

A job well done

Steve Forrester's editorial on Aug. 3 brought many memories of friends and fine people to my mind ("Of Cabbages and Kings: 28 years inside a gathering of eccentrics," *The Daily Astorian*). Thank you so much, Steve, for so many years on the job. What a nice farewell. What a credit to his profession!

MICHAEL MANION
Seaside

No Trump

I don't go for most "patriots," especially the self-proclaimed and self-decorated variety. But Donald Trump is a real and present danger to our country.

The nation he represents is not the U.S., but someplace more resembling Deadwood, on that TV program, where it was dog-eat-dog and the only enforcement of rules was to occasionally shoot or hang somebody. That didn't work out well even for people as talented as Wild Bill Cody and Calamity Jane. And they were the good guys.

The country he envisions is not this country, which he doesn't even understand. It is our no-joke patriotic duty to reject this dangerous, deranged demagogue. Soundly. We need to chew him up and spit him out.

Meanwhile there's the Olympics, where our boys and girls might whip everybody else's boys and girls at difficult, painful and dangerous tasks. Plus, this one's got Zika and a polluted bay for comic relief. If Godzilla comes up out of that bay and starts eating people, I'll pay closer attention. And I'll prefer that to Trump.

JOSEPH WEBB
Astoria

Fund library

To see a town's library is to see its soul. Astoria deserves a bigger, newer library that reflects its position as the seat of Clatsop County.

Do you not see that "... it isn't just a library. It is a space ship that will take you to the farthest reaches of the Universe, a time machine that will take you to the far past and the far future, a teacher that knows more than any human being, a friend that will amuse you and console you — and most of all, a gateway, to a better and happier and more useful life." (Isaac Asimov, 1971)

Let's get down to business and fund a new library to be built on Heritage Square.

PATTI JONES
Astoria

I'll sign second

Thank you to Mayor LaMear for the letter to the governor ("LaMear calls for action on guns," *The Daily Astorian*, July 19). We, as a society, need to recognize the direction we are headed even though there will never be 100 percent agreement on everything proposed.

