

Taking responsibility

I have been teaching my son the meaning of responsibility by comparing how boys may hide from responsibility, but adults step forward to take responsibility for their actions. So, Donald Trump was caught on audio tape expressing surprise and delight that celebrities could molest women without consequences.

Days after this story broke, the first of 12 women stepped forward to state that Trump had molested them, and propositioned some of them. "Lies! Conspiracy! The media!" cried boy Trump. So 62 million people voted for a sexual predator to become our president?

Were Hillary Clinton's emails more egregious? Gen. Colin Powell also used a private server at home for government business when he was secretary of state. Where's the outrage there?

Want change in government? Republican speaker Paul Ryan's 10-year budget two years ago proposed cutting social spending \$93 billion per year, but increasing military spending \$44 billion per year. Our military already spends more on defense than the next 25 nations combined. Sounds like a bloated bureaucracy than needs to go on a diet.

Republicans can't be trusted to practice fiscal responsibility. Bill Clinton achieved a balanced budget toward the close of his administration. Barack Obama turned the economy around with the help of the Federal Reserve, but with only interference from Republicans in Congress. George Bush, using faulty CIA intelligence, wasted \$2 trillion and 4,500 American lives on the pointless Iraq War, which continues 14 years later.

I predict that in two years you won't be able to find a person who admits to voting for Trump. Trump will be impeached for mental illness.

And why is Trump so nervous and defensive about vote recounts?

DAVID FITCH
Astoria

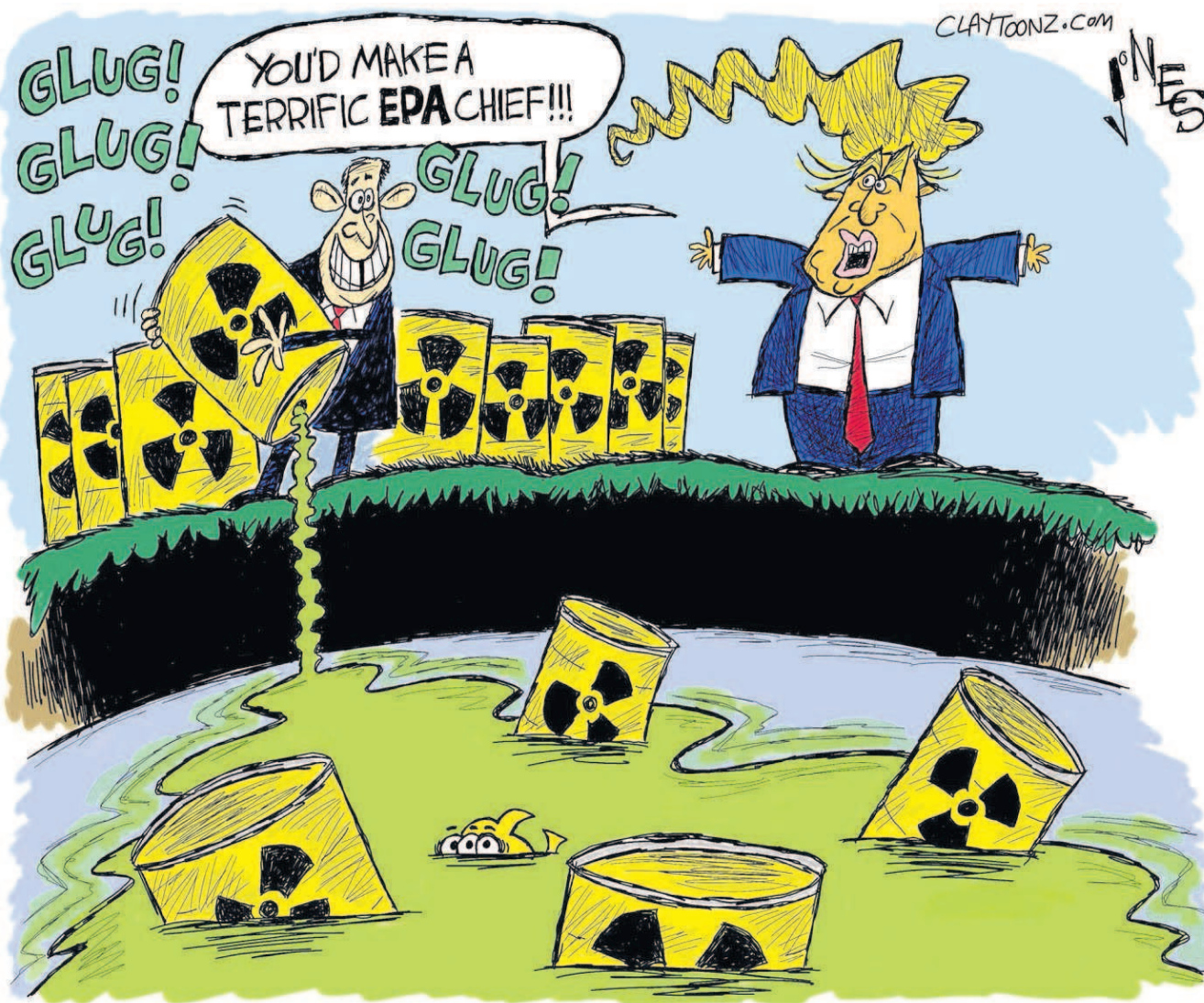
Daily what?

