

OPINION

the Astorian

editor@dailyastorian.com

KARI BORGEN
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JEREMY FELDMAN
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JOHN D. BRUIJN
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Founded in 1873

GUEST COLUMN

Volunteer to create change

In 1956 — my father still tells the story today — a team of baseball players from his hometown in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico, won the regional championship.

My father was about 12, as he recalls, and Los Mineros de Cananea were invited to play baseball at the Arizona-Texas League Invitational in El Paso, Texas.

There were three Afro Latino players from Cuba on the team. They were in for the adventure of playing in their neighboring country against other baseball teams with people from many different backgrounds.

To their surprise, they saw a sign outside of the restaurant where they were all supposed to eat that read, “No dogs, No blacks, No Mexicans.”

They had never experienced that level of racism anywhere else. They did play, but ate their food on the bus and returned home with a sense of bewilderment.

This is not the 1950s and after almost 70 years, one would like to think that we have moved far away from those racial sentiments. However, the abhorrent event of the killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minnesota shows us that we haven’t moved very far.

“It could be my father, my brother, my uncle, my cousin, my friend,” said Victoria Sloan, 27, of Brooklyn, in the New York Times on June 2, 2020. “It makes me angry.”

These are the words of one of thousands of protesters who have taken to the streets as a result of systematic racism. As we say in Mexico, this tragedy was just the drop that overflowed the cup. This was one more of too many police brutalities applied disproportionately to people of color.

In addition, with COVID-19, there is a disproportionate burden of illness and death among racial and ethnic minority groups. This suggests how much more



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Crista García-Álvarez, 8, performs with Mi Cultura, a Latino folkloric dance group, at the Día de los muertos celebration last year at the Barbey Maritime Center.

LOWER COLUMBIA HISPANIC COUNCIL

For more information on volunteer opportunities with the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council, call 503-325-4547 or email at info@lchspaniccouncil.org

vulnerable people of color are during national emergencies.

We need systemic change that will not come from the federal level. It has to start community by community.

The Lower Columbia Hispanic Council would like to stand up with our African American brothers and sisters in their fight for racial equality in the Black Lives Matter movement. We invite you to join us in being part of a big tapestry of cultures woven together in one community, where respect and acceptance are at the head.

You can start in your own home with your own children, but also please consider volunteering your time with any local nonprofit organization that serves the most historically underserved in our community. The Hispanic council would welcome your time and energy in our various programs.

Rocio Lizárraga Simmons is the co-chair of the board of directors of the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council.

Considere ser Voluntario para Generar Cambio

En 1956 —mi padre aún sigue contando la historia — el equipo de béisbol de su pueblo natal en Cananea, Sonora, México ganó el campeonato regional.

Mi padre tenía unos 12 años, según recuerda, y Los Mineros de Cananea fueron invitados a jugar béisbol con la Liga de Arizona – Texas en El Paso, Texas.

Había tres jugadores afrolatinos de Cuba en el equipo. Estaban ansiosos por la aventura de jugar en el país vecino en contra de otros equipos con jugadores de diferentes nacionalidades. Cuál fue su sorpresa cuando vieron un letrero afuera del restaurant donde todos iban a comer que decía, “No dogs, No blacks, No Mexicans.”

Nunca habían experimentado ese nivel de racismo en ningún otro lugar. Si jugaron, pero se comieron la comida en el autobús y regresaron a casa perplejos.

No estamos en los años 50’s y después de casi 70 años, nos gustaría pensar que esos sentimientos racistas ya han quedado atrás; sin embargo, el aborrecible evento de la muerte de George Floyd en manos de un agente de la policía en Minnesota nos muestra que no hemos progresado mucho.

“Podría haber sido mi padre, mi hermano, mi tío, mi primo, mi amigo,” dijo Victoria Sloan, 27, de Brooklyn en el New York Times, 2 de junio. “Estoy furiosa.”