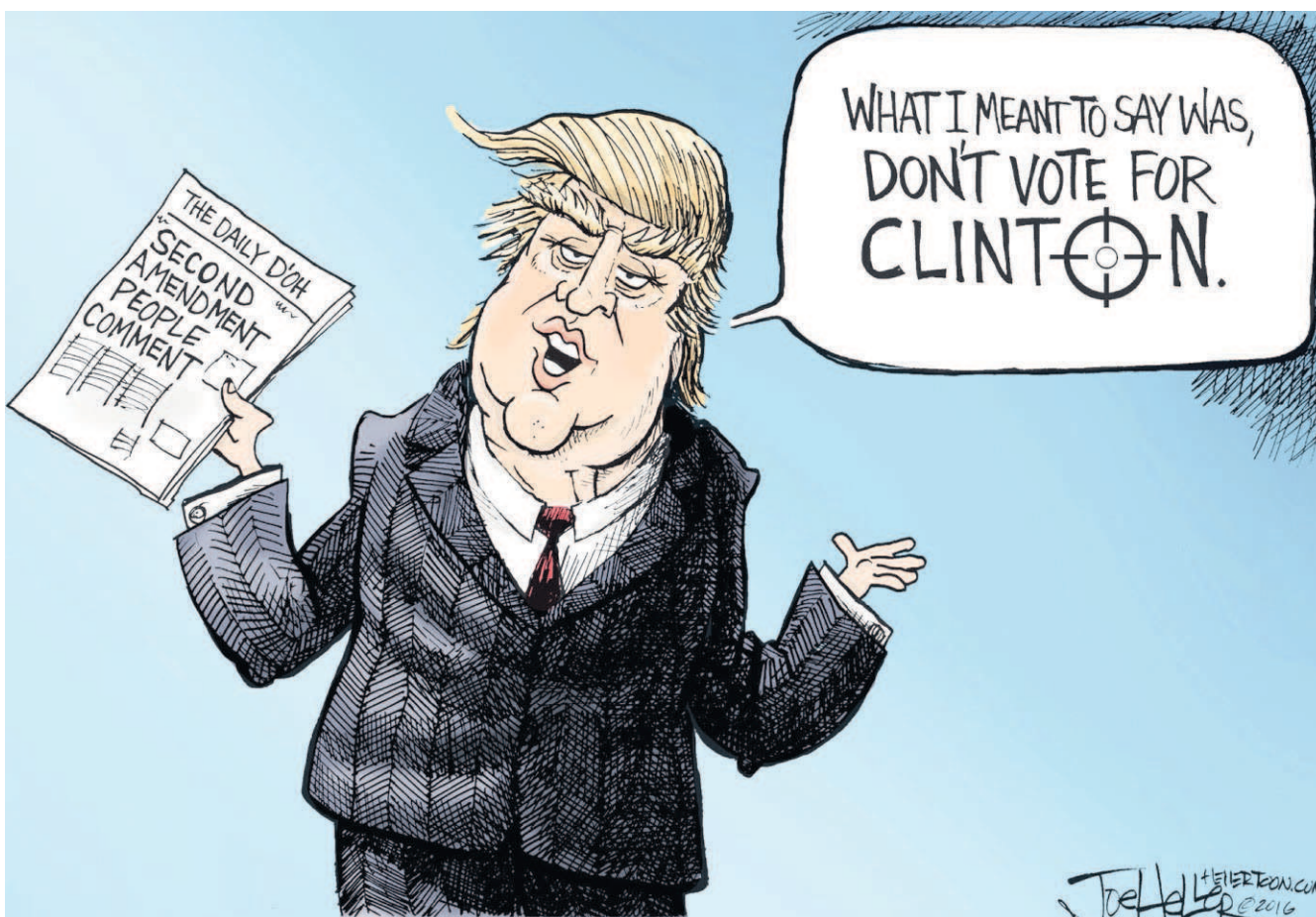
Sensibility has to prevail, and we must begin somewhere. I'll gladly sign second (or wherever) below your name on the letter, but my penmanship is nothing like "John Hancock."

PAT WILSON
Astoria

Can't see the forest

Bud Henderson's recent letter "Forest facts" (*The Daily Astorian*, Aug. 5) misses the mark in some important areas. His supposition that Gwendolyn Endicott ("Clear-cut question," *The Daily Astorian*, July 29) is "anti-logging" fosters the kind of "us versus them" mentality that only serves the timber industry. The industry thrives on creating the divisiveness to scare timber industry workers into thinking someone wants to take away their jobs.

Ms. Endicott, and people like myself, are not opposed to logging if it's done in an ecologically sound way. Cutting down all but two trees



Respect our law enforcement

While back, a longtime friend sent me a letter titled "Support Police" from the July 20 edition of the *Yakima Herald*, written by Alan Jones. The piece was, to me, a welcome respite of common sense.

Meanwhile, the mood of the nation and our press evidently has moved on to greener pastures, like the everdeveloping contentiousness of high-profile politics. Still, the fact remains that the primary barrier between chaos and the vast majority of us is, as ever, the Thin Blue Line. Period. And it is a responsibility of our national, state and local leaders to focus on the overwhelming positive contributions law enforcement makes to our nation at all levels.

But, not all of our citizens choose to cooperate in good faith with our law enforcement officers. As Jones states, "Some citizens ... have moved toward

not obeying laws and defying authority in recent years. Examples of this lawlessness can be seen every day with people texting, running red lights and speeding in their cars. More importantly, peaceful protests frequently become riots."

Worse, some of our citizens have begun assassinating our police officers — on and off duty. Where is the outrage directed at this level of lawlessness by our citizenry?

Jones again: "National leaders, including our president, have called for an end to 'police brutality.' These people want to end police shooting citizens, as does everyone else in the country. Videos show citizens being shot by police. If one watches closely they will see that these 'victims' of police brutality brandished a weapon, strongly resisted arrest and/or did not follow the directions given."

