

## Rename Broadway

I think Broadway in Seaside should be renamed Jason Goodding Way. It's where he patrolled; it's where he gave his life; it's the heart of the city; it's where he will be remembered now and forever.

JIM SPURR  
Cannon Beach

## The Bernie factor

To me, the most interesting and puzzling aspect of this election season is the Bernie factor. Interesting, because it arises at a time of wholesale disillusionment in the minds of our citizenry, and puzzling in that by reflecting the basic tenants of our supposed democracy, it is regarded as far-left wishfulness. We have come to expect that our politicians give lip service to the will of the people, but go about the business of encouraging and fostering persons and ideas that reflect the least of our aspirations.

We have been led to believe that justice and fairness and accountability are admirable fictions, but in the real world such romantic notions become liabilities where profit is threatened, and almost to a man we have allowed this hollow narrative to become the subtext of our lives.

Then along comes a man who speaks of justice, fairness and accountability as if they exist, not on the fringe but are central to a free, inclusive society. Perhaps we're not as jaded and cynical as we imagined, for he has forced us to look at our supposed democracy and made us realize that we have not only the power, but the obligation to put it right again.

So I'm voting for Bernie Sanders in the primary. I may

# Take the LNG multiple-choice test

In this year of elections, every so often I still hear someone say, "Is that LNG issue still around? I thought it went away." Well yes it is, but Harney County and marijuana have dominated the headlines lately. Since LNG is now a statewide issue, let's do a multiple-choice test, just to review.

Carbon dioxide, methane and hexane are: A) Code names for the Three Stooges. B) Environment-polluting gases from an LNG terminal (yuck).

Permanent jobs for local people are: A) So many, America will pay off the national debt. B) Not many, especially when compared to the estimated 44,000 jobs lost, or negatively affected throughout the Columbia River Basin, due to constant interruption of river commerce.

The correct spelling of sunami: A) Tsunami. B) Who cares when you're getting hit by it — think Fukushima.

A blast zone is: A) Remember the old saying, "have a blast"? B) An area around

the LNG terminal where property values will likely go down, and house insurance up — bummer.

Pipelines: A) Clatsop County Commissioners voted 5-0 against one. B) The public voted 68 percent no. So please, Gov. Kate Brown (503-378-4582), listen to us.

The definition of a fish habitat is: A) Something fish do over and over. Oh wait, that is a habit. Sorry. B) Where food for the fish is, and Oregon LNG proposes to dredge out 1.1 million cubic yards. Our fishermen have been hurt enough.

Rumble, rumble: A) The soundtrack from a Harry Potter movie. B) The sound of hundreds and hundreds of trucks hauling construction material through downtown Astoria.

The Army Corps of Engineers is: A) Possibly Oregon LNG's worst nightmare, as the corps holds an easement on the proposed terminal location. B) Answer A is the only thing I can think of.

If you missed any of these questions, please attend an LNG information meeting, held on the third Thursday of each month, at 3 Cups Coffee (under the bridge) at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments are at 6 p.m. If you got a perfect score, here is a bonus question: What vital local multi-million dollar industry has been providing good jobs since the 1850s, and as recently as 2013 was No. 1 on the entire West Coast for the amount of fish landed? If you said commercial fishing, you get a gold star, and we would be happy to meet you at the above LNG meetings.

Oh, one more question. What are those key words to use if you decide to call Gov. Brown (503-378-4582) and ask her to stop all LNG terminals in Oregon? They are: A) Coastal Zone Management Act; B) Clear Air and Water acts.

CARL DOMINEY  
Astoria

maybe the City Council can focus their time and attention to projects that will really improve Astoria.

JEFF JACQUES  
Astoria

## Vote Bernie

As a 75-year-old mother, grandmother, strong feminist and pro-choice advocate, Bernie Sanders is my presidential choice.

