

Republican legacies

In response to the “Worst Legacy” letter (*The Daily Astorian*, Jan. 20): Rush Limbaugh’s disciple is at it again. As another writer says, “I could be wrong,” but in this case, I’m probably right.

Benghazi, worst lie in American presidential history? Oops, forgot about Richard Nixon and Watergate. Remember? “I am not a crook.” He resigned rather than be impeached.

Oops, forgot about Ronald Reagan. Remember? Iran-Contra — how did he survive not going to prison? Thousands of documents were destroyed in a big cover up. No one talks about the god of the Republican Party, who should have been brought before a court for high crimes.

Oops, forgot about George H.W. Bush. Remember? Out of the loop re Iran-Contra. “Read my lips: no new taxes.”

Credit given: He was smart enough to stay the hell out of Iraq.

Oops, forgot about George W. Bush. Remember? Talk about a lie (a real doozie): Weapons of mass destruction.

Many thousands more people have died, and millions are displaced, over that lie than Benghazi. And \$20 trillion in debt — Bush put his b.s. wars on the taxpayer credit card. I’m sure the Bushies said the war wasn’t going to cost us anything. And remember good ol’ Paul Wolfowitz? War in Afghanistan for 15 years, Iraq for 14 years — have they worked out well for you? Got a little shock and awe going on now? Mission accomplished.

Military families have been used and used, yet only a few of our politicians on both sides of the aisle have family members in the service of their country. They are willing to get into wars, pound their chests about how tough they are, but no military service or blood is given by them, or their families.

I read a statement that has stuck in my mind: You are entitled to your opinion, Mr. Nassikas, but you are not allowed to make up your own facts.

Another real nightmare is just starting. The Drumpfs have arrived. I see nothing good coming from this entourage.

LARRY and COLLEEN MORGAN
Astoria

Thanks for toys

Toys for Tots would like to take this opportunity to thank the donors of toys and monetary value, and the toy drop places, in this last collection campaign. We raised \$250 to purchase toys and books. We put smiles on the faces of 1,225 of children this past Christmas.

The toys, books and games given to children total 6,871 distributed items: Astoria received 1,468; Warrenton received 1,224; Jewell received 1,089; Cannon Beach received 1,271; and Seaside received 1,819.

Remember, Toys for Tots here on the North Coast covers Clatsop County only. We do not distribute gifts, we collect and give them to the program coordinators, including Barb Roberts (Astoria), Bev Hopkins (Jewell), Maureen Casterline (Seaside) and Nancy Teague (Cannon Beach).

Area coordinators William and Pat Kankkonen, Tim Flynn, Beverly Neubecker, Karen Peden, Tanya Wammack, Petty Officer 3rd Class Tricia L. Lichtenfels and Staff Sgt. Brad Moore and I want to say thanks to all of you.

LOU NEUBECKER
County coordinator, Toys for Tots
Seaside

Dear tree huggers

To all the tree huggers out there: I can’t wait for my Chinese toilet paper.

EDWARD A. NIEMI
Astoria

Bogart fantasy

I would like to inject some levity into the current



conundrum of cacophony over last year’s election, although this has absolutely nothing to do with politics. I have a fantasy about the movie “The Treasure of the Sierra Madre” (1948), wherein Humphrey Bogart confronts Alfonso Bedoya about government regulations regarding river towing issues.

Let’s just assume for a moment that there is a powerful group of tug boat owners who have taken control of all shipping on the Columbia River. Federal requirements stipulate that all logs must be transported above the water line. Bogart is attempting to float logs down river without the use of barges.

The head of the tug boat people (Bedoya) orders Bogart to put his logs on floating devices: “Hola señor. We are the federales, you know, the police.”

Bogart responds: “If you’re the police, then where are your barges?”

Bedoya retorts: “We ain’t got no barges, we don’t need no barges ... I don’t have to show you any stinkin’ barges!”

ROBERT POTTER
Astoria

Move on, ladies

Over the front page photo of the Astoria Women’s March was the headline, “Hundreds gather together in Astoria to counter Trump” (*The Daily Astorian*, Jan. 23). In the still-serviceable street corner expression, ladies, you were “a day late and a dollar short.”