Estas son las palabras de una de miles de protestantes que han salido a las calles como resultado del racismo sistemático. Como decimos en México, esta tragedia fue la gota que derramó el vaso. Esta fue una mas

EL CONSEJO HISPANO DEL BAJO COLUMBIA

Para mas información en cuanto a oportunidades para ser voluntario en el Consejo Hispano, favor de llamar al 503-325-4547 o envíenos un correo a info@lchspaniccouncil.org.

de tantas brutalidades que desproporcionadamente han recibido personas de color.

Además, con el COVID-19 hay un desproporcionado número de enfermedad y muerte entre minorías. Esto sugiere cuan mas vulnerables son las personas de color durante emergencias nacionales.

Necesitamos un cambio sistemático el cual no surgirá desde un nivel federal. Tiene que comenzar comunidad por comunidad. El Consejo Hispano del Bajo Columbia se une con nuestros hermanos y hermanas afroamericanos en su lucha por igualdad racial en el movimiento Black Lives Matter.

Lo invitamos a unirse a ser parte de este gran tapiz de culturas tejido en una sola comunidad, donde el respeto y la aceptación están a la cabeza. Puede comenzar en su propio hogar con sus propios hijos, pero también considere ser voluntario con alguna organización local sin fines lucrativos que provea servicio a aquellos que históricamente en nuestra comunidad mas lo necesitan. El Consejo Hispano lo espera para que preste su tiempo y energía en los diferentes programas que tenemos.

Rocio Lizárraga Simmons, Consejo Hispano del Bajo Columbia, Co-Presidente de la Mesa Directiva.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What can I do?

There have been many giants in American history. Some examples:

In 1787, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and others said, “We’ll try something different.” Government of the people, by the people and for the people. Democracy: One person, one vote.

So many governments consisted of kings, queens, tyrants or despots, which sounds like a lucrative gig if you’re one of them. If not, or at least a kissin’ cousin, forget it. Mama always said, “Power corrupts, and absolute power absolutely corrupts.”

In 1865, Abraham Lincoln had a vision that all men are created equal, resulting in his paving the way for the Constitution’s 13th Amendment.

In 1868, Thomas Edison invented the voting machine. Today, in Oregon, we don’t wait in lines to vote. We just mail it in. Yee haw! Seems like all states should. It’s safe, and works.

In 1850, Susan B. Anthony started the movement that 70 years later resulted in the overdue 19th Amendment, granting all women the right to vote, and changed politics for the better.

In 1965, Martin Luther King Jr. and Lyndon B. Johnson fought for, and signed into law, the Voting Rights Act that outlawed voter suppression. Why would anyone want to suppress people’s votes? Beats the blank out of me. You?

So, what can I do to be like, or at least honor these stars of American democracy? Hmm — hey! I will make sure I’m registered, informed and vote in all elections. I think this will honor and preserve their legacies, and do them proud. How about you?

CARL DOMINEY
Astoria

False patriotism

As each day goes by, and the president moves further and further away from the teachings of Jesus, at what point do believers in Christ speak out against him?

While Paul encouraged Christians to respect the law and the government, it was not long after the birth of Christianity that believers stood up to the Roman powers, not through fighting, but by revealing a better way to live, and sometimes, to die.

When President Donald Trump incited violence in his tweet on May 28, he crossed a line for me as a Christian. For the moment, set aside his ignorance, selfishness, lying, racism, sexual harass-

ment, greed, narcissism and pride. When he called for the shooting of Americans — even though some were looting — in Minnesota, at some point, people of conscience have to speak out against him. We have to do something.

David Brooks, a conservative author and columnist, wrote that we are a leaderless country. I agree, and it looks like it when you hear and see what is going on. Ultimately, we have a president who actively desires to divide and bring down our country.

My wife and I were talking about the irony of the president’s current motto, “Keep America Great.” He has done more than any other president to make America a laughingstock of the world.

This morning I read from Samuel Johnson, “Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel.” I feel that this is where the church is today: Taking refuge in a false patriotism.

DON ANDERSON
Astoria

Get ready

Suggest everyone get ready for the coronavirus to haunt and terrorize us for some time to come. Viruses and plagues just don’t magically disappear, as our reckless president contends.

