

## Let's not go quietly

The corporations don't care about us. They have all the money and time in the world. They don't get tired. They don't have to sleep. They don't run out of steam.

They own legislatures. They make their own laws. They own the executive branch. The government bails them out when they fail. They don't go to jail.

They own the courts. They bought and paid for the Supreme Law of the Land. They claim that they are people, too. People who don't eat, don't drink and don't breathe. They never die. They don't reproduce. They could care less about the planet that we leave to our grandchildren.

They have all the time in the world. They never go away or concede defeat. They know that they win by just one little step at a time.

Who profits in the Lower Columbia from liquefied natural gas plants and pipelines? The corporations don't live here. The LNG comes from Canada and will go overseas. They don't have to give *The Daily Astorian* any statement. They have no conscience. They don't need our consent. They are fixin' to do exactly what they want to.

Who in the Lower Columbia profits from LNG plants and pipelines? Follow the money. It sometimes spills too. Politicians, planners and their new owners who approve these riverfront schemes think we forget.

We remember Nov. 8, 2010, when the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners hustled through its approval of the LNG pipeline without any emergency response plan, based upon findings prepared by LNG (despite the LNG's attorney's earlier admission on Oct. 27 that he had misled the board). All the while, the board expressly avoided any further public testimony.

But let us not forget our lone voices in the wilderness either. Thank you, Dirk Rohne and Drew Herzig.

When is enough, enough? The choices are clear. We can wallow in helpless apathy, alone and afraid at the end of the earth, or we can all get mad at what they are doing to our planet, and stand up peacefully together against them.

It is getting late. It has to start somewhere. Wear a little red. We will see each other around. We the people have done it before.

DANI WILLIAMS, ESQ.  
Astoria

## Climate policy now

I want to thank my representative, Rob Nosse, for participating in the Oregon Climate Fall Kickoff last week. He wrote a haiku to highlight the need to act on climate change. The event featured broad efforts of local environmental enthusiasts; from sixth graders who started the climate-based "Two Green Leaves" blog, to six Oregon legislators who have supported progressive climate legislation.

The Cap and Dividend bill proposal in Oregon is gaining momentum because of benefits to the environment and Oregonians alike. Higher carbon costs have historically reduced the use of carbon-based fuels, which is essential for stabilizing the global climate. By distributing carbon tax revenue, utility bills could be reduced for most Oregonians.

Join us this fall to encourage legislators that the time to enact strong climate policy is now.

JEFFREY DAVIS  
Portland

## The people say no!

To the city of Warrenton regarding the liquefied natural gas (LNG) permit ("Warrenton staff gives OK to LNG permits," *The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 1):

I am a native of this town, born across the street from the Warrenton Grade School football field on Ninth Street. I have lived here my entire life of 78 years. I wish to stay here, but if this plant is built I will have to move elsewhere.

When I was in my teen years, I used to duck hunt at the location of the proposed LNG construction site. I had to wear hip boots, because at high tide the water would rise from the Columbia River and Youngs Bay almost all the way to the Skipanon River dike. The site is not stable for this project.

Skip Urling, the planning director who wants this project,

# The end of racism begins at home

Our neighbor to the east, Clatskanie, is like most towns, divided. Ex-Chief of Police Marvin Hoover has given a black eye to the city by his ranting, raving and show of disrespectful and blatant bigotry while on duty, yet it is the officers who informed the city of his racist remarks who today fear for their safety ("Officer says complaint triggered retaliation," *The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 10).

The punishment for the chief? He retired, ending the investigation, has received a bonus and a glowing public statement in the local newspaper by Clatskanie Mayor Diane Pohl.

It is hard for me to wrap my brain around this — I want to believe that only

those raised in a cave would demonstrate this kind of limited thinking and behavior, and yet this was the chief of police, a public man, a man who defends the city, who looks out for us. Surely he knows that opening our eyes to different cultures, languages and heritage will make us richer people, right? He knows first hand that color doesn't dictate who we are?