The time to “counter” Mr. Trump was in early November — not with hugs, futile gestures and meaningless slogans, but with a candidate who should have been a near-certain winner against the least popular nominee the even less popular Republican Party has ever nominated.

Instead, you ran against him the only person in America, with the possible exception of Charles Manson, he could have beaten. The shame, if there is any, with this election, is not with Mr. Trump, but with the Democratic Party, and with all of you who assumed that yet another duplicitous Clinton could connive her way back into the White House.

In America, you have your say in the voting booth. You had your say, you got beat, now move on.

LOUIS SARGENT
Gearhart

Serve stakeholders

No country ever “stole” a job from the U.S. Not one. The decision to send our jobs overseas was made, over and over, in the boardrooms of American companies, for the sole purpose of maximizing their profits. Nike, Exxon, General Electric, the list goes on and on.

The decision was to betray the workers who had made the products on which those companies were built, and instead serve the anonymous stockholders, who could indeed be foreigners, but most often were computerized investment funds that knew nothing about the companies or their products.

Another word for lying

I have loved the English language for its wonderful number of descriptive words. Prevaricate, fallacious, mendacity and obliquity are some really interesting words that sadly are becoming useful for daily conversations.

George Bush introduced us to a new word, “mis-spoke.” We now have the present inhabitant of the White House introducing his new words, “alternate facts.”

Back in 1955, in my grade school English class, I was taught that all of the above meant just one thing: Lying.

CHUCK MEYER
Astoria

That’s how we got here, my friends, and that’s why the hokey Trump wants to do about it will never work. It doesn’t begin to address the real problem.

JOSEPH WEBB
Astoria

Water concerns

What are we to make of the recent reports that the amount of haloacetic acid in Astoria’s drinking water exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency’s allowable standard? The EPA considers haloacetic acid a “possible carcinogen.” It has caused cancer in animals, but there have been no studies demonstrating that it causes cancer in humans.

Can we be sure about the amount the EPA considers safe in drinking water? Recently, Deborah Cory-Slechta, a professor at the University of Rochester who is an EPA Science Board adviser, said “The way that the EPA tests chemicals can vastly underestimate risk.”

The Astoria Public Works Department downplays the frequency of haloacetic acid in our water by announcing yearly averages below the EPA standard. While admitting that tests in some months show levels in violation of the EPA standard, the water reports don’t tell us how often this occurs, and in which months. A review of the reports indicates the problem has been ongoing for at least a few years.

I believe the public has the right to more comprehensive reporting of data so individuals can make up their own minds regarding the health risk. The warning sent out by the Public Works Department states, “There is nothing you need to do (to treat the contaminated water).” At least this is true, the report says, unless you are “an infant, pregnant, have a severely compromised immune system or are elderly.” This combined category represents hundreds of people in Astoria.

As reported in *The Daily Astorian*, “in November the city exceeded the maximum contaminant level for the quarter,” pushing the haloacetic level for the year above the acceptable threshold (“Astoria violated drinking water standard,” Dec. 12). Doesn’t this mean that levels were quite high in other months as well? It appears that the public could have been notified earlier rather than waiting for data pushing the quar-

terly results over the top in November.

Where citizens’ health is concerned, the city should caution the public about a potential problem rather than waiting to collect data confirming what they should have foreseen earlier.

ROGER DORBAND
Astoria

Reps needed

Official notification of my election to the Clatsop County Soil and Water Conservation District board, Director No. 2 at large, arrived by mail shortly after New Year’s Day. I thank each of the many Clatsop County residents who took the time to write my name in for one of the positions no candidate filed for. I greatly appreciate your support and confidence in me, and will be available to all residents interested in soil and water conservation issues. I can be contacted at <http://clatsopswcd.org>

The election was Nov. 8, yet I received no late night call announcing my win, nor did I hear even a month later, after election results were certified. Of course, there were election contests of greater interest than a humble non-

political county office with responsibilities including soil conservation, water quality and eradicating invasive species (compare that with strip mining, Obamacare and ISIS).

