

Campbell is role model

It has been my pleasure to know Mr. Jim Campbell socially and professionally for nearly 30 years. He has always been a devoted husband, professional man and public servant. In his business, he has excelled in marine construction, while demonstrating a unique stewardship of the environment. In his recreational life, he has been diverse and complex. From boating to motorcycling, or flying to using his motor home, he still is more active than most people that I know.

All these things, while leading the community in pursuit of excellence with the Port of Astoria, which is now in a much better posture than just four years ago. His calm, steady stance on the board of commissioners has benefited all those under the veil of the Port of Astoria. His demeanor during meetings, dealing with fellow commissioners and relating to Port staff has been a model to emulate.

Additionally, supportive of the bond measure to improve the airport to make a permanent home for Life Flight North West, he is positioning the Port of Astoria for future positive growth. To preserve him in his place as a commissioner for the Port of Astoria is, by far, the best move.

PHILIP BALES
Astoria

Patrol Brownsmead roads

The Brownsmead area should be patrolled more frequently, and more road signs should be put up to direct vehicles properly. Over the years, I have witnessed people drive as fast as they can on the longest straight stretch in that area, because there is no speed limit sign.

I have witnessed a couple of teenagers driving fast down the straight stretch, knowing police officers do not patrol that area very often. When a herd of elk ran into the middle of the road, they tried to slam on their brakes but couldn't stop in time, because of the speed they were traveling. They hit the elk and totaled their truck.

Incidents like this cause harm to people and our wildlife. Adding more patrol officers in the area, and more road signs, so everyone will drive safely, will make Brownsmead a safer area for its people and its wildlife.

ANDREW BRYANT
Astoria

Spence has leadership

The Port of Astoria needs leadership. We believe Frank Spence will provide both the leadership and the know-how to start the Port on a course toward harmony and accountability.

For too long, the most noteworthy accomplishment of the present Port Commission is to advertise its ineptitude through the pages of this newspaper and elsewhere. The time has come for the Port Commission to dedicate itself to making the Port into the economic engine that it should be, rather than the laughingstock it has become.

Frank Spence brings to us a wide experience, gained over decades of leadership in varied civic enterprises. He knows how things are supposed to work, and he is just the person we need to set the Port on a course of efficiency and accountability.

Join us in making the Port Commission into an organization we can be proud of, and one that is a credit to itself. Vote Frank Spence for Port Commissioner

PHYLLIS COOK
JACK GUYOT
Astoria

Keep Fulton at Port

I am writing in support of Port Commissioner Stephen Fulton. We need his attention to detail and transparency on the Port Commission. Obviously, management is not pleased with the questions and challenges that have been asked, and isn't that what we need?

This is our Port, and I am not convinced that it is being managed with intelligence or attention. Why is the stormwater runoff project over budget? Weather? Why were the commissioners not informed of the fines being assessed?

Has Dr. Philip Bales been approached about moving his hangar in deference to the Life Flight? Has anyone asked him if he'd consider a move, or is it just easier to put out a bond measure so that we can pay more in taxes? I support the Life Flight program, but I'm not sure the Port has considered all the options with serious intent.

There have been improper actions by the Port's executive director, Jim Knight, in withholding information. Why not share information with the commissioners? What is behind this? There are so many questions with the behavior of the Port management. Is it any wonder that the commission-

Mental health care needed

Clatsop County is expanding its hospitals, but it is lacking in mental health care institutions. Columbia Memorial Hospital and Providence Seaside Hospital are not certified to provide involuntary care, custody or treatment

for the mentally ill. Patients are then forced to be sent to psychiatric hospitals elsewhere in the state.

Because of the lack of other resources, law enforcement are the ones responding. More care

and mental institutions in Clatsop County would not only provide care and help for the mentally ill, but it would help with safety in the county.

KAITLYN LANDWEHR
Astoria

ers are upset?

Please keep Fulton on the commission. We need his dogged pursuit for the truth.

Laurie Drage
Astoria

Fulton is the choice

If you attended meetings of the Port Commission, this is what you would see: One commissioner obviously has read the materials provided by staff, researched the issues highlighted by those materials, and composed questions that need to be answered. That commissioner is Stephen Fulton.

Commissioner Fulton is consistently the best prepared commissioner, and the one with the most pertinent questions and thoughtful suggestions. Think of him as "the proper oversight" commissioner, because that is what Commissioner Fulton provides — good oversight of an organization that historically cuts corners and acts before it thinks.

Some on the commission have adopted a position of "let's just leave everything to staff." They are ill prepared for commission meetings, and have little to offer as the discussions proceed. The "leave everything to staff" position is inconsistent with Oregon law, and the commission's own bylaws. It is the very position that got the commission into such deep trouble with previous executive directors.

We are fortunate to have Stephen Fulton on the Port Commission. He has earned our support in the upcoming election.

DON DYER
Rosburg, Washington

Drop standardized tests

Currently I have taken five standardized tests during my first three years of high school. I strongly disagree with standardized testing. As of 2015, we rank 13th in reading (South Korea was first), 24th in math (South Korea was first), and 17th in science (Finland was first).