Sadly, racism isn't born in public, it is well seeded at home before it ever sees the light of day. Similar to brainwashing, these smart people do stupid things publicly because they think their opinion is shared by all. That you also think people are lesser because of their color, heritage, language or gender, and therefore support

the idea that they don't deserve the same privileges in life you do. What a crock.

The good news is we can all lead the way to change. We can shape what our children learn at home. Talk with them, tonight, about right and wrong. Share the story of the Clatskanie Police to help emphasize it. Talk about racism and equality.

Lastly, when you see officers Alex Stone or Zack Gibson thank them for coming forward. Their outcomes so far have not been pleasant, but they were right to speak up. We will all benefit from their courage.

NANCY ROSS  
Astoria

did not come from this area and knows nothing about the history of the land here. He has no doubt spent time in college, and was taught or received a degree in planning. He learned how to plan, but the college did not teach him the most important thing that goes with a degree, and that is pure common sense.

The city made a big mistake in choosing an outsider for the job to plan for the city's best interests. This is not the right choice. Remember: To the people, for the people, and by the people.

JIM CULP SR.  
Warrenton

## Here is your chance

Have you ever wanted to tell the government what you think? Well, now is your chance. Don't miss it.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will hold a meeting at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds on Monday, Sept. 21, to hear testimony about the proposed Oregon LNG export/import terminal at Warrenton. There will be two sessions: 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Each person wanting to testify will probably get the usual three minutes to have their say, so make it count.

If you aren't sure what you could say, please don't stay home. Here are some points:

If you are from the Lower Columbia area, you could talk about the proposed location — right on a major earthquake/tsunami zone on the beach of the Skipanon Peninsula dredge spoils, with a water table level of only six feet deep.

When Clatsop County got a chance to vote on the proposed pipeline that supplies the terminal with gas (some of it Canadian), they voted 67 percent no.

If you are from Warrenton, I'm guessing you don't want your home or business insurance rates to go up because you suddenly live in a blast zone. Warrenton is already trying to challenge the new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps for the same insurance reasons — rates possibly going up. It might make a person wonder what could happen if they live, or have a business, in both the flood and blast zones.

If you are from Astoria, I doubt you want to add hundreds and hundreds of trucks transporting construction materials from the proposed staging area at Tongue Point, through downtown Astoria, and over to the Skipanon, for the four-year construction period, especially after the increase in traffic congestion Astoria experienced this past summer. Yikes.

If you are a commercial fisherman, Oregon LNG's proposal to dredge 1.2 million cubic yards (131 acres) of critical fish habitat, right beside the Skipanon, for a ship turning basin, isn't going to help. You have been hurt too much already.

The \$22 billion of annual commerce on the Columbia River will be interrupted by the 500-yard security zones around the proposed 125 tankers per year. Imagine the negative impact that could have on jobs throughout the Columbia River basin.

If you breathe air anywhere, especially in the Lower Columbia area, why would you want 2.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide, plus methane gas, released annually into the atmosphere?

There are so many more reasons this project is a really bad idea for this area we call our home, but I'll leave that to you.

Oh, by the way, if you have a red shirt, please wear it.

CARL DOMINEY  
Astoria

## Great service fair

Thank you, city of Astoria for another great service fair. So many fun things for children to experience — adults, as well.

The employees who represented various departments were awesome. The Public Works people had great props and pictures. They were happy to talk about their jobs, and how things work, and why. I learned a lot, and have appreciation for the work these men and women do. We are lucky to have these employees.

Thank you all. And yes, the hot dogs and snacks were really good.

DIANE FINUCANE  
Astoria

## Avian help, research

Thank you for the thoughtful editorial on seabirds ("All eyes on the canaries," *The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 3) and your appreciation of the Wildlife Center of the North Coast's efforts to care for injured and starving birds. Seabirds comprise the majority of patients at the center.