Alan Jones clearly gets it; common sense, competing with seemingly inexorable emotional contagion, occasionally slipping toward hysteria, must prevail.

He ends his letter as follows: "If people stopped by police simply followed directions, shootings would not be necessary. Our national leaders, especially our president, should be telling people to follow police directions first to avoid trouble. These leaders should not blindly suggest every police shooting was unjustified before it is even reviewed. Lack of strong guidance from our national leaders is fueling a fire of anarchism in this country not seen since the 1960s. This country needs new common sense leadership at the highest levels, and police support, not unsupported criticism."

MAURIE HENDRICKSON
Astoria

per acre, repeatedly spraying the broken soil with pesticides and replanting fir saplings that grow into tight, uniform stands more prone to fire is not ecologically sound. It is inaccurate to suggest that those tree farms equate with a native forest. A native forest is a much more complex, life sustaining system that is irreparably harmed by clearcutting.

The numbers Henderson cites to demonstrate the importance of timber-related jobs are relatively insignificant when looking at the whole state where lumber, wood products and paper account for only 5 percent of total employment. Statistics from the Oregon Employment Division also show that increased timber harvest doesn't equate with more forest industry jobs.

That's because of the massive exporting of logs, which minimizes the number of mill jobs at home. Do the timber barons care? Did they care about job loss when they automated, introducing machines like the feller buncher that can cut down over 100 trees in an hour, work that formerly took a team of men instead of one operator?

As Henderson states, the Big Creek area of Clatsop County is a good example of stewardship by a timber company. Unfortunately, that stewardship is not the timber company norm. Failure to clean up pollution from logging along the North Coast caused the loss of a \$1.2 million federal grant that should have gone to coastal counties for water quality improvement projects. If the timber companies care so much, Mr. Henderson, maybe they could pony up the \$1.2 million to get those projects started.

ROGER DORBAND
Astoria

Disappointed

While I appreciate the work and effort the people on the Astoria Library board put forth on all of our behalf, I am a little disappointed that they decided to

look so far afield for a new head librarian.

I cannot believe they could not find a satisfactory replacement from among the many capable folks presently working and doing a fine job at

the library. This phenomenon of hiring from afar is, in my opinion, ill advised and has the potential for deteriorating moral.

SAM DEVEREAUX
Astoria

Trump and Russia

Vladimir Putin gave Donald Trump a nice present when he released Kremlin-hacked internal Democratic National Committee emails,

apparently biased against Bernie Sanders, just at the beginning of the Democratic convention. The result was exactly as intended — disruption and discord among the Democratic delegates at the convention, ending in the resignation of the DNC chairwoman, Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

During The Donald's next speech he thanked Mr. Putin profusely for his assistance, asserting that this new information from Russia will turn the tide and help him get elected president of the U.S. Unfortunately, The Donald's propensity toward speaking before thinking took over at that point, and he then invited his buddy Putin to hack into U.S. State Department computers and locate some other emails that he thought would help with his campaign.

Forethought is definitely not one of Mr. Trump's long suits, or he would have realized that inviting a foreign power, particularly a more or less unfriendly one, to hack into our government's computers is very close to treason. When asked early in the primary campaign about Vladimir P., The Donald said that they "have a close relationship." After this little "error" of judgment in his speech, in a later interview, he asserted that he had "never met the man." And, he does this with a straight face.

Would Russia like to see Trump as president of this country? You bet. Vladimir is a product of the Soviet Union, and he yearns to make Russia great again (sound familiar?) in that image, lording the power of his huge country over his small neighbors. Trump would gut NATO, leaving the Baltic states wide open to Russian invasion without any real resistance, just like in Ukraine.

If you would like our country to be a mirror image of Russia, where there is no free press, no freedom of speech, no freedom of assemblage, no right to address grievances against the government, where the working classes live in extreme poverty and those in power become extremely rich, then Donald Trump is your man.

ROD DAWSON
Seaside



ENERGY COSTS TOO HIGH? TRY LOOKING AT IT IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.

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