We should follow Finland's, and other countries' footsteps, and change our education system so it doesn't rely so much on standardized testing, which only focuses on one particular day. It does not take in to account any external factors, such as family problems, not getting any sleep or not getting proper nutrition. It also causes stress within teens.

Schools teach the individual and help every student have the proper tools that they need to succeed. But standardized testing teaches uniformity, where every student is given the same test, and is expected to succeed, so its one size fits all. That's not how it should work.

Standardized testing also causes teachers to teach for the test, which leaves out many other important things in the classroom, such as creativity and the joy of learning. I honestly believe that if we want to make bigger strides in our education, we need to rely less on standardized testing in our country.

BRAEDON ELTAGONDE
Astoria

Privacy at school

I would like to address the problem some students face with privacy issues at my school. I am a student at Knappa High School, and I can see where some people are coming from. In our school, there is only one bathroom stall that has a door in the men's bathroom, and this door hardly locks.

I also feel like they need to put up curtains in the shower stalls. Not everyone feels comfortable with being nude in front of people.

At our school, we need functioning doors, and people should be able to answer nature's call in privacy.

JACOB FRESH
Astoria

School safety

The tragic school shooting recently in San Bernardino, California, has caused concern at schools across the nation. This devastating event should remind all school administrations that the safety of students should be the No. 1 priority.

School lock-down procedures should be practiced often, and stu-

dents should be well educated on how to perform lock-down procedures anywhere within the school. Not only should students be informed of these policies, but school staff should be experts on the safety material.

Security systems, including cameras, school entrances, quick access to authorities and door and window locking mechanisms should be maintained and updated to keep students and staff safe inside and people with malicious intentions outside.

EMILEE OLSON
Astoria

More lunch choices

Students should have a little more choice on what they choose for lunch at school. If you don't bring a lunch to school, and you have a hot lunch every day, there should be more choices to fill the stomachs of the high schoolers (a taco truck, in my dreams).

If students had more of a choice for food, there probably wouldn't be as much food wasted. The school would be saving food, in a way — instead of a student not liking the food and throwing it away, they could just choose to get something they like. This would help both the students and the school.

ANDREW GOOZEE
Astoria

Careless bus drivers

I spent some time, a few years back, in South Florida. I used to be concerned about the folks there who came from other countries (island countries in particular) driving automobiles, and the fact that they did not speak English, read English and perhaps did not truly understand our traffic laws, or have a good grasp on what the road signs meant.

I learned to drive defensively to the extreme, and it no longer seemed so bad; but what is up with the local school bus drivers? I have no idea how these individuals are trained, or even if they are trained, but I know that they scare me worse than any Third World driver that I ever encountered.

In the last month, I have been nearly hit by school buses at least three times. One driver had his or her bus (I was too busy avoiding the wreck to look up and see gender) so far over the center line when rounding a corner, that I had to practically mount the curb on the right side and come to a complete stop to keep from being side-swiped.

Between driving like that, and blocking entire roads, pulling out from stop signs with no gap in traffic, and failing to have any consideration for other drivers, I begin to wonder if any care is taken to test or check the drivers who are responsible for carrying our children to and from school safely.

I am sure that I have encountered only a rare few, and that most school bus drivers are competent and courteous. I think that even one such driver, entrusted with the welfare of our youth, is one too many? As in so many other cases; that is what I think, I could be wrong.

DAVID GRAVES
Astoria

Exemplary journalism

Everyone I know was horrified by the scenes of the gentleman being dragged down the aisle of the United Airlines plane. And yet, we didn't even know that the man's wife was sitting right next to him and witnessed the brutality close-up.

I was dismayed when NBC's evening news anchor, Lester Holt, a day after the incident, added that the Kentucky physician had lost his medical license on account of illegal drug activities several years ago. What in hell does the former have to do with the latter? Does Holt imply that Dr. Dao had it coming?

And wouldn't you know it, The Daily Astorian, printed the same mindless AP rot, saying that the "doctor was convicted more than a decade ago of felony charges involving his prescribing of drugs" ("United to compensate people on flight when man dragged off," April 12). Should I ever be abused by the law, I want to let The Daily Astorian

know in advance that I spent a night in jail in June of 1952 in East Germany for getting too close to the Iron Curtain.

ERHARD GROSS
Astoria

Keep board members

As a citizen who hadn't paid a lot of attention to our current care center, I have read the board minutes and proposal for the new management company. Since the CEO, who has done an excellent job wearing two hats as CEO and manager, has given her notice to resign, it seemed logical to look at other options for managing the future of the district health programs.

The current Clatsop Care Health District Board has done due diligence determining what is best for the community. A management company, that has been vetted carefully, seems the right choice to make. Because of the complicated work this current board has done, it seems proper to keep them in their positions at least until the next terms of service and after the two-year management agreement has been tested.

They have the insight as to what decisions make the most sense, and have no agenda other than that. Trying to integrate new board members will detract from the serious business of getting this new management program rolling along. I hope the community will support and vote for our current board for their current terms of office.