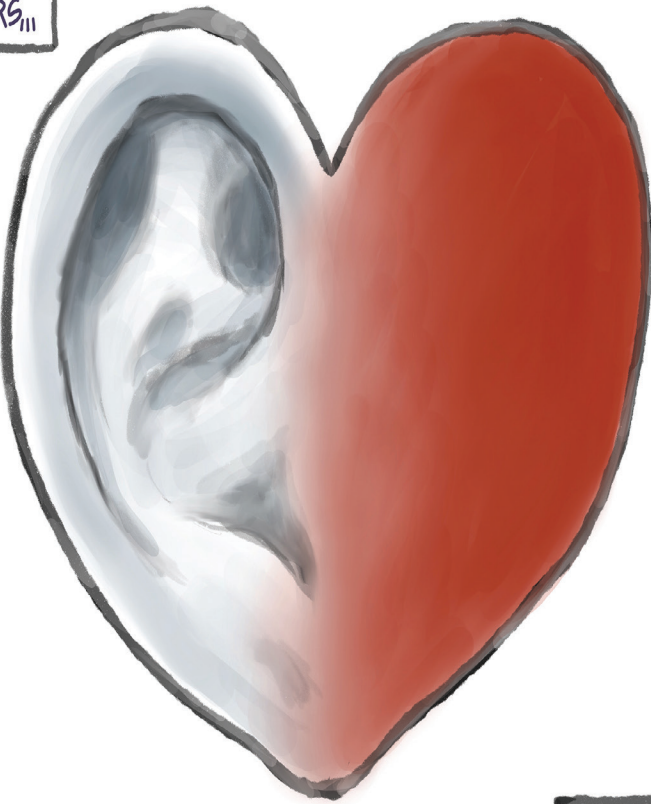
Smallpox was finally controlled in the early 1980s. What accomplished this, wishful thinking? No, science did, which our president disrespectfully ignores. Why does he need to listen to experts in any field, when he is a stable genius who doesn’t need all those pesky facts that prove him wrong on a daily basis?

He has consistently delayed following the advice of learned professionals, which has resulted in tens of thousands of needless deaths. He still hasn’t assisted this country in developing a cohesive strategy in developing a coordinated testing program that would help us identify the infected, and take the necessary action to contain the spread on a national level.

Every epidemiologist knows the importance of this, and yet President Donald Trump continues to ignore and shame his countrymen into blindly running back into an environment where purveyors of death could be anywhere, spreading the virus unchecked.

Testing continues to be based on symptoms, which allows the infected to spread it for weeks before being identified and quarantined, if ever. This is due to the president’s selfish attempt to avoid taking responsibility for the most

MAY WE LISTEN
WITH OUR EARS...



KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

...AND OUR HEARTS...

LETTERS WELCOME

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by name, should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters in poor taste will not be printed. Send via email to editor@dailyastorian.com, online at bit.ly/astorianletters, in person at 949 Exchange St. in Astoria or 1555 North Roosevelt in Seaside, or mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR., 97103.

needless and monstrous calamity in our history.

He consistently sends out conflicting messages, which create confusion, which leads to ineffectual action. Get over it? No, get ready for an even greater disaster.

BRENTON KAHLE
Astoria

Wear your mask

Do you want to know why Oregon’s COVID-19 deaths are waning dramatically? Why we are not following in a version of Italy’s or New York’s death rates? It is Gov. Kate Brown’s March 23

order to stay home. Responding to the evolving scientific consensus, she set out a plan to keep us safe.

Thank you, Gov. Brown. Speaking personally, I am happy not to have died.

The science of COVID-19 infectivity also recognizes the importance of everyone wearing masks each time we leave our family bubble to interact with our communities. Your mask does not protect you; it protects all those you speak with.

So, as our economy reopens and we resume contact with each other, I need for you to wear your mask. Thank you.

JULIE CHAPMAN
Physician assistant, retired
Portland