So why did I run? My limited campaign listed my qualifications, but also noted my dismay that so many local offices go unfilled each election, not just in Clatsop County, but across the state. This leaves many boards hobbled with vacancies and poor representation, leaving the partial board with greater responsibilities, requiring more time.

Vacancies may reflect waning trust in elected government as an effective institution, but also stems from a lack of recognition by many that important decisions with direct effects on services, economy and quality of life are made at a local level.

Democracy requires citizen participation. We will have a representative democracy for only as long as we have representatives. Please keep track of which positions are being ignored, and run for one of those offices in the next election cycle to get involved. The Nov. 8 election results could serve as a motivation.

CHRIS FARRAR
Astoria

GMO apples

The Jan. 17 *The Daily Astorian* front page headline is “First GMO apple slices to go on sale in Midwest.” The article, by Dan Wheat for EO Media Group, explains that the apple will be introduced in the Midwest, where concerns about GMOs are not so strong.

We are shown a photo of a pretty yellow apple, alongside the article. The apple has been modified to not brown when cut. I personally do not know enough about the genetic manipulation that allows the apple to not brown to know if I should be worried, but a genetic alteration

that would allow farmers to spray unlimited herbicides and pesticides on the pretty yellow apple would have my attention.

The GMO crops — opposed by environmental groups and by a large portion of our scientific community worldwide, as well as concerned citizens everywhere — are engineered by Monsanto to withstand upwards of seven applications of Roundup each season, and make up 80 to 90 percent of many of the nonorganic crops we eat.

Visit the Union of Concerned Scientists website for a better understanding of what falls under the heading of GMO. The article confuses concerns about Roundup Ready crops and GMO labeling.

Look, a harmless GMO golden delicious apple, from Canada, won’t brown when you cut it. What’s not to like?

BETH HOLLAND
Cannon Beach

Plant emissions

Let’s get rid of natural gas.” Since I drove into Clatsop County 14 years ago, this has been the rallying cry heard from every side. My Seaside home and my hot water are heated with natural gas, and my electricity is generated using natural gas. What to do?

Oregon environmentalists support an immediate elimination of all fossil fuels. Use only renewable energy they say, ignoring the lack of 24/7 availability, lack of an energy storage solution, the costs of rebuilding infrastructure and increased consumer costs. They do this with good intentions, because they are rightly concerned about global warming from emissions.

Huge advances have been achieved by the government’s clean power program in capturing and profitably using power plant emissions. Today it is feasible to eliminate Oregon’s largest source of emissions — the natural gas-fired electrical generating plants at Port Westward — and reduce consumer electrical bills doing it. We might actually create several hundred family-wage jobs.

OK, what’s the catch? The state and Clatsop County say they are not interested in processing permits without a court order. Your elected leaders just want to talk about reducing emissions, but when they might actually have to consider anything smacking of change, they hide under their desks.

Think I’m a crackpot? Ask the Clatsop County Commission to give me 15 minutes on their agenda. Ask the Oregon Department of Energy and our elected state representatives to comment on proposals. Ask *The Daily Astorian* to publish a column about the project. Ask the environmentalists to actually listen, rather than riot.

JOHN DUNZER
Seaside

Think newspapers are dead?

Think again.

You may not read a printed newspaper every day, but if you live on the North Coast, The Daily Astorian impacts your life.

Inserts for shopping, stories on Facebook, a digital version for on the go. A print copy for those who love information and want in-depth coverage of big issues. Ads and stories that keep you informed about events, sales and concerns in the community.

Our employees see the big picture... a small community without a strong newspaper is missing something important. Our people are here to make sure The Daily Astorian remains a vibrant part of your community.

Want to join us?

Betty Smith, Director of Advertising, needs one more amazing individual to complete her team. This outside sales position focuses on both digital and printed marketing solutions. Team members must be **ENTHUSIASTIC**: You’ve got to like meeting people and helping their businesses succeed; **ADAPTABLE**: Our industry is changing, you need to be able to grow and change with us; and **HUNGRY**: Exceed goals, earn more... it’s that simple.

Base salary plus commissions. You also get paid time off (PTO), insurances and a 401(k)/Roth 401(k) retirement plan. Drop off your resume and letter of interest at:

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