LAUREN HARMS
Astoria

Fulton is accountable

Steve Fulton is running for Port Commissioner for a second term because he believes in saving taxpayer money, and maintaining the Port of Astoria's fiscal responsibility. The controversy surrounding his criticism of developing the airport property is about financial matters. Does the Port have money to build and support this expansion at the airport?

Probably no, because that is what the bond measure is about. Does the Port have more than one business entity besides Life Flight that will be an addition to the airport to add to the revenue to maintain the new pavement, lighting and other structures?

Was a feasibility study done to see what business entities would move in after new infrastructure is put in at the airport? I recall a commercial airline business would fly customers from that airport to Seattle or Portland years back, but they were never heard of again. Would they have stayed if the airport property was more developed? These are questions the taxpayers should ask.

Port property along the Columbia River is the primary source of income for the Port, and affects many constituents of Clatsop County directly and indirectly. Addressing the need for enhancements for these assets should be primary, and the airport property secondary, to the Port Commissioners. Steve Fulton tries to hold the commissioners accountable to this, and that is why I am voting for him. I ask that you consider voting for him, too.

LILLY LEE
Astoria

Keep climate in mind

Earth Day Confession: I don't know how to live a life that's perfectly harmless to the earthly environment in which humanity thrives. I love stuff made and shipped using fossil fuels. I love to drive and fly, burning too much fuel. I love people, our sensitivity and joy, creativity, compassion and dedication to good. But there are too many of us, each wanting things.

The fuel burned in just my car, or my airline flight — that by itself is harmless. But it's not just me. It's multiplied by billions making the same choices. The problem comes from scaling up my behavior to the worldwide population.

We're all in this together. Every fossil fuel we burn contributes to global warming. A hotter climate with rising sea levels floods cities and farmlands, disrupts agricultural production, and makes more damag-

ing storms, making a much harsher situation for our next generations.

We know approximately, not exactly, how much our human activities cause the climate threat. But when our house is burning, do we debate whether the fire was caused by electrical short, lightning or an arsonist? No, we fight the fire.

What about "the economy"? Last I heard, the economy exists to serve human needs. The greatest of all human needs is an earthly environment in which we can thrive. For now, and for future generations. That's our priority.

I don't know exactly what I should do, much less what you should. I make mistakes, yielding to indulgence or carelessness. But I know that by keeping the climate constantly in mind, we'll all have a better chance of a good future climate. The more of us who do so, the greater the chance.

Our best plan is to each do what we can, every day, and help others do the same. Make good deeds visible, support people's efforts, and call out the selfish cheaters and pirates who defect from the program.

DAVID LEE MYERS
Astoria

More on voting

Ray Gardner seems to support the way we vote ("The way we vote," The Daily Astorian, April 7). However, I am afraid it is far from what the founders devised or contemplated.

When our founders devised the vote, they did not contemplate political parties. In fact, they pretty much ensured that they would not come into being. The winner became president. The runner-up became vice president, president of the Senate, and was charged with making sure the next election was conducted according to law. This to me this is a perfect plan.

However, when Jefferson was vice president, he ran for president in the succeeding election. There was some indication of irregularity. Naturally Jefferson determined that he had won. As can be easily imagined some people, especially Aaron Burr, were not pleased. Changes were made.

The president and vice president would run together as a unit, thus marking the beginnings of political parties. Today, political parties go out of their way to give us the most unpopular choices. I am happy that the polls showed that the least bad candidate prevailed in this election cycle.

On the other hand, Bernie Sanders ran a successful primary campaign. Polls showed that he would beat Trump in the presidential election. So the brains down at the Democrats' smoky back room decided to give Clinton, who the polls showed would lose to Trump, over 700 votes that were never voted in the primaries. Did any of the third parties, or Bernie Sanders, pick up on this and run Bernie Sanders for president?

Actually, as dictated by the founding fathers, we do not vote for the president. We vote for members of the Electoral College. The founding fathers determined that probably there would be a plethora of presidential candidates, on occasion.

Of course we do not know who these electoral college dummies are. We just know who they are supposed to vote for. Some states give all their electoral votes to the winning candidate. Others proportion them out to candidates according to their total votes.

The idea behind this electoral college is that these respected persons would vote for the best candidate, or in the end, at least for one that was an acceptable choice. I understand that in the last election, two electors actually had the gall to refuse to vote.

BENJAMIN A. GREAVES
Seaside

Investigate Life Flight

I would like to request that The Daily Astorian provide the voters of Clatsop County with an in-depth analysis of the workings of Life Flight. I have facetiously referred to them as "Air Bankruptcy" because of the high cost of trips to medical trauma centers in Portland. It's my understanding that peoples' medical insurance is not guaranteed to cover all the costs of transport.

Please assign a reporter to investigate why a raise in our property taxes is justified for establishing access to a new hangar at the Astoria airport. Personally, I do not want my taxes to benefit any private sector business, especially since the Astoria School District may be asking for a bond in 2019. My pockets are getting more shallow as time goes on.

ROBERT POTTER
Astoria