting.

Oregon LNG is part of Leucadia National Corp, which is a large holding company. They are in business to make money for their investors. Oregon LNG was formed to obtain all the necessary permits to build the pipeline and terminal. Once that is done, they can sell it to the highest bidder and all their promises of jobs, etc will be null and void.

And what about those promised jobs? Are we talking college educated engineers or security guards? Full-time or part-time? What pay, and how many people do they really need from our area? Drug testing?

Oregon LNG originally stated that they would abide

by the decisions made by the city, county, state and federal agencies. So far, they have sued Clatsop County, and lost, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and lost. So much for abiding by decisions. They promise the world and tell us what we want to hear. The investors are in New York. What do they care about us, so long as it benefits their bottom line?

Two-thirds of you voted against the LNG plant in 2008. Show them that we are not the gullible little town they think we are. Come to the meeting on Sept. 2 and wear red to show your support for your community against Oregon LNG. Let your mayor and commissioners know what you expect of them. If you don't tell them, who will?

DIANA TALARSKY
Warrenton

Stand against LNG

Most people say they don't want a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Warrenton. Now is the time to speak up: There is an important meeting with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Sept. 21 at the Clat-

sop County Fairgrounds. Two hearings are set, from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 9 p.m. Even if you don't want to speak, I can assure you that your presence alone will speak volumes.

They may have more money, but we have shown we are on the winning team. Our incredibly articulate, educated citizens, have rallied in Salem, marched downtown, written letters and attended meetings over the past 11 years, but perhaps there are more questions for FERC to answer:

Is it wise to build a project of this magnitude in a tsunami zone/earthquake subduction zone? Are they listening to the testimony that has been given by the citizens, who have been saying "no" for 11 years? Have they read the work of Jerry Havens, a professor of chemical engineering, who has studied the dangers of LNG? Can a small local volunteer fire department handle an emergency with LNG explosions?

Who will want to buy property in Warrenton with an LNG facility in their backyard? Why have we spent money rebuilding salmon habitat, to have it destroyed? Do they know that schools with children are within the blast zone of the pro-

posed LNG facility?

Are we making Warrenton a target for terrorist attacks? What about the air space above the football-field-sized tanks, in the flight path for the airport? How much noise/light/river pollution will be caused?

With huge guarded ships exporting LNG up to three times a week, how many commercial and sport fishing jobs will be jeopardized? How many good paying permanent jobs will there really be? How many jobs will be lost in the hospitality field due to industrializing our coast? Will tourists really want to come to see LNG on the river, and jeopardize the safety of their families?

Why would we export our own natural resources, only benefiting corporations and stockholders? By having an export facility, won't that increase the need for fracking www.dangersoffracking.com? Won't exporting our natural gas increase what we are paying here at home? Shouldn't we be responsible and develop sustainable resources, instead of fossil fuels that are contributing to climate change?

There are more reasons to

attend and ask FERC a few questions. Pick one, any one, and speak up, or submit written testimony. This is a chance to be part of the solution. Let's give FERC a good show, and show-up.

LAREE JOHNSON
Astoria

Thank you, officer

This is a big, big thank you to the Astoria policeman who helped two old ladies (and old Anchor members) out on the Saturday of the Astoria Regatta. We had attended the Rose Planting Ceremony at the Flavel Mansion, and drove my car to the Astoria American Legion parking lot, and didn't want to move it all day because of the traffic.

We didn't know how we were going to get to our friends, who were several blocks from us. I called a taxi, and was told that it was a half hour wait. Just at that time a police car was coming by, and I hailed it down and asked the officer if he could give us two old ladies a ride, and he said yes, he could.

We were so thankful. We enjoyed our visit with our friends, and then we had a few minutes to get back to where I left my car so we could watch the parade. The streets were blocked off, so there wasn't any traffic to get a ride, so we started to walk.

I use a cane (and my friend should use a cane). We walked for one long block, and the beginning of the next block, and our backs and knees were killing us. We didn't know what to do, and just at that time two officers on bikes came riding by. No, we didn't hop on the back of them, but I hailed one down and asked him if he could call our officer friend and ask if he could take those two old ladies back to their car to watch the parade. (We were supposed to be in the parade, but decided to watch it this year.)

Yes! He would or could come and get us. And indeed, he did, and we were so grateful, and thanked him more than once. A very special thank you to Detective Thomas Litwin, who helped make our day.

COLLEEN HENSLEY
BETTY CUNNINGHAM
Astoria



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO HOMES?

HINT: IT HAS TO DO WITH SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY.

Though two homes may look alike, energy efficiency upgrades can make a big difference in terms of maximizing comfort while reducing energy use and cost.

Energy Trust of Oregon can help you find a trade ally contractor and provide cash incentives that help offset the cost of qualifying energy improvements. With upgrades to your insulation, water heater, appliances and lighting you could save up to 15 percent on your home energy costs while not having to scale back on comfort. And a house that costs less to operate is worth more.



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