In addition to assisting debilitated individuals, the center serves as a node for the type of research and monitoring that the editorial pointed out is needed.

Carefully kept seabird intake records reflect variation in ocean conditions, human impacts, and trends over time. The center also provides carcasses of non-surviving birds to scientific investigators around the country. Information on plastic ingestion, harmful algal blooms, and seabird diet has been gained through these contributions.

The underlying theme of all the center's facets is to encourage children and adults to keep compassion and empathy in their personal lives; to take a moment to practice kindness towards another life and respect all life on earth.

We are grateful for the tremendous efforts of our volunteers and continued support from the community, and will continue to help keep an eye on the marine canaries.

SHARNELLE FEE  
Executive director, Wildlife Center of the North Coast  
DEBORAH JAUQUES  
Pacific Eco Logic  
Astoria

## Awful LNG traffic

Was anyone caught in traffic Sunday with the recent End of the World Rod Run, and all the cool vintage cars from Long Beach, Wash? How about Hood to Coast, Astoria Regatta, Fourth of July or any of the many other events staged on the coast, not to mention just a regular summer day this past season? We are on the map, and we better start thinking about an exit strategy.

How about emergency vehicles trying to get through with, say, 486 heavy truck trips and 812 personnel vehicle/light duty truck trips per day that Oregon LNG says it will use to construct the first 33 miles of the pipeline for Oregon LNG proposed in Warrenton?

Oh, by the way, how do they get LNG to the Warrenton facility? It will take 36-inch diameter pipelines built through Clatsop County, using a staging and storage site at Tongue Point, as stated from the Oregon LNG Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), Volume II, Appendix E1, from page 4-307.

The map indicates the staging area for a contractor and pipe storage yard will be Tongue Point. The company proposes its vehicles will travel through town over the Youngs Bay Bridge on U.S. Highway 101 or the narrow Oregon Highway 202. Interest-

ing to consider, isn't it?

If you are concerned, as you should be, attend the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) public hearing set for Monday at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds. Two sessions are available for you to speak up or submit your thoughts on what this means for traffic congestion for Astoria to Warrenton, as the building gets under way, for corporate greed to devastate our coastal towns.

Not to mention other important issues like public safety if there is a breach in security, jeopardizing salmon runs, pollution, etc. I would think every business owner in Astoria would be wanting to avoid this traffic nightmare — seems like it would cut down on people shopping in downtown Astoria.

Now is the time, don't be shy. Come one, come all, it's fair. And it is at the fairgrounds from 1-4 and 6-9 p.m. Monday. It promises to be entertaining as they try to bluff us into thinking about jobs as the reason for building LNG tanks in Warrenton, when all we have to do is follow the money, right up to the stockholders who haven't even heard of Astoria or Warrenton.

Come on folks, this is a democracy, this is our community. Time to vote no, loud and clear. Be there, tell FERC this is not wanted, not needed. Exit LNG.

LAREE JOHNSON  
Astoria

## Sweep the roads

As an avid bicyclist who rides in Astoria almost daily, I must comment on the excessive amount of wood chips, glass, rocks, and other detritus that line the bike lanes on Marine Drive and the New Youngs Bay Bridge.

I called the Oregon Department of Transportation months ago to request that the state roads be swept, but I don't think any sweeping has occurred in response. Why? With all the bicyclist visitors and tourists to this area, the impediments to safe and friendly bicycling are surely a deterrent.

To those who say bicyclists should share in the cost of maintenance, I reply, "I already pay taxes as a motorist."

Please don't double dip. Routine maintenance is all I'm asking for. I make a call to ODOT once a year, and sweeping usually takes place, but it doesn't look like it has occurred this time around.

JEFFREY NELSON  
Astoria

## Rally members care

This is in response to Jason Kost's letter, "Black Lives Matter" (*The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 11). I will not rise to the bait of defending city Councilor Drew Herzig from such vitriolic defamation, although I am surprised that *The Daily Astorian* published this personal attack, and at such extraordinary length — isn't there a word limit?