Saturday, Nov. 26, Astoria celebrated the opening of the holiday season with Santa, the North Coast Chorale, community singing and the festive lighting up of our beautiful downtown. It was magical.

Monday's *Daily Astorian* front page featured a huge brilliant display of Seaside's festivities of the same nature; not a word about Astoria's; not even four days later.

Tuesday, Nov. 29, the community of Astoria celebrated Giving Tuesday, with seven local great local causes, all nonprofits, garnering a stupendous amount of money, generously donated by citizens of this caring, beautiful community. I was moved to tears by the level of generosity.

Wednesday, Nov. 30, *The Daily Astorian* chose to high-



The freedom of expression

I was disturbed to learn in Lyra Fontaine's article, "Art is not here to make friends" (*The Daily Astorian*, Dec. 5), that a provocative painting by Billy Lutz in the window of the T. Anjuli Salon and Gallery prompted a visit by the police. Any person who reads Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black's views of the First Amendment will recognize that Billy Lutz's painting, "Rape of Mother Earth," is a form of free

expression covered by that amendment.

In a well-known and often quoted interview, Justice Black gave voice to his total and unconditional belief in the absolute freedom of expression. He believed that all people should have the right to say what they please, in any manner of expression, and be free of libel laws, obscenity statutes or other man-made restraints. Therefore, Lutz's painting is protected under the First

Amendment, as are the comments of the detractors who think Lutz's painting is "shocking" and "in poor judgment."

That the police should be involved in the matter of Lutz's painting is chilling, considering the political climate that is emerging from the election of Donald Trump, a man who thinks the First Amendment should be revisited.

REX AMOS
Cannon Beach

light a couple of great charitable organizations' good works in Seaside; no mention of Astoria's. And, on the front page, a very nice article about Cannon Beach's new brewery; no word of Astoria's brand-new such enterprise.

I don't for a second begrudge the kudos for our deserving neighbors; but this is the Daily what? Do we not deserve at least a paragraph, when great things emanate from Astoria?

ELAINE BAUER
Astoria

Competing views

I found the letter by Gwendolyn Endicott, "Sued for our trees" (*The Daily Astorian*, Nov. 25), informative and challenging. As a newcomer to Oregon, I have been troubled by the immensity of the visual impacts of traditional logging practices in Oregon and Washington — at least from the obvious blattancy of the vast clear-cutting in evidence. Her recommendation is an aggressive political approach, in one instance, to a proposed state logging management plan. This seems

crucial, to me.

The argument stirs an appreciation of a number of sometimes competing forces that, as opinions driving the current political mood in the country, seem difficult to reconcile. Some would view forests as limited and precious resources worthy of numerous public and environmental considerations.

