

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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Come clean about gillnet fishing emails

What was Cylvia Hayes' involvement in Kitzhaber's foolish decision?

At his Friday press conference, Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber said that his companion Cylvia Hayes will have no role in his fourth term. Kitzhaber was forced into that declaration by news reports generated by Hillary Borrud in the Salem bureau of the EO Media Group and Pamplin Media.

While it was useful to have the governor clarify where Hayes stands viz a viz the fourth Kitzhaber administration, the question remains: Exactly what policy did she influence during the third administration — and who exactly was she working for. *The Register-Guard* of Eugene has asked the “question of how many shoes were still waiting to drop.”

For those of us at the mouth of the Columbia River, there is a big shoe we'd like to see drop. Our Salem bureau months ago requested to see emails between Hayes and Liz Hamilton in the months prior to the governor's announcement of his ill-fated decision to shut down gillnet fishing at the river's mouth.

Hamilton is executive director of the Northwest Sports Fishing Industry Association She and Hayes are close.

The gillnet decision was startling, and not just because it was baseless on its merits. It was odd because it was politically and scientifically unnecessary. The gillnet directive to the Fish and Wildlife Commission would not have emerged from the first or second Kitzhaber administrations.

Being unnecessary to the welfare of salmon, the gillnet directive begged a simple question: Was the governor rewarding the well-heeled sports fishing lobby for their campaign support? And now we must wonder whether Kitzhaber made this bonehead move because Cylvia Hayes wanted a favor for her friend Liz Hamilton.

The essence of Gov. Kitzhaber's Cylvia Hayes problem was described succinctly by Brent Walth, Gov. Tom McCall's biographer and managing editor of *Willamette Week*, during his November Astoria talk to Columbia Forum. Said Walth: “I didn't think we'd ever see, in my life, the office put up for sale, but that's exactly what we've seen.”

The tragedy of John Kitzhaber stems from a mistake that is as old as Shakespeare. Kitzhaber has stayed too long. All politicians and celebrities nurture their myths. The reason that John Kitzhaber is having such a hard time reckoning with the damage that Cylvia Hayes has done him is that the John Kitzhaber of myth (the first and second term Kitzhaber) was never this foolish.

Attention, funding will aid grad rates

Oregon policymakers and other grownups suffer from a peculiar lack of mathematical understanding, but at the same time expect our high school students to do much better than us.

How else to explain the embarrassing mismatch between our aspirations for a 100 percent graduation rate and an actual 2014 on-time rate of 72 percent? A gain from 68.7 percent in 2013 is explained by a change in who is counted rather than by any actual significant improvement. We were 49th in the U.S., saved from last place by Idaho, which was unable to accurately report its graduation rate.

As we reported in a Friday story, most Clatsop County districts don't even quite match the state average. There is a 65.64 percent graduation rate for students in Astoria School District. Its completion rate was 68.1 percent, with four students earning GED certificates. Knappa and Warrenton did slightly better. Among the relatively large districts, Seaside was the star, with a 76.27 percent graduation rate, boosted to 77.1 percent by an additional student earning a GED. As it does impressively often, Jewell School District's class of 2014 of 11 students graduated 100 percent on time.

Is it realistic to aspire for all students to graduate, either on time or shortly afterward? Small districts like Jewell show that it potentially can be. But Jewell's small population and relatively lush tax base of timber revenue

have tended over time to allow a level of attention on individual learning that is hard to replicate.

Even without so much money, however, one lesson from smaller districts with high graduation rates — in our region, Naselle-Grays River in Pacific County, Wash., is another — is that high expectations and an intense focus on the learning styles of individual students can make a real difference.

Improving K-12 education funding mechanisms isn't the only way to achieve broader gains in graduation success, but it is a big part of the answer.

Beyond this, it is worth having a thorough statewide dialog on what exactly constitutes success for students. It is laudable to aspire to 100 percent graduation, but we cannot simply wash our hands of the many students who do not arrive at this goal when we want them to.

Internships, apprenticeships, the military, Job Corps and as many other options as we can manage will provide alternate pathways to life success for students whose personal circumstances or other factors keep from prospering in a traditional classroom setting.

High school graduation is an important milestone on the way to a successful life. But it is not the exclusive road to happiness and fulfillment. We must do better at treasuring all young people and maximizing their potential, even if that doesn't immediately include a diploma.

Europeans return to anti-Semitism

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Amid the ritual expressions of regret and the pledges of “never again” on Tuesday's 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, a bitter irony was noted: Anti-Semitism has returned to Europe. With a vengeance.

It has become routine. If the kosher-grocery massacre in Paris hadn't happened in conjunction with Charlie Hebdo, how much worldwide notice would it have received? As little as did the murder of a rabbi and three children at a Jewish school in Toulouse. As little as did the terror attack that killed four at the Jewish Museum in Brussels.

The rise of European anti-Semitism is in reality just a return to the norm. For a millennium, virulent Jew-hatred — persecution, expulsions, massacres — was the norm in Europe until the shame of the Holocaust created a temporary anomaly wherein anti-Semitism became socially unacceptable.

