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Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

10 years ago this week — 2005

Oregon and Washington gillnetters may be allowed to snare more wild, threatened steelhead this season, to make more room for commercially valuable Columbia River Chinook salmon this spring.

But the proposal from fish and wildlife managers in both states is sparking debate over how much fishing should be allowed when more than a half-dozen endangered salmon and steelhead runs return to the Columbia from the ocean.

Boaters docked at the West Mooring Basin could have new bathrooms, showers and laundry facilities next year, in a building that also houses Port of Astoria marina offices and other marine-related business.

Glenn Taggart of C.A. Taggart Construction has proposed building a 20,000-square-foot building at the northeast edge of Pier I, bordering the West Mooring Basin. The project is valuable for both the company and the port, said Taggart, who is also a port commissioner.

Speakers Tuesday decried the way in which the Port of Astoria leased Warrenton property to Calpine Corp. for a liquefied natural gas receiving terminal, while residents expressed concerns that it would squelch the fishing industry and create a "climate of fear."

People for Responsible Prosperity, which is opposed to Calpine Corp.'s proposed liquefied natural gas facility, held its first meeting in Warrenton to explain its position and hear from people concerned about the project's impacts on the community.

50 years ago — 1965

Flood the rivers with heavy rains, jam smaller ones with logs and throw in other various obstacles, but the wily steelhead still will fight their way to the spawning areas.

Unique demonstration of this was observed by Warren Knispel, Warrenton, biologist for the Oregon Game Commission.

Knispel reported that during recent high waters he was checking tributaries of the Necanicum River and at one point watched two 9-pound steelhead slithering up a muddy, rutted logging road.

Knispel's report, released through the Game Commission, said the nearby stream had been blocked by debris, so the fish apparently flipped out of the banks and found enough water in the roadway to keep going.

Water in the rutted roads was only about three inches deep at the time, Knispel said.

I would cost about \$500 million to build a ship canal from Puget Sound to Grays Harbor and from Grays Harbor to the mouth of the Columbia River, Col. C.C. Holbrook, Seattle district engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has estimated.

Holbrook said Congress could be expected to put up \$300 million of the cost but the state would be required to come up with the other \$200 million.

Holbrook said the proposed legislation was desirable. But he said additional bills must be passed to assure the federal government that the state would pay its share of the cost of the proposed canal.

Holbrook said the \$200 million state expenditure could be "spread over the period of construction of the canal." He said that would be several years.

The Corps of Engineers is now studying the proposed canal. The state must keep the Canal Commission in operation if it wants the study to continue, Holbrook warned.

75 years ago — 1940

The eastbound S.P.&S. Freight train plunged into tons of mud and trees about 1,000 yards west of the Ivy station 12 miles east of Astoria at 1:30 a.m. today, throwing the locomotive, tender and the freight car from the tracks and stalling rail traffic on the Astoria-Portland route.

From a high, steep slope that reaches up south of the tracks, tons of earth bearing 2-foot trees plunged over the right-of-way when loosened from the lip of an old slide that occurred some time previously. The westbound freight had passed the spot only a few minutes previously and it is thought possible the train's tremor hastened the slide.

The eastbound locomotive cut a swath in the wall of mud, which left its mark half-way up on the derailed engine's boiler, tore away the pilot and smashed cylinders along the front. The tender was wrenched from the track and from the engine and the first freight car was likewise derailed. No one was hurt.

ILWACO — A 1942 international exposition commemorating the discovery of the Columbia River 150 years ago and the completion of Grand Coulee and Bonneville dams was projected today by three small southwestern Washington towns — Ilwaco, Long Beach and Seaview.

Plans for the exposition — tentatively titled "The Columbia River International Exposition" — were discussed yesterday at a conference of officials of the three communities.

Mayor Norman A. Howerton of Ilwaco said the fair would be held at the mouth of the Columbia River, and that all Columbia valley cities and towns would be invited to participate.

