

No to Mo's

Many of us make our home in Astoria because of this town's beauty, original character and unique identity, and also because of the way all Astorians work together to make this community a better place. I, and many others here, are alarmed at the idea of any kind of generic chain restaurant on Astoria's historic waterfront.

The Mo's "saltwater taffy" chain restaurant design in the space where Vintage Hardware was located does not fit with Astoria's historic waterfront identity and character. If you think Mo's will hurt our small mom and pop restaurants, create terrible traffic problems on that narrow track (which is not even a dedicated "right of way") and create a carnival atmosphere in a town where authenticity is our trademark, please, please come to the Astoria Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

We need to let our local leaders know that granting a conditional use permit for Mo's in that location will take Astoria in a direction most folks here say they do not want to go, and set a precedent for more chains to take over our valuable spaces.

I am currently researching the city of Astoria's criteria for a conditional use permit for Mo's Restaurant. We need a large group of engaged and concerned citizens at the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday. If you have ideas and thoughts to share about this, please call me at 503-389-5336.

DANIEL O'DONNELL
Astoria

Terrifying

We disapprove of Hillary Clinton's ties to corporate money and American imperialism. Nonetheless, we recommend to those who may be considering voting for Donald Trump, or considering not voting at all, that they read Jane Mayer's article about Trump in the July 25 edition of *The New Yorker*, "Donald Trump's Ghostwriter Tells All."

In it she describes the experience of the person hired to

Kids will languish with second-class library

When the City Council voted to increase the sewer surcharge to pay for a necessary upgrade to our sewer system, I grudgingly went along. After all, it's part of living in a city with multiple infrastructure problems.

Now we are being asked to accept a second-class library to go along with our first-class sewer system. Three members of the City Council (Councilors Cindy Price, Zetty Nemlowill, and Russ Warr) bowed earlier this week to a few citizens' complaints over the issuance of a bond measure to pay for a new library, and opted to consider only a bare-bones, scaled-back renovation of the existing library — quite possibly at a cost equal to, or greater than, that of a new state-of-the-art library at Heritage Square.

Nobody asked me if I would be willing to pay a bit more in property tax to pay for a new library to help make Astoria the truly great city it deserves to be.

I would gladly help pay for a state-of-the-art library, an art center, a convention center, a public plaza at Heritage Square, and, yes, even improvements to the trolley trestle system. Even though it might put a strain on my meager income, as a taxpayer I feel they would be worth it.

But I didn't speak up at the last City Council meeting when the vote was taken to renovate the existing library. I didn't speak up because I am preparing to leave Astoria, in part for health reasons, but also because I am disappointed in the political leadership in this city.

Astoria seems to have become a city of small visions and low expectations. When I arrived here seven years ago I was astounded at the vast potential of the place. Years later, I see that the city is still grappling with a crumbling infrastructure resulting from years of neglect and deferred maintenance, the sorry leg-

acy of the previous mayor's long tenure at the helm.

The current library, in its deplorable condition and lack of financial support from the city, is just one example among many of serious deficiencies in city planning. The sewer project is a shining exception, the result of excellent planning on the part of an exceptional engineering department.

One would have hoped that the City Council, the city manager, and the Community Development Department were equally up to the task of creating a 21st century library for the citizens of Astoria, including the children — the ones who will suffer most from the lack of an adequate library. This decision, effectively a dumbing down of the community, will have disastrous consequences for generations to come.

CHARLES SCHWEIGERT
Astoria

Flows to Police Departments," June 8). According to Pentagon data, police departments have received tens of thousands of machine guns; nearly 200,000 ammunition magazines; thousands of pieces of camouflage and night-vision equipment; and hundreds of silencers, armored cars and aircraft.

Today, apparently, police shoot people and don't know why. There has been a lot of that going on lately. They could easily blow us up with drones and say "whoops," it was a mistake. They could blow up my walker and then shoot me while I am lying in the street facedown, my gray hair blowing in the wind, with my hands up. It is conceivable.

When police give up their military hardware, the citizens can give up theirs.

DIXIE GAINER
Nehalem

ghostwrite Trump's book, *The Art of the Deal*, and the picture that emerges of Trump is of a "sociopath" (defined in Webster's Collegiate Dictionary as a psychopath). When one remembers that our president has the final word about using nuclear weapons, the possibility that Trump could be elected is terrifying.

ROBERT and
KERSTIN ADAMS
Astoria

Shame on you

I was very disappointed in the City Council meeting this week. We have a chance toward making Astoria a better city. Libraries are such an important part of any city, to be used for reading, research, computers and enjoyment in good times and bad. But the City Council once again shot themselves in the foot with indecision, using supposedly the cheapest way to redo the library.

Astoria seems to always just do what's necessary to get along instead of actually accomplishing something good. They want to continue in the dark ages instead of the 21st century. If there was interest, and that hasn't been checked out as yet, we could

find a way to get the money.

