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*Beneath the rule of men entirely great
The pen is mightier than the sword*



GLOBAL'S BIG SHED

Under construction



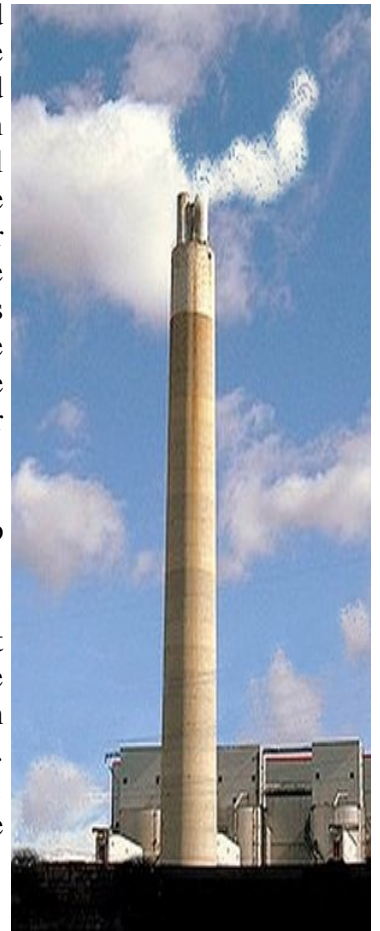
Magellan found the strait that is now named after him, but only by chance. When two of his ships were driven towards land in a storm, the men feared they would be dashed against the shore. Then, just in time, they spotted a small opening in the coastline. It was the passage for which they had been searching since they left home.

Magellan's story is well documented in hundreds of publications available to all interested in history. The reason that it is brought up here is one of curiosity.

If the astrologers and learned men of Magellan's day were with us now would they be inclined to believe that Global's Big Shed standing on the southern periphery of the industrial town of Invergordon be balanced by the incinerator and its chimney soon to be built on the town's industrial park on the Northern periphery of the town, by Combined Power and Heat (Highland) Ltd ?

Personally I'm inclined to agree with that fantasy.

Magellan never made it back to his homeland as he was killed in a fight with islanders in the Philippines. He died on 27 April 1521 on Mactan Island, Cebu, the Philippines.



Hans Christian Andersen's fairy stories very often started with 'Once upon a time'. Likewise the true story of one of the world's most famous voyages of discovery could have the same introduction.

Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese captain. He wanted to try to reach south-east Asia, where many spices grew, by sailing westwards across the Atlantic Ocean. As his own king wouldn't finance the voyage, he got the help he needed from the Spanish king instead. He hoped to find a safe sea passage through South America so that he could sail all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In fact to circumnavigate the Globe.

In those 'once upon a time' time astrologers and learned scholars believed that the Southern Hemisphere land mass reflected the Northern Hemisphere, balancing out the Global weightiness and ensuring the world kept turning, both physically and financially.

Magellan set sail in 1519 with five ships and about 260 men. At first he did not tell his men where they were going because he thought they would be too frightened to obey him.

In Finland there is at present there are three MSW incinerators operating and another five planned. The Finnish MSW strategy is based on the source separation of Biowaste whenever suitable (environmental effect, costs) and incineration of the residual waste. With

MEET SOME MEMBERS OF THE BARBARAVILLE C. C.



Back left, veteran Clio, in the centre we have Corrie, rather a big personality whilst on the front, inoffensive Roo dreams of her next meal.

These C. C. Members are happy **to see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil**, nor are they unduly concerned with the proposed incinerator that some people claim may affect their environment. Nor indeed Mr Macgregor's Big Shed that mars the skyline of the industrial town of Invergordon somewhat.

Perhaps they are blessed with Highland fortitude what many of us lack.

After Scottish Ministers have given the green light for a highly controversial £43 million waste incinerator to be built in Easter Ross Lib Dem MSP Jamie Stone said he was astounded at a "fundamentally anti-democratic flaw" in Scotland's planning system over a decision which opponents say will turn the Industrial town Invergordon into "the waste capital of the Highlands".

Local SNP Highland Councillor Maxine Smith declared herself "shell-shocked" by the decision while her Cromarty Firth ward colleague Martin Rattray slammed the SNP government for taking away decision-making power from local people.

Cllr Maxine Smith however is endorsing the construction of Global's Big Shed and the possible of a daily influx to Invergordon of several hundred cars

mostly using the Tomich junction. That is in spite of her being in opposition to the same junction being used by around 28 lorries carting waste to the incinerator.

Scottish Government reporter Dannie Onn says in his decision notice that the Cromarty Firth Industrial Park is an appropriate location for a facility which accords with Highland Council's own plans for dealing with waste. (A strong local campaign had flagged health fears and the detrimental impact approval would have on the town's bid to establish itself as a visitor destination.) The Reporter acknowledges "much public concern" and accepts "there would be some pollutants leaving the plant".

He also notes that energy-from-waste is "only one step away from landfill in the waste hierarchy" and that the incinerator "is deemed necessary until communities learn to behave in a way which reduces waste to that which can be re-used or recycled".

The decision notes that the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, which is responsible for licensing the plant under pollution legislation withdrew its initial objection.

He concludes that "any perceived risk to public health would not outweigh the plant's compliance with the development plan".

The decision brushes aside concerns about road safety at the Tomich junction on the A9 saying the extra traffic generated "is unlikely on its own to make the roads any more dangerous".

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Makes me wonder whether Cllr Smith had prior notice of the 'other' Invergordon development? She did go on to say;- "I am mildly comforted there are so many conditions in the report. There is still a lot we can do to minimise the impact of the incinerator."

A statement like that would seem to imply that the Cllr has accepted the 'coming of incineration' as a matter of course.

As for the 'protesters' they do little harm, nor do the majority of folk agree with their objections. Ed.