

The Donald's time

It seems that it is in vogue to rage against The Donald (I am, of course talking about Donald Trump). From my point of view, it is as if the major television networks are upset that they cannot create a persona (like they did with Barack Obama) that is to their liking and therefore, they choose to attempt to discredit him at every opportunity.

In this day and age of news programs and not simply news reporting, ratings mean more to the news stations than accurate reporting, or any form of an unbiased stance that they could take.

It is rather humorous that what I consider to be gross violations of the law are swept under the proverbial rug for potential candidates like Hillary Clinton, but when The Donald and his supporters voice their opinion, they are painted as heretics. How interesting the world has become since the media have taken control of our opinions, and basically told us what we should think.

As for those citizens who are threatening to leave the U.S. if The Donald is elected; I say good deal. These are probably not the Americans you want to have to appease when you are attempting to turn the economy of this country around.

It is interesting though, how many citizens moved off shore during the current administration; and nobody made mention of that, even though it could be considered a mass exodus of sorts. Like they say: "It's who you know," and who you have shaping your image.

Perhaps it is time for a president who cannot be bought by anyone; who can, in fact, do what he really thinks is right and in the best interest of the country, because he does not need to profit from this job.

That is what I think; I could be wrong.

DAVID GRAVES
Astoria

Dump Trump

Today's world really seems like it is going to hell in a hand-basket. Why is there so much hate and anger spewed out of the politician on the GOP side? That hate and anger only

begets more hate and anger. It is a vicious circle.

Isn't life hard enough in the world, without making more people hate more people? Really. His mind must be warped by all his money and privilege. He is so used to getting his own way that it is beyond him to believe he might not be in charge of everything. That he will lose to a woman, of all things. He thinks so little of the opposite sex that it is driving him crazier than he already is.

The problem with all this craziness is he is taking his followers with him. They have lost hope in their own lives, and are turning to him to find themselves because they are lost. Only those who are lost would follow this guy. I feel sorry for them, as they cannot think for themselves and need someone to tell them what to do. How sad is that? These people are following a reality star, for God's sake.

I'm sure God has nothing to do with this, as he likes to presume. He is a complete fake. There is nothing religious in his plans for this country. He will take us right into war and destruction. The rich will get richer, and the poor will get poorer. The only thing to trickle-down is something we won't want to be under.

That is enough of my vent, but it is hard to watch what is going on and believe someone so hateful is being allowed to represent a political party. Does money buy everything? Vote Blue. I certainly will.

M. DIEBOLT
Seaside

Time for reform

Although it's been several years since George W. did his impression of the world's smallest man, it appears the Republicans want the American people to accept an even greater misfit and misanthrope as their next president.

We should be insulted and outraged, but we must realize the central mission of the GOP has been to bring such a degree of ineptitude to any public office they have held, that to expect anything better would be delusional. They have not produced a convincing presi-

Flag at half-staff

Half-staff. Our flag was at half-staff again. As a child in a post World War II era, I recall seeing our flag fly proudly. There were a few identifiable events that the flag would be at half-staff. The most notable was the 30 days of mourning after the assassination of President Kennedy.

As I look about in today's world, I see that the flag is frequently, maybe more than not, at half-staff. It more rarely flies proudly as before. And it seems the majority of events are related to some form of gun violence.

As I continue to look up at our now half-staff flag I will be forever reminded that this is now the price we will all have to pay for the "right" to bear arms.

BUD PERSCHEK
Seaside

dential candidate since Dwight Eisenhower over 50 years ago.

Now, you may ask, if that is the case, didn't they elect Nixon and the two Bushes? And I will say, "you've made my case for me." These presidencies starkly illustrate how successful they have been over the last 40 years in their strategy to reduce confidence in electoral politics in our national life, and replace it with corporatization. By that, I mean attempting to make all facets of government subject to corporate control and funded by tax dollars.

In other words, it becomes government for profit. We're told that corporations are more efficient than governments, so why not let them do the work of government departments and agencies, and pass the savings along to the corporations and their stockholders?

If there ever was an argument for election reform we have it now. If this candidacy is the best they can do for a major political party, then we are in serious trouble. If this is the best they have to offer, we have to ask, "are they truly relevant any more?"

It's an insult, not only to the American people, but to what we have held dear for over 200 years — that the purpose of our government is to further the hopes and aspirations of all our people through law and local ordinance. If you accept this

shallow, cynical view of public life, then it doesn't matter what your leader says or does, just so the bucks keep rolling in, that it's OK when the streets go to hell and the sewers back up, if you've got money in the bank and a house in the Barbados.

This is way too cynical for me. I don't want to have to look away when I find my ex-neighbor pan-handling down on Market Street or look at his boarded up house and his yard going to hell because he lost his job when Wall Street went belly-up, and couldn't keep up the payments. I want more for myself, and I want more for my neighbor, and I don't see it happening if we elect a guy who cares more about his hair than he does for any of the rest of us.