Shame on you council members Cindy Price, Russ Warr and Zetty Nemlowill. The only thinking people wanting to improve the future of Astoria are Mayor Arline LaMear and Councilman Drew Herzig.

SYLVIA DAVIS
Astoria

Clearcut question

For years now, I have been trying to show others why our native forests are valuable, how they are composed of an intricate and interwoven community of plants and animals forming a diversity and balance that is a living forest. I could understand cutting trees, but why would anyone want to kill the whole forest?

It was with a jolt that I recently discovered how big timber companies (who own 70 percent of Oregon's forest land) can destroy forests and leave the scraped hillsides we see all around us — above Wheeler, along Oregon Highway 53 — wherever you live.

The reason is they do not care. They do not care about what happens to the earth and waters, animals and birds, plants and trees in the area they manage. Nor do they care

about what happens to the adjacent communities. That is not their purpose. Their purpose is to make money for their investors. Of course, their investors do not work or live in the local community. They are more likely connected to financial centers in Hong Kong, London, Wall Street or Panama.

Nor can we say that local jobs are generated by the logging, since huge machines, not loggers, are used to bring down the forest. Nor are other jobs given to locals, but rather workers are brought in who will take the lowest possible wages. The goal is to generate as much money as quickly as possible, and with as little expense as possible. Hence, clear cut.

Nor do these big corporations that use and pollute our resources contribute to local, state, or federal taxes. Set up as a Timber Investment Management Organization, if they give 90 percent of their profits to their investors (who do not live locally), they are exempt from federal Income taxes. In addition, they pay almost no property tax in support of county government for local services.

Let's see. How does that add up? Barren hills; no con-

tribution to the community through jobs, business, or taxes. Degradation of the landscape through clearcutting, herbicides, burning. Increased pressure on state managed forests to produce income needed for local services.

The question is: Why are we so quietly letting this happen?

GWENDOLYN
ENDICOTT
Nehalem

Police, first

I read the article "LaMear bears witness to a public health epidemic" (*The Daily Astorian*, July 21). It has to do with banning assault weapons, and high-capacity magazines.

I am a widow in my late 70s. My husband had several guns, and we used to go hunting. I have always been against assault weapons until now. Here is the reason: Many local police departments throughout our country now are equipped with combat-ready military hardware.

According to *The New York Times*, former tools of combat — M-16 rifles, grenade launchers, silencers and more — are ending up in local police departments, often without citizen knowledge ("War Gear

Dam lies

Why have Kurt Frisch, the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) and the Skipanon Water Control District been working so hard to hide the true impact of removing the Eighth Street dam? There are three different engineering reports critical of the applications CREST has submitted. These reports were not made available to the commission or the public.

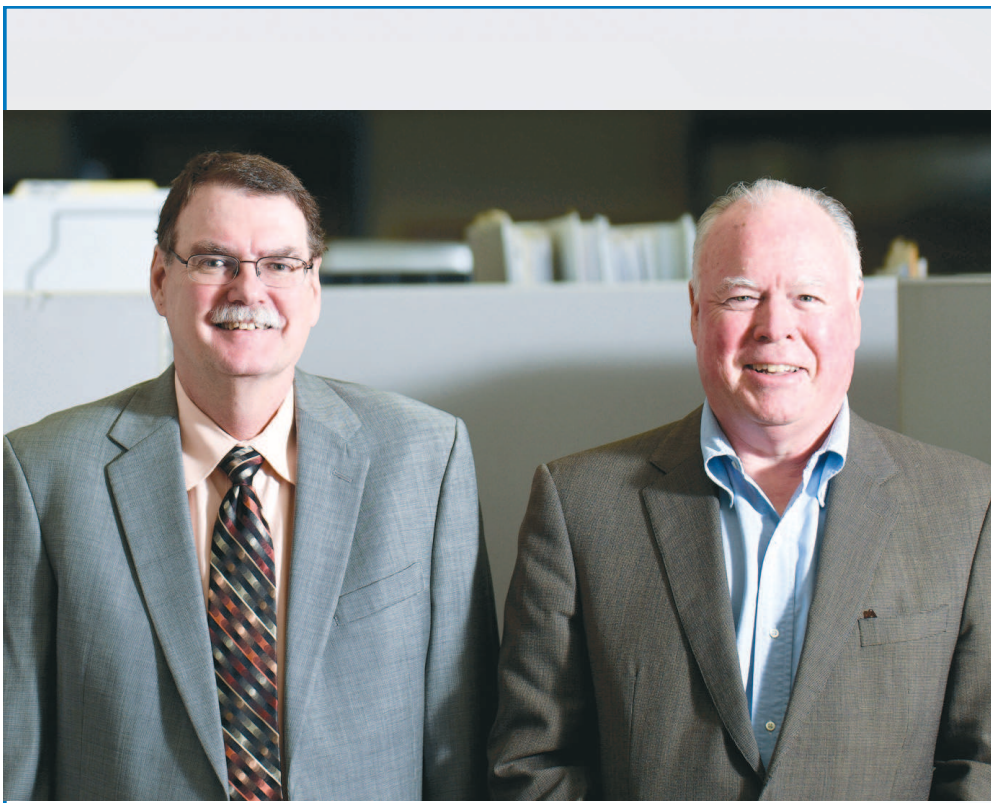
I am very disappointed by our local media, who continue to support CREST and the Skipanon Water Control District while their wrongdoing is clear. The media has a professional responsibility to report the facts.

