

the Riptide

Vashon High School's Newspaper

Islanders publicly protest tar sand oil

Nick Simmons, Logan Price, and Aleythea Dolstad traveled to Niagara Falls, New York to demonstrate against the petroleum industry in Canada.

By Cole Bazemore
Staff Reporter

Vashon has witnessed many of our Islanders publicly demonstrating against issues that affect us here at home, especially around the recent actions of Glacier Northwest and their mining operations. But recently three members of our community took a stand on a larger, controversial issue affecting not only our community, but a large portion of the U.S. and Canada.

Activists with the Rainforest Action Network, Nick Simmons, Logan Price, and Aleythea Dolstad traveled to New York to speak out against the oil sand industry now booming in the northern region of Alberta, Canada. On September 15, these three Islanders, along with the support of dozens of other people, hung 200 feet above the ground below the U.S. Niagara Falls observation deck displaying an enormous banner, protesting the Canadian extraction of bitumen, a thick viscous type of petroleum, commonly called tar sand oil.

The open-pit mining of the bitumen has increased in the past several years and has become especially controversial due to the huge amount of destruction it causes on the natural environment and the levels of pollution created during the extraction process. The timing of their demonstration coincided with the start of the U.S.-Canadian summit at the White House where President Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper discussed top issues regarding both sides of the border.

This form of demonstrating through direct-action is a more effective way of protesting than going through the bureaucratic system of legislation, said Simmons.

"It's a super rewarding experience, one you can stand behind," he said.

Putting this project together required the support of many individuals. There were people that supported the demonstration by publicizing the event through YouTube and Twitter, providing support on ways to take direct action against these sorts of issues, constructing the banner to be hung below the deck and through handing fliers out to

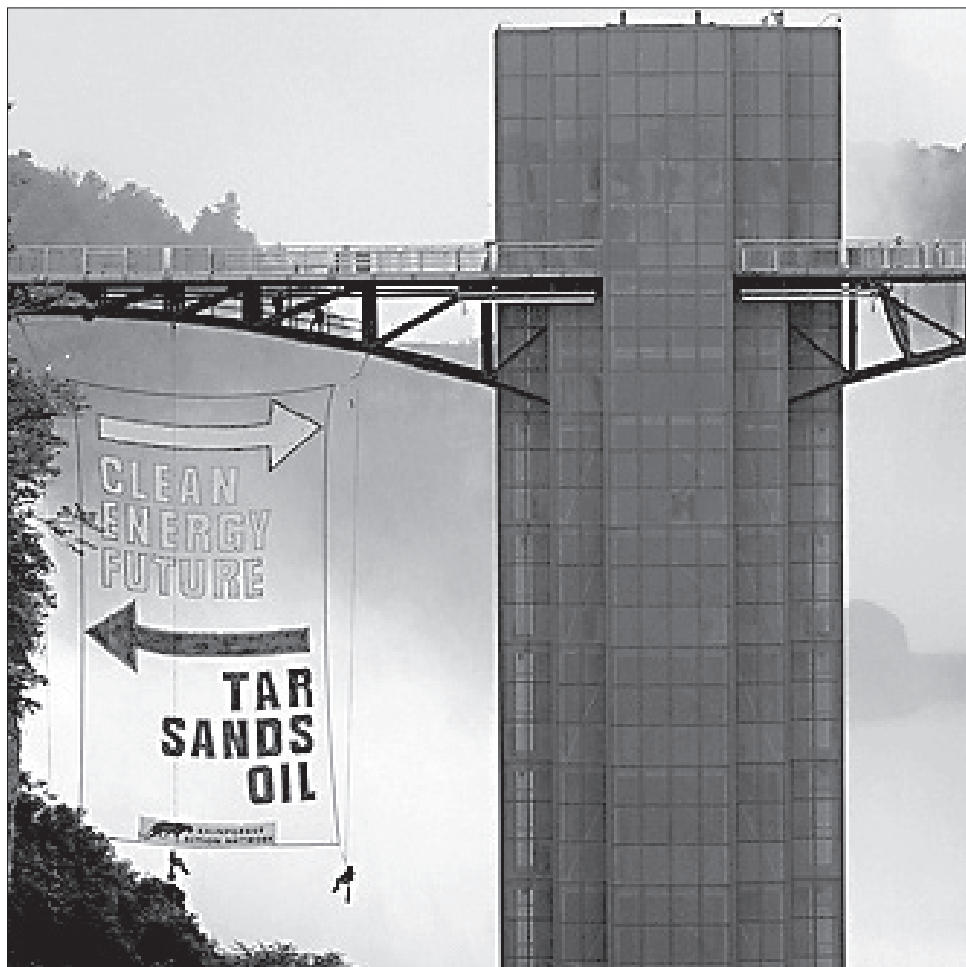


PHOTO COURTESY OF RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK

Nick Simmons, Logan Price, and Aleythea Dolstad hang from the U.S. observation deck at the Niagara Falls. The trio hung from the observation deck for five hours before returning to the top deck where, along with a few other protestors, they were arrested by park officials. They were let out after pleading not guilty.

people at the falls.

After five hours of hanging with the enormous 70 foot long banner that read Clean Energy Future with an arrow towards the U.S. and Tar Sands Oil pointing towards Canada, Simmons, Price and Dolstad returned to the observation deck. There the park officials promptly placed them, and several other mem-

bers who were there supporting the demonstration, under arrest. They were released after pleading not guilty and posting a \$500 bail at a hearing several days after their arrest. Simmons commented that this did not dampen the success of their protest and hopes to continue with direct-action demonstrations on future controversial issues.

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Cars damaged

Students' cars left overnight in high school parking lot vandalized.

By Meaghan Connors
News Editor

Senior Kiki Means and junior Natalie Kerns had their cars broken into and vandalized in the high school parking lot last weekend on Saturday, October 10. Kerns' 2003 Jetta was parked by the tennis courts overnight; Means' car was also left at the school overnight, in the second lot of the main student parking lot.

Means' 1990's Toyota pickup had the passenger, driver side, and back windows completely broken out. Means' mother got a call from former VHS student Zelda Porter, who was at the high school on Sunday, alerting her of the damage.

Kerns found a Mike's Hard Lemonade bottle on the pavement to the left of the car.

The driver side window was completely shattered, and rear window had a quarter-size hole. The car was also egged.

"I don't know who else would egg someone's car if they weren't in high school, and I don't know who else hangs out in the high school parking lot," said Kerns.

Kerns' parents are paying for the comprehensive insurance coverage.

Around 2 a.m. on Sunday, October 11, Kerns went to pick up the car in the parking lot.

"School parking lots, you should be able to feel safe leaving your car. I don't care if you want to go off and rage, but it's not funny at all to break into someone's car and rummage through their stuff," said Kerns.

The glove compartment was open, but the vandals didn't take anything. In Means' truck, the glove box had been rummaged through. Nothing appeared to be taken.

"I can't even deal with it right now," said Means.

Means' car is at home. Means can't drive with her knee injury, but her family plans on fixing the car as soon as possible.

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Are there more policemen on the island? Not at all, Find out why there seem to be more on page 6.



Return to your childhood roots and watch Where the Wild Things Are. See page 8.



VHS student rides horses competitively for the position of best in the Northwest. See page 15.