It's your choice America — pray you make the right one.

JACK GUYOT
Astoria

Hair trouble

I have been in the hair business off and on for more than 25 years, and still I meet owners and beauticians with interesting dispositions in this business.

Being challenged, I thought I would do a Google search. When I looked up these words uppity, snobby, conceited and vain, I found actual salons with names including these words: The Uppity Salon, Van-

ity Salon, Conceited Salon, Snobby Salon.

Which only proves a point. Working in the hair business can be challenging, contending with such. I have come to a conclusion that the best way to go is own your own shop, run it alone, and call it The Humble Hair Salon, which I could not find in a Google search.

I believe this is a competitive business, and the customers are not generally where problems arise. Employment opportunities are slim, and you should not be chosen by how "cool" you are, but how well you do the job. Now I am working in retail.

R. HARRIS
Warrenton

Let it go

In his Open Forum letter "Part of the conversation" (*The Daily Astorian*, June 21), Mark Kujala does protest too much. Having been on the board of the Skipanon River Watershed Council for the past eight years, I am bewildered by Kujala's reference to the "project" involving the Eighth Street dam.

Members of the Kujala family have sat on our board of directors and know the facts. The crumbling infrastructure of this old and ineffectual dam has led to a consensus that it should be removed. The state and federal governments agree, and have issued necessary permits. It should be torn down because it is an obstacle to fish passage, dangerous for vehicular traffic, and, like any culvert system, could become obstructed with debris and flood the town.

Originally, the road on top was intended only for maintenance and city vehicles, but the family developer has been using it for large trucks delivering fill, causing further deterioration. The town of Warrenton was offered the dam, but has never wanted to take responsibility for maintenance and possible accidents, and turned the offer down. They were offered a new free bridge, but haggled over how wide it should be, and then rejected the offer outright.

The Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST), the Skipanon Watershed Council, and the Skipanon Water Control District are doing the

right thing for the town and the river. What do Kujala, his family, and his cohort Nygaard really want? The dam had its tide gates removed, and is no longer functioning for flood control, if it ever did. It is being decommissioned and is slowly crumbling into the river. It is time for it to go and for all of us to move on.

MARGARET HINES
Warrenton

Leaking the truth

Regrettably, the Astorian Reditorial "Carbon choices are climate choices" (*The Daily Astorian*, June 20) focused on carbon and carbon dioxide as though these are the only global warming problem. They most profoundly are not.

Carbon dioxide is certainly the major contributor to global warming, but there are several other responsible gases. Most notable among them is methane, a gas that is 87 times more effective at warming the earth than carbon dioxide on a 20 year basis, which is relevant because this is about the time we have to act.

Methane is the major component of natural gas. While burning natural gas to produce electricity releases less carbon dioxide than burning coal or oil, hence the misnomer "the clean fossil fuel," the problem is natural gas leaks at a startling rate — well above values that used to be reported by industry and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The leakage, particularly from the fracking technology employed to extract the gas from shale, has been reported far higher than necessary to negate the combustion benefit. Thus, natural gas is probably worse than coal as a cause of global warming — but because of methane, not because of carbon dioxide. Additionally, current oil and coal extraction technologies also release methane.

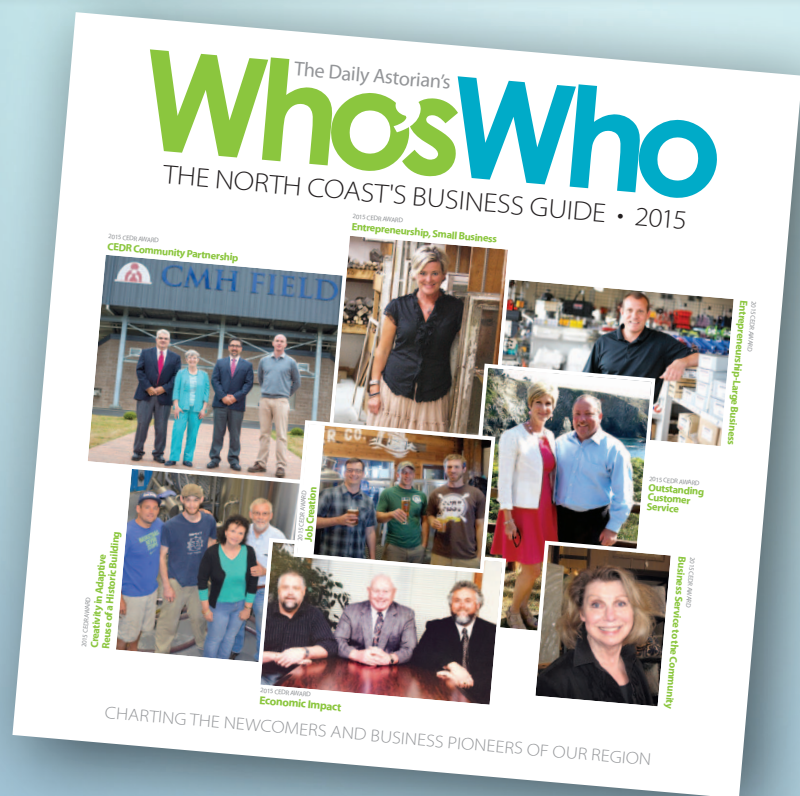
Fortunately, the Oregon proposal should target the problem: greenhouse gas emissions as carbon dioxide equivalents. Newspapers could help by educating the public accurately about the problem, and proposed solutions.