First, because he is the only candidate of either party with strong empathy for all people. Bernie gets it. Second, because the younger generations get it that the quality of the rest of their lives hangs in the balance with the 2016 presidential outcome, and that Sanders is the only candidate who cares first about them. Third, Sanders wisely and boldly opposed the Iraq War, correctly forecasting the dire result of the war.

Fourth, he continues working to reign in Wall Street and financial institutions too big to fail because they do not have influence over him. Fifth, he has a 100 percent rating from Planned Parenthood, and has always been strongly pro-choice. Sixth, Bernie supports a living wage and a multitude of measures providing opportunities and equality for all citizens.

Bernie Sanders will win the presidency if my generation joins the strong drive of the younger generations to protect and improve the quality of all their lives. Listen to what they have to say. Do not heed the messages of the dark money media forces.

Together we can improve lives for all generations. It is a legacy we can and should leave our children and grandchildren.

CAROL SCHERER  
Eugene

be throwing my vote away, as I'm often reminded, but is that worse than voting for someone whose history and motivation are, at best, questionable. I'm asking you, is that so absurd?

JACK GUYOT  
Astoria

## Fund infrastructure

The Astoria City Council, led by ex-librarian Arline LaMear, is attempting to push through an expensive new library construction project with costs projected between \$29.7 and \$38.7 million. We all know that if \$38.7 million is the initial estimated cost, it will be much higher — public construction project costs always are.

During the mayoral debate

in the last election cycle when LaMear was running for mayor, it seemed very convenient that the woman picked to ask questions for it had two regarding a new library. It was an omen of things to come. Once elected, the new library was going to take on a forward momentum of its own.

Today, here we are with the council considering whether to approve and pay for it, despite the wisdom of such a decision.

All this will do is take much needed resources from infrastructure projects that the city desperately needs, and put it into a new building that's rarely used by most Astorians. The City Council should turn its focus to other issues that really matter to taxpayers. I'd bet my library card

that most taxpayers, if actually consulted, would like to see better city streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, housing projects and the parking situation improved.

Ask people going to and from Astoria and Warrenton last summer what the biggest infrastructure problem is, and they'd say U.S. Highway 101 and the Youngs Bay Bridge, not a library expansion.

The City Council should address this issue head on, and begin a planning process to widen the bridge to four lanes, or make another alongside it, with a four lane highway from the bridge to Seaside. Obviously this would require the city to get state and federal funding to proceed. It's a multi-million dol-

lar project, but the longer this is ignored by city, county and state officials, the more expensive it will be when it must be done. Sooner or later it will have to; Clatsop County is not going to stop growing. The argument to move on this now is that 10, 15 or 20 years down the road, this size of a construction project won't get any cheaper — it'll come at an astronomical expense.

Better streets, sidewalks, parking, roads, bridges, housing projects or moving forward on a convention center on Port property would be time well spent by the city council. A modest library remodel is fine, and let a developer buy the Merwyn, tear it down and build a small housing or parking structure instead. Then

# Republicans see how long they can hold their breath

By GAIL COLLINS  
New York Times News Service

Maybe we'd better refrain from having any new opinions until after the election.

Follow the leader.

Mitch McConnell says the Senate shouldn't do anything about the Supreme Court's vacancy as long as Barack Obama is president. Not even go through the motions of pretending to think about it. We've hit a whole new level in the politics of obstruction.

Why stop there? For the next 11 months it's probably better if we let everything go except for the purchase of food staples.

Don't even bother to fake it. Virtually every Republican with a job more elevated than zoning commissioner thinks the best thing to do with any Supreme Court nomination is to act as if it isn't there, like a wad of gum on the sidewalk.

"Delay, delay, delay!" cried Donald Trump at the last debate. Some listeners might have presumed he was calling for the return of the former House majority leader who resigned during a campaign finance scandal and later rehabilitated himself by doing the cha-cha on "Dancing With the Stars." Exactly the kind of guy Donald Trump would like. But in this case he was talking about stonewalling any Supreme Court nomination.

