

Feds: Can't be worse than what we've already done

STAFF REPORTS

Health officials with Japan, and now the United States say that radiation in the air isn't so bad, and people should stop freaking out.

"Please. Stop freaking out," says one official with the International Atomic Energy Agency. "We've been doing nuclear testing on folks for the past 60 years, and we're very confident that this latest episode in Japan will not produce any more harm to people than hasn't already been happening for years."

"We're also very confident that radiation found in the Pacific Ocean will do no more harm to wildlife than anything else we've already dumped in there. It's a big resilient ocean."

Health Department officials in Oregon say they don't really know or understand the problem, but have been told by federal and international officials to downplay concerns about radiation. "We're very confident in doing what we're told," says one Multnomah County spokesperson.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the United States Atomic Energy Commission says that people have nothing to fear. "The U.S. was the first to create and use Atomic energy, and I can guarantee you we'll be the last. It's the greenest energy in the world until it's not."

Conspiracy theorists around the globe are thought to be going absolutely bonkers, and say this could be the mother load. A special series on the History Channel this spring will be dedicated to the relationship between of the Greek Empire, the Bible, UFO's, Military technology, Nazi Germany, and the latest earthquake of the coast of Japan.

The President of the United States told reporters that he thanked God that we had the largest military in the history of the universe to deal with the aftermath of the earthquake, and hoped that by offering assistance to the Japanese people they will be grateful this time for rebuilding their country.



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Below: Parisians are shown frolicking joyfully in the cold and damp in one of many paintings that celebrate the romance of a rainy day. It's a far cry from the pall of wet desperation and anger, above, that lies in the heart of every Portlander.

Weather responsible for more of our problems

BY TILLIE-MAE SNOPEs
STAFF WRITER

Apparently, Portland's weather, long responsible for Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD, is now altering people's behavior in more deeply cognitive ways. That's according to a nonscientific study of comments overheard in the Street Roots office and Backspace Cafe.

In a move beyond the typical whine, people are now crediting the grey skies and rain for their behavior as complete and utter assholes. Several people SR talked with say that until this winter, everything was going just fine.

"My marriage was great until my partner got depressed, and then things went to shit," says one man. "We went to see a counselor who told us we should start communicating, and that maybe we needed to introduce some new 'activities' into our lives. We called the counselor on that crap. We knew it was the rain."

Another man says that he didn't leave his couch for more than three weeks, and believes that if he had the sun to keep him motivated, he might think about moving more often. "Maybe," he said. "What difference does it make?"

"I used to call them sad drops. Now I call them angry drops," said Ramona, age four. "It makes me want to hurt my dollies."

At a local rain circle hosted by Pagans for



PARIS STREET: RAINY DAY BY GUSTAVE CAILLEBOTTE

Justice, one woman says this year has been especially bad, and that until people collectively got out of their funk, we may lose our ability to even recognize the sun, even if it makes its expected return in July.

A meteorologist for Channel 6 news says that he couldn't support that line of thinking, but also refrained from making any

promises that it would stop raining by July.

"I don't care what anyone says, I love the rain," says a punk wearing an Elliot Smith T-shirt who obviously hangs out at a local coffee shop and performs at poetry reading around town. "The grey skies are like earth's cries. There's something profound about it all."



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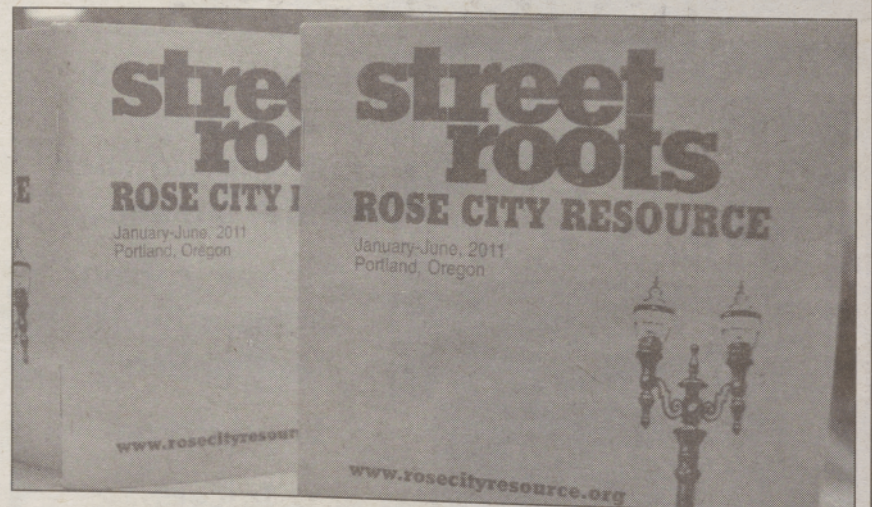


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