ALAN JOURNET
Jacksonville, Oregon

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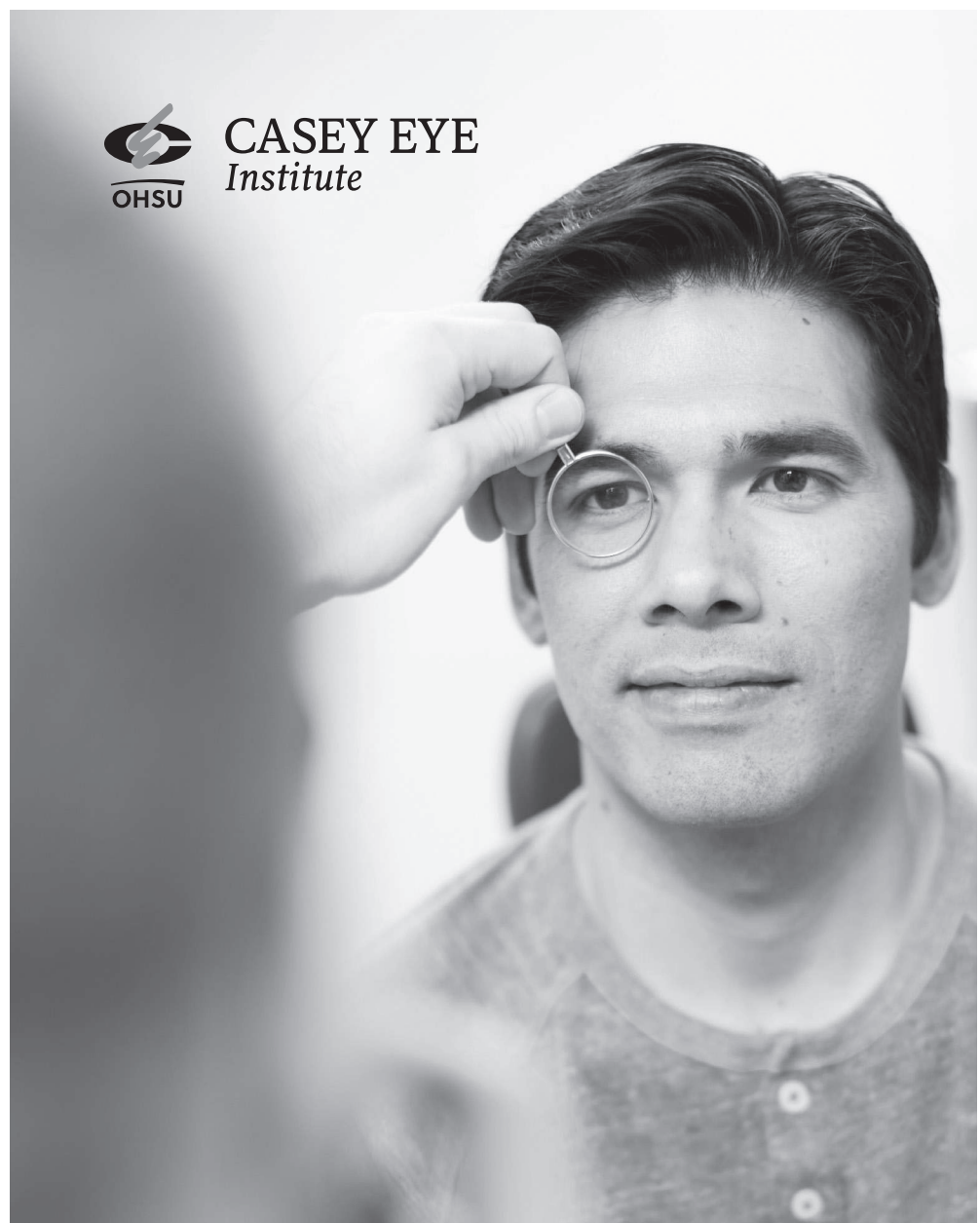
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