"If I were president ... I guess I'd put in a name," Trump admitted in a phone call to Stephen Colbert. This is extremely mild language for the leading Republican presidential candidate. Normally you'd expect Trump to say something like: "If I were president I'd nominate somebody who would scare the hell out of them. Putin! I'd nominate Putin. And then they'd be so nervous that they'd let me have anybody I wanted, which of course would be Sarah Palin."

People, do you remember what Mitch McConnell used to say when he was the powerless Senate minority leader?

Of course you don't. There's just so much stuff that fits into a human brain and no reason whatsoever that McConnell should be taking up space.

He used to say that when Republicans got control, democracy and venerable tradition would rule. No more of those sneaky tricks that his predecessor Harry Reid used to keep the other side's ideas from coming up for a vote: "The answer is to let folks debate, to let the Senate work its will." He had a vision of a deliberative body that argued so long and hard that eventually all the Democrats would collapse from exhaustion and he, Majority Leader Mitch, would walk over their prostrate bodies to principled victory.

That was the good old days. We remember them with nostalgia, like the golden era when members of both parties drank in the same bars. Now apparently the Senate can't even be trusted to hold a committee hearing.

"We're not moving forward on it, period," said Sen. Marco Rubio. He used to be regarded as the most rational person in the Republican presidential field. That was just because we hadn't had time to get acquainted yet.

If you want to understand why the Republicans are broadcasting their commitment to obstructionism, it's useful to take a look at Rubio's campaign. Given the tenor of our times, it's natural that all the candidates would depict Barack Obama as the worst thing that's happened to America since ... oh, I don't know. Pearl Harbor? The Panic of 1837? But Rubio also insists that the president has been ruining the country on purpose: "All this damage that he's done to America is deliberate."

This is a theory, much loved on talk radio, that involves an insidious presidential plot to make America just a run-of-the-mill country — smaller and weaker and burdened with universal health care. When things go wrong it isn't because of ineptitude. It's a careful Obama scenario aimed at bringing the country down. A man that sin-

ister can't be allowed to even put a nomination into play. God knows what would happen. Close your eyes and pretend he isn't there.

Ben Carson made the same point in his traditional way — that is, in language that made no sense whatsoever: "It is

imperative that the Senate not allow President Obama to diminish his legacy by trying to nominate an individual who would carry on his wishes to subvert the will of the people."

Ted Cruz vowed to filibuster any attempt by the Senate to vote on a nominee. Because

filibuster is, you know, what Ted Cruz does. Just put your hands over your ears and hum very loudly until you get your way.

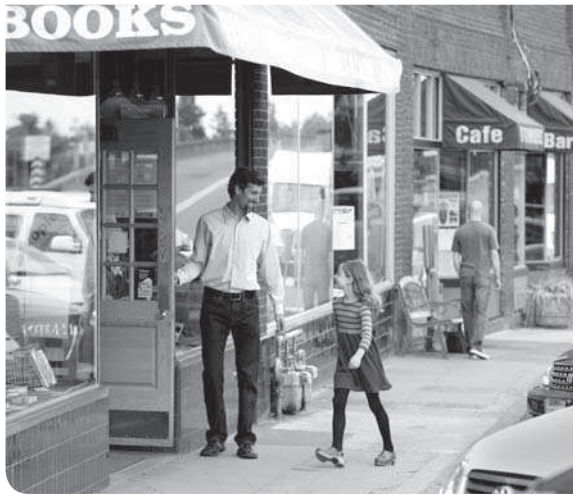
And Jeb Bush ... OK, we don't need to talk about Jeb Bush. This is the man who recently tweeted a picture

of a handgun with his name engraved on it, over the title "America." The only good thing you can say for his campaign is that he did not send out a video called "It's Morning Again in America" that opens with footage of Vancouver. That was Marco Rubio.



Gail Collins

**Don't even bother to fake it.**



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