Others, no doubt, see a vast resource that is under-utilized and damaging to the economic health of the areas, as well as the powerful family-centered and corporate logging traditions — traditions that are held as self-justifying of the expansion of what seem to be deforestation practices.

Disarming to me is the resources at issue here are largely sold off and shipped out to answer some global market demands that have little to do with the needs of the states, other than for cash flow. What seems apparent to me is that the need for comprehensive and courageous regulation of this industry, and others, is essential if only because market forces, be they couched in terms of recent history and traditions or the

sanctity of faceless corporations, will continue to devastate until nary a twig remains standing.

It's just who we are and how we behave, it seems, without significant restraints, regardless of what view we may have of America when it was "great."

GREG LAVIN
Astoria

Stein's recount

Although there have been no specific complaints of hacking or election fraud in Michigan, Wisconsin, or Pennsylvania, Jill Stein, citing concerns for the integrity of our elections, filed three recall petitions in those states at the last possible moment.

Stein requested, and is suing to obtain, hand recounts which will have the likely effect of delaying the count past the transpiration of the Safe Harbor provision's deadline of Dec. 13. The sum of the electoral votes of those states are sufficient to change the outcome of the 2016 presidential election only in favor

of Hillary Clinton.

If those states have not certified a recount vote by the deadline, their electors are suspended and their state's electoral votes shall be disposed of by a simple majority vote of the U.S. House of Representatives, who may ascribe them to any candidate including, Hillary or Donald. If Hillary can obtain 29 "Never Trump" Republican House votes, depending on abstentions and Democratic support, she could be determined to be the next president.

If it was exclusively election integrity, then shouldn't Stein have filed in states where there were allegations of election fraud, or at least in states that Hillary prevailed in by comparably small margins, like Nevada, New Hampshire or Minnesota? If she did not because she anticipated that she could not obtain the contributions to do so, then what assurances convinced her that she would get sufficient contributions for the three recount states?

Ask yourself, honestly: If Hillary had prevailed in the election by a similar margin

in those states, would Stein still have filed a petition for a recount in them all?

America is not politically innocent. Like a Greek soliloquy, we have heard this sort of thing before — "I did not have sexual relations, with that woman, Monica Lewinski" and "Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction."

Legend has it that a young George Washington refused to deny chopping down his father's cherry tree. Hillary Clinton, in an infamous leaked speech, reportedly said that achieving political victories requires you to hold a public, and a separate private, position on every issue. Some say that Jill Stein has fulfilled the first requirement of contemporary political office: lying to the people.

THEODORE THOMAS
Astoria

Stand up to bully

We should have declared ourselves a sanctuary city ("Astoria will not pursue sanctuary status," *The Daily Astorian*, Dec. 6). We are a small town and know that Trump is a gigantic bully.

I understand how the Astoria City Council could be fearful of the bully's fist, and the portion of local voters who sadly agree with this bully. But this bully's ugly promises have frightened minorities across the nation, and all I feel the City Council did by not adopting the language of a sanctuary city demonstrates how white we are.

If we really felt the fear many immigrants are experiencing as if it was our own, we wouldn't, for a moment, consider the language of sanctuary city as mere "window dressing." It isn't window dressing to boldly say no to a bully. It isn't window dressing to express solidarity with the cities standing up to this bully.

To state that the laws are already in place preventing local law enforcement from acting as federal immigration officers seems at least a little cowardly. If we are, by Oregon law, a sanctuary state why hesitate to declare ourselves a sanctuary city?

We built the Garden of Surging waves to honor and recognize the injustice done to the Chinese immigrants who once filled Astoria's canneries, but is our racial injustice in the past? It certainly will not be if we miss any opportunity demonstrate our firm commitment to the value, dignity and right of all people when it matters, and it matters now.

To prevent another American moral tragedy, like the internment of Japanese Americans or the Red Scare, the first thing we have to defeat is fear, and that's not what I feel the City Council did. I feel they rationalized instead of making a strong moral statement.

M. ALEX "SASHA"
MILLER
Astoria

President-elect Trump is just starting to warm up

By GAIL COLLINS
New York Times News Service

What do you think the theme for Donald Trump's appointments has been so far? Generals, generals, generals? Climate change deniers, climate change deniers?