Questions that need to be answered:

- What is the extent of CREST's corruption?
- Who knew about these reports, and when?
- Who is involved in hiding and lying to this commission and the public?
- Why are whistle blowers on this issue being attacked?

I look forward to a complete investigation regarding the dam, and to make sure that all wrongdoers are held accountable.

PAT O'GRADY
Astoria



SAY GOODBYE

to Steve Forrester

WELCOME

David Pero

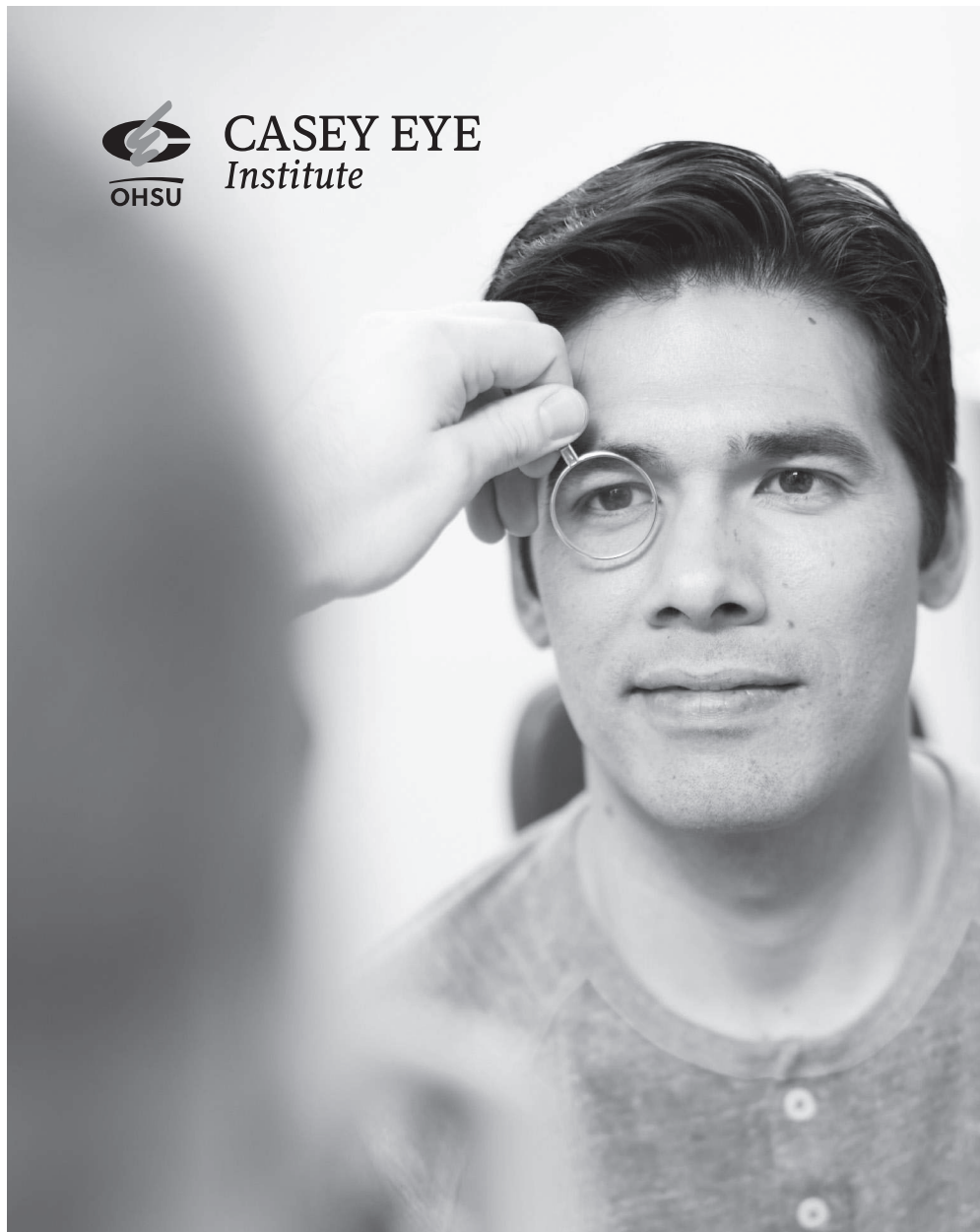
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Light refreshments

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