I am writing as a participant in the Black Lives Matter rally. About half of the marchers, including myself, were from the congregation of Grace Episcopal Church, easily identified by our church banner. The Rev. Lance Peeler spoke briefly, as well.

We were, and are, not part of a "movement," but marched in protest and compassion for so many black lives snuffed out in our country, and in grief over the massacre at the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church in Charleston, S.C., as we also pray for the slain, and their assailant.

Peace be with you, Mr. Kost.  
KARIN TEMPLE  
Astoria

## LNG bad for health

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility has deep concerns about the potentially devastating, direct and indirect impacts of the proposed Oregon LNG project for local residents and communities.

Oregon LNG understates the impacts of air pollution from the terminal and tankers. This project would degrade air quality at the terminal and in surrounding communities. LNG operations emit air pollutants including diesel emissions, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons from process equipment, diesel generators and pumps, tankers, harbor tugs and support vehicles.

LNG tankers, some 125 per year, and the security vessels that accompany them, are required to run their engines during the entire cargo loading cycle. Diesel exhaust particulate matter is associated with impaired pulmonary development in adolescents; increased cardiopulmonary and all-cause mortality; pulmonary inflammation; increased severity and frequency of asthma attacks, emergency room visits, and hospital admissions in children; increased rates of heart attack in adults; increased risk of stroke; increased neurodevelopmental disorders including autism and lowered IQ; and increased risks

of lung and breast cancers. Is this burden of illness a benefit to society?

Oregon LNG also understates the negative impacts of light and noise pollution at the LNG terminal. These terminals will operate around the clock, lighting the night sky as part of their 24-hour surveillance requirements and creating loud noises as they convert natural gas into LNG. Noise exposure causes cardiovascular disease, including increased blood pressure, arrhythmias, stroke and ischemic heart disease; cognitive impairment in children; sleep disturbance and resultant fatigue, hypertension, and increased rates of accidents and injuries; and exacerbation of mental health disorders.

The siting of the proposed gas pipelines are threats to public safety due to corrosion, equipment failure, and flooding. The proposed LNG facility and gas pipelines would be located in areas of Oregon predicted, during the lifetime of the proposed facilities, to suffer the most destructive seismic event and tsunami in U.S. history. Who will be available and capable of responding to an emergency of this type and scope?

For the health of our communities, we say no Oregon LNG.  
DR. THEODORA  
TSONGAS  
Portland

## Faulty information

I was disappointed to read the article "Ranchers criticize forest management, firefighting tactics" (*Capital Press*, Sept. 7). There were a lot of quotes from ranchers and very few from anyone with experience in wildfire ecology and behavior — a rather biased selection of quotes.

Had the reporters bothered to consult a fire ecology specialist, the story might have had a different spin. Under certain conditions of drought, high temperatures, low humidity and high winds, one cannot stop wildfires. I've seen wind blown fires roar across one inch grass stubble. We cannot fireproof a forest — and it's delusional to suggest it.

The real culprit in losses are private property owners. Research has shown that reducing the flammability of the home ignition zone (no more than 200 feet out) is all that is needed to preclude most home fire losses.

Numerous review studies have documented that thinning the forest does not work to preclude, slow, or halt fires under severe fire weather conditions, as were experienced during the Canyon Fire by John Day and many other large blazes this summer.

Grazing grasses to stubble, even if it were effective — which it is not — would have numerous collateral damages. Loss of forage and hiding cover for wildlife, compaction of soils, damage to riparian areas, pollution of water, spread of weeds, and so on.

Taken together, livestock are the single biggest factor degrading our public lands. Wildfires do not destroy the forest, they rejuvenate them. That should be the message if it were based on science, not the ill-informed and self-serving opinions of ranchers.

GEORGE WUERTHNER  
Bend

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