The city of Astoria today issued a call for bids for 300 or more parking meters and their installation in one or more districts within the city. One of the specifications provided that 20 meters may be placed on Taylor Avenue, west of Columbia. Streets on which the other meters are to be located are not identified, but they will be in one "compact district."

The call for bids states that the city is interested in dealing with only those meter manufacturers which have made one or more successful installations. Bidders are asked to name the locality where its meters have been put in use and also to mention if any were removed after being found unsatisfactory.

Our nightmare has begun

POLITICS DOES NOT bring human happiness. Oregonians are learning that lesson.

An economics professor told me that elections only allocate power; they do not promise policy outcomes.

The November election re-elected Gov. John Kitzhaber. Just two months into his fourth term, Kitzhaber has become a walking apparition.

For those of us who believe in unmarked boundaries, it seems clear that Kitzhaber crossed one of those spiritual demarcations when he tempted fate by seeking an unprecedented fourth term.

Kitzhaber also built a trap for himself by insisting that his girlfriend Cylvia Hayes be called "first lady." *The New York Times* referred to then-New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's girlfriend Diana Taylor as the mayor's "companion." That's what Cylvia Hayes was. By elevating her to first lady and giving her an office in his suite, Kitzhaber set up profit center for Hayes and he baited the trap for the rest of us.

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WHILE KITZHABER LEAKS blood as he walks the halls of the state Capitol, the rest of us are condemned to live through a bad dream as investigations creep forward.

State Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has begun an investigation. But Nigel Jaquiss of *Willamette Week* on Monday night noted the AG may lack full statutory authority to conduct a criminal investigation. (see wweek.com for "Gov. John Kitzhaber and AG Ellen Rosenblum disagree on scope of investigation.")

WW has reported that the FBI has opened an investigation into Kitzhaber and Hayes. But the FBI's similar investigation of the governor of Virginia and his wife took years to reach prosecution.

The Oregon Ethics Commission is a fairly toothless tiger, with no history of aggressive investigation. And the commissioners were appointed by Kitzhaber.

When a group approached Secretary of State Kate Brown's office about filing a recall petition against Kitzhaber, the attorney general pointed out that recall cannot be mounted until an official has been in office at least six months.

If the momentum of investigative journalism continues at the current pace, by June there should be considerable residue on which to launch a recall election. At that point, how many Kitzhaber moneybags would fund his defense?

'The time has come,' the Walrus said,
'To talk of many things;
Of shoes — and ships — and sealing wax —
Of cabbages — and kings —'

Through the Looking-glass



of Cabbages and Kings



AP Photo/Don Ryan

Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber kisses fiancée, Cylvia Hayes, after he is sworn in for an unprecedented fourth term as governor in Salem, Jan. 12. Big political scandals are rare in Oregon, but there's a huge one swirling around Kitzhaber and Hayes as she faces allegations that she used her access to the governor's office to secure contracts for her consulting business and that she hasn't reported all of her income to tax authorities.

Oregonians are condemned to watching Gov. Kitzhaber leak blood as he walks the halls of the Capitol.

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KITZHABER'S DIMINISHED stature is already showing.

When a statewide education group visited our offices last week, I asked whether they were suffering because Kitzhaber was unable to be their advocate, as he was in the 2013 Legislature. "Yes," was the answer I received.

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AT THE END OF THIS process is the prospect that Brown will become governor before the end of Kitzhaber's term in 2018.

Except for her die-hard Portland constituents, I doubt there is great

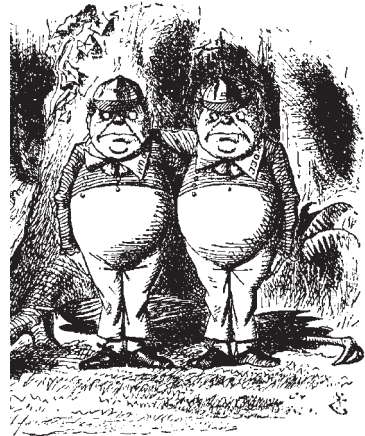
anticipation of a Brown administration. As secretary of state, Brown has been underwhelming. During her 2012 re-election campaign, Brown was not endorsed by a single Oregon newspaper.