Those seem to be the leading contenders, although there's always the ever-popular

Give Chris Christie a job. While still cooling his heels as governor of New Jersey, Christie made history when a recent Quinnipiac poll showed him with a 77 percent job disapproval rating. None of his predecessors had managed such a feat. We knew he had it in him.

When I want to be cheered up, I always think about Christie, who's currently lobbying for head of the Republican National Committee. (Next week, the Surface Transportation Board.)

On the downside, we had the heartbreaking saga of Al Gore, who happily emerged from a meeting with Trump this week, telling reporters about the "lengthy and

very productive session" he'd had with the president-elect on climate change. It was, Gore added hopefully, a conversation that was likely "to be continued."

Then Trump turned around and named Scott Pruitt, the attorney general of Oklahoma, as head of the Environmental Protection Agency. From Gore's perspective, this would be like the judge in a divorce case naming the aggrieved husband as marriage counselor.

Pruitt is best pals with the oil and gas industry, and he knows the EPA mainly as an entity to be sued. Under his watchful eye, his state has allowed so much natural gas fracking that Oklahoma now has way more earthquakes than sunrises.

Why do you think Trump went to so much trouble to set Gore up for heartbreak? The most likely answer is that he was only pretending to listen to what Gore was saying about climate change, while he waited for the chance to break in and talk about how tremendous, enormous, historic and stupendous his election victory was. This seems to happen a lot.

Also, it's perfectly possible that by the time Trump sat down with Gore, he no longer remembered

who he was appointing to the EPA. Perhaps he didn't remember that Gore cared about the environment. The key to this man's success, you understand, is failure to recall anything that happened before his most recent meal.

Mesmerizing

The selection of a Trump administration has been sort of mesmerizing in its own awful way. Ben Carson will be running Housing and Urban Development — Ben Carson, whose associate recently said he wouldn't be taking any Cabinet job because "he's never run a federal agency. The last thing he would want to do was take a position that could cripple the presidency."

And our new national security adviser is going to be Michael Flynn, a very creepy retired general whose son/former chief of staff has been promoting stupendously false stories about Hillary Clinton's involvement in a child sex ring at a pizza restaurant.

Nicknames

Trump says he's discussed his talent hunt with President Barack Obama, who thinks "very highly" of some of the people on his list. Who

do you think they are? Probably not the general with the son who tweets about Democratic child abuse. Maybe retired Gen. James Mattis, who Trump wants to make secretary of defense? Mattis is a pretty popular choice, possibly because his nickname is "Mad Dog."

Do you think if Christie had a nickname, it would help his chances? What about "Growling Gerbil"?

And then there's secretary of state. Trump seems to be looking at 9 million possibilities. By next week you may be in the mix. Think about it. You're far better qualified than Rudy "Rabid Rabbit" Giuliani. And unlike David Petraeus, I'll bet you are not currently serving out probation after pleading guilty to sharing highly classified government information with a lover.

Lately, it appears Trump has gone back into the field to drag in a whole new bunch of State Department contenders. My favorite is Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of California, a person you have probably never heard of even though he's been in Congress since the 1980s and is currently head of the prestigious Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats.

Rohrabacher is also a surfer and former folk singer who once claimed global warming might be connected to "dinosaur flatulence." He's told transition officials that if he gets the nod, he'll make the terrifying John Bolton his deputy, so the nation can get a crazy warmonger plus a guy who knows how to play old Kingston Trio music.

Also in the running: Rex Tillerson, the CEO of ExxonMobil. Unlike Rohrabacher, Tillerson seems to believe that humans have had an impact on the climate; he just doesn't care. ("What good is it to save the planet if humanity suffers?")

Another name being bandied around is Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, who first ran for the Senate with a famous ad in which he shot a hole in federal environmental legislation.

Do you see a pattern here? Apparently the next secretary of state will be somebody who likes smog. Perhaps this is an opening for Christie. New Jersey has had a lot of environmental problems. Maybe he could invite Trump to a football game for some bonding. They could talk foreign affairs, and then pollute something on the way home.