The hiatus is over. Jew-hatred is back, recapitulating the past with impressive zeal. Italians protesting Gaza handed out leaflets calling for a boycott of Jewish merchants. As in the 1930s. A widely popular French comedian has introduced a variant of the Nazi salute. In Berlin, Gaza brought out a mob chanting, “Jew, Jew, cowardly pig, come out and fight alone!” Berlin, mind you.

European anti-Semitism is not a Jewish problem, however. It's a European problem, a stain, a disease of which Europe is congenitally unable to rid itself.

From the Jewish point of view, European anti-Semitism is a sideshow. The story of European Jewry is over. It died at Auschwitz. Europe's place as the center and fulcrum of the Jewish world has been inherited by Israel, now the largest Jewish community on earth.

The threat to the Jewish future lies not in Europe but in the Muslim Middle East, today the heart of global anti-Semitism, a veritable factory of anti-Jewish literature, films, blood libels and calls for violence, indeed for another genocide.

The founding charter of Hamas calls not just for the eradication of Israel but for the killing of Jews everywhere. Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah welcomes Jewish emigration to Israel — because it makes the killing easier: “If Jews all gather in Israel, it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide.” And, of course, Iran openly declares as its sacred mission the annihilation of Israel.

For America, Europe and the moderate Arabs there are powerful reasons having nothing to do with Israel for trying to prevent an apocalyptic, fanatically anti-Western clerical regime in Tehran from getting the bomb: Iranian hegemony, nuclear proliferation (including to terror groups) and elemental national security.

For Israel, however, the threat is of a different order. Direct, immediate and mortal.

The sophisticates cozily assure us not to worry. Deterrence will work. Didn't it work against the Soviets? Well, just 17 years into the atomic age, we came harrowingly close to deterrence failure and all-out nuclear war. Moreover, godless communists



Charles Krauthammer

anticipate no reward in heaven. Atheists calculate differently from jihadists with their cult of death. Name one Soviet suicide bomber.

Former Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani once characterized tiny Israel as a one-bomb country. He acknowledged Israel's deterrent capacity but noted the asymmetry: “Application of an atomic bomb would not leave anything in Israel but the same thing would just produce damages in the Muslim world.” Result? Israel eradicated, Islam vindicated. So much for deterrence.

And even if deterrence worked with Tehran, that's not where the story ends. Iran's very acquisition of nukes would set off a nuclear arms race with half a dozen Muslim countries from Turkey to Egypt to the Gulf states — in the most unstable part of the world. A place where, say, a moderate pro-American Yemen can fall to pro-Iranian rebels overnight.

The idea that some kind of six-sided deterrence would work in this roiling cauldron of instability the way it did in the frozen bipolarity of the Cold War is simply ridiculous.

The Iranian bomb is a national security issue, an alliance issue and a regional Middle East issue. But it is also a uniquely Jewish issue because of Israel's situation as the only state on earth overtly threatened with extinction, facing a potential nuclear power overtly threatening that extinction.

On the 70th anniversary of Auschwitz, mourning dead Jews is easy. And, forgive me, cheap. Want to truly honor the dead? Show solidarity with the living — Israel and its 6 million Jews. Make “never again” more than an empty phrase. It took Nazi Germany seven years to kill 6 million Jews. It would take a nuclear Iran one day.

Jew-hatred is back, recapitulating the past with impressive zeal.



IN GRATITUDE

A privilege

On Jan. 16, my wife and I had the privilege of being part of a very unique experience in Astoria. We went to see the film *American Sniper*. I read the book some time ago. I was very impressed. The movie was just as good as the book.

However what impressed me even more was what happened in the theater. The movie ended and I noticed that the audience remained seated while the credits began to roll. The entire audience was silent until the film ended. As the audience filed out I heard only one comment: “That was a good film.” This comment summed up our experience. It was a good film.

The audience then began to leave the theater in a very silent and respectful manner. The respect that was shown by the audience was truly awesome. My wife and I left the movie feeling rewarded not only by watching the film,

but also the privilege of watching this film with this audience. Thanks again. Astoria.

DAN AND ALICE BAERGEN
 Astoria

Support at school

See below a recent Facebook post I made about my oldest daughter. See, in my heart, my undying gratitude to employees of the Astoria School District who did not just see beyond test scores to the real person and all of her strengths, but who took the time to nurture those strengths; who did not just tolerate, but who accepted the anxiety of parents who only wanted the best for their child.

Just as it's great to have the dilemma of having to choose between Honors Geometry and Advanced Drawing, it is great to have the dilemma of not wanting to name names because

of the fear of missing someone's, since there have been so many who have supported her and, by extension, her parents.

Facebook post: “There was a time, not too long ago, when if Jess had told me she had to decline her art teacher's request that she take the Advanced Drawing class, because it occurs at the same time that she takes Honors Geometry, you could have knocked me over with a feather. No disrespect intended, Jess, because you're amazing. It's just that what is most amazing about you is how strongly you believe in yourself. Determination and work ethic are the vehicle, but believing in yourself is the fuel that drives it. Congratulations, sweetheart.”

By the way, this message was approved by the Committee for Limiting Parental Commentary.

WYNNE PRESTON
 Astoria

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