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ALL OF THIS WILL SET UP A 2018 Democratic primary contest in which Treasurer Ted Wheeler will take on an incumbent Gov. Kate Brown.

The smart money will be on Wheeler.

— S.A.F.



The act of rigorous forgiving

By DAVID BROOKS
New York Times News Service

There's something sad in Brian Williams' need to puff up his Iraq adventures and something barbaric in the public response.

The sad part is the reminder that no matter how high you go in life and no matter how many accolades you win, it's never enough. The desire for even more admiration races ahead. Career success never really satisfies. Public love always leaves you hungry. Even very famous people can do self-destructive things in an attempt to seem just a little cooler.

The barbaric part is the way we respond to scandal these days. When somebody violates a public trust, we try to purge and ostracize him. A sort of coliseum culture takes over, leaving no place for mercy. By now, the script is familiar: Some famous person does something wrong. The Internet, the most impersonal of mediums, erupts with contempt and mockery. The offender issues a paltry half-apology, which only inflames the public more. The pounding cry for resignation builds until capitulation comes. Public passion is spent, and the spotlight moves on.

I've only spoken with Williams a few times, and can't really speak about the man (although I often appear on NBC News' *Meet the Press*), but I do think we'd all be better off if we reacted to these sorts of scandals in a different way. The civic fabric would be stronger if, instead of trying to sever relationships with those who have done wrong, we tried to repair them, if we tried forgiveness instead of exiling.

Forgiveness is often spoken of in sentimental terms — as gushy absolu-

tion for everything, regardless of right or wrong. But many writers — ranging from Hannah Arendt and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to modern figures like Jeffrie Murphy and L. Gregory Jones — have tried to think hard about rigorous forgiveness, which balances accountability with compassion.

They've generally described four processes involved in forgiveness:

Pre-emptive Mercy

King argued that forgiveness isn't an act; it's an attitude. We are all sinners. We expect sin, empathize with sin and are slow to think ourselves superior. The forgiving person is strong enough to display anger and resentment toward the person who has wronged her, but she is also strong enough to give away that anger and resentment.

In this view, the forgiving person makes the first move, even before the offender has asked. She resists the natural urge for vengeance. Instead, she creates a welcoming context in which the offender can confess.

Judgment

A wrong is an occasion to re-evaluate. What is the character of the person in question? Should a period of stupidity eclipse a record of decency?

It's also an occasion to investigate each unique circumstance, the nature

of each sin that was committed and the implied remedy to that sin. Some sins, like anger and lust, are like wild beasts. They have to be fought through habits of restraint. Some sins like bigotry are like stains. They can be expunged only by apology and cleansing. Some like stealing are like a debt. They can be rectified only by repaying. Some, like adultery, are more like treason than like



David Brooks

crime; they can be rectified only by slowly reweaving relationships. Some sins like vanity — Williams' sin — can be treated only by extreme self-abasement.

During the judgment phase hard questions have to be asked so that in forgiving we don't lower our standards.

Confession and Penitence

At some point the offender has to get out in front of the process, being more self-critical than anyone else around him. He has to probe down to the root of his error, offer a confession more complete than expected. He has to put public reputation and career on the back burner and come up with a course that will move him toward his own emotional and spiritual recovery, to become strongest in the weakest places.

Reconciliation and Re-trust

After judgments have been made and penitence performed, both the offender and offended bend toward each other. As King said, trust doesn't have to be immediate, but the wrong act is no longer a barrier to a relationship. The offender endures his season of shame and is better for it. The offended are free from mean emotions like vengeance and are uplifted when they offer kindness. The social fabric is repaired. Community solidarity is strengthened by the reunion.

I guess I think Brian Williams shouldn't have to resign, for the reason that David Carr emphasized in *The Times*: Williams' transgressions were not part of his primary job responsibilities. And because I think good people are stronger when given second chances.

But the larger question is how we build community in the face of scandal. Do we exile the offender or heal the relationship? Would you rather become the sort of person who excludes, or one who offers tough but healing love?