

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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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

The Oregon Department of Transportation will abide by whatever decision the city of Seaside comes to on the controversial U.S. Highway 101 improvement project, a state transportation official said Saturday at a regional land-use conference in Seaside.

But if the citizens reject the \$38 million project in a May referendum, they shouldn't count on ODOT supporting an alternative project anytime soon, he said.

Nearly 25 Astoria School District students were sent home Wednesday for not having up-to-date immunizations.

Exclusion Day is the annual deadline for parents to provide immunization records to schools and day care centers, or submit religious or medical exemptions.

The city of Seaside paid almost \$57,000 to "retire" its police chief last month, according to documents recently obtained by *The Daily Astorian*, which described the city manager's lack of confidence in the city's highest ranking law enforcement officer.

The gross amount of the severance check was \$56,926, which included six months' salary, half of (Ken) Almborg's accumulated sick leave, and all his unused vacation time. He was paid for all of January, even though he was effectively terminated on the third working day.

While his contract only called for three months' salary as severance, City Manager Mark Winstanley said in an interview Wednesday that six month's pay could be cheaper for the city than paying extended health care bills.

A third company is looking at the Columbia River for a liquefied natural gas plant.

In early November, *The Daily Astorian* revealed that Calpine Corp. had plans for an LNG facility at the tip of Warrenton's Skippanon Peninsula on land leased from the Port of Astoria. The next day, the port signed the lease, touching off a controversy that still rages. Another LNG proponent is eyeing a site in Columbia County.

The second LNG proposal for Warrenton is on land at Tansy Point. The site is owned by the city and leased to Martin Nygaard's Warrenton Fiber Co.

50 years ago — 1965

More than 2,500 people took advantage Sunday of the first opportunity for local citizens to see the new Job Corps Center in operation.

The occasion was a special open house for people of the Astoria area, held in advance of the formal opening to come later when remodeling work is further advanced.

Job Corps Center officials said 740 vehicles were counted in and out of the main gate during the afternoon.

"Things aren't going too well," said SP&S railway engineers at Portland Monday as they predicted it would be another week before trains roll over the Portland-Astoria line.

Workers trying to knock down rocks from a ledge 300 feet up the face of the huge slide near Bradwood have been having a rough time, railway official said.

Estimated cost of repairing curbs and sidewalks on Commercial between 8th and 10th is \$18,144, the city council learned Monday night.

The council has long been thinking about repairing the tilted sidewalks of these two blocks, where the street has settled over the past 40 years a distance of several inches.

We would like to see a feasibility and cost study made for a small boat canal between Warrenton and Seaside via the lakes and streams of Clatsop Plains, as proposed by a reader in a letter printed on this page Wednesday.

We suspect this would cost a great deal less and be just about as useful as the small boat harbor that is being discussed for the Seaside cove. Such a canal would not only make Seaside a port accessible to sport fishing craft from the Columbia, but it would develop other recreational boating.

Some day that Puget Sound-Columbia River canal now being talked about in Washington is going to become a reality, because it is logical. An extension of it southward to Seaside would then be logical.

75 years ago — 1940

The federal bureau of fisheries is putting in quite a new system of hatcheries on the upper Columbia and tributaries, a system which should help considerably in counteracting the adverse effects of Grand Coulee Dam and its blocking of the upper reaches of the Columbia River to spawning fish.

The navy has estimated expenditures amounting to \$223,750 on Tongue Point Naval Air Station for fiscal 1941, according to figures submitted to the house yesterday by Rear Admiral L.H. Toware, chief of the bureau of aeronautics, as quoted in the United Press dispatches.

The Port of Astoria commission Tuesday night approved a one year lease of the Clatsop airport owned by the port commission, to the Astoria flying club.

Under terms of the lease the flying club takes over management, policing and maintenance of the airport, with Leo Arany, club instructor, designated as airport manager.

The lease proved highly satisfactory to the port commission, which some weeks ago had seriously considered shutting up the airport because of inability to keep the runways in proper condition.

Featuring the Spring Opening dance of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce on March 6 at Recreation Center will be a jitterbug contest, the first of its kind in Astoria. To the best jitterbugging go cash awards, the committee in charge of the event announced today.

Kitzhaber gives news media an endorsement

THE DEATH OF A political leader is sometimes an auspicious circumstance. President Abraham Lincoln's death was the most coincidental of all. He was assassinated on Good Friday. That forced clergy across America to rewrite Easter Sunday sermons.

Sen. Henry Jackson of Washington — one of the Northwest's most significant lawmakers — unexpectedly succumbed to a heart attack at the age of 71 — some hours after learning that his archenemy, the Soviet Union, had shot down a Korean passenger jet, in what appeared to be cold blood.

Gov. John Kitzhaber became Oregon's first modern governor to resign. His appointment with history occurred on Friday the 13th.

If the Koch brothers gave a governor's wife or companion \$118,000, Portland liberals would be scandalized.

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IN HIS RESIGNATION statement, Kitzhaber took an obligatory swipe at the media. Maudlin as it was, the resigning governor's rant is something that we in the print press should accept with gratitude.

Our Legislature had nothing to do with shining a light on the influence peddling that went on down the hall in the governor's suite. Neither did the Secretary of State's Audit Division. Nor did state prosecutors.

It was reporters who sniffed the stench and doggedly pursued clues. Nigel Jaquiss of *Willamette Week* was the prime mover. I am proud to say

'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

that Hillary Borrud of our company's Capital Bureau also played a pivotal role, reporting Cylvia Hayes' \$118,000 payment from a clean fuels interest group. *The Oregonian* was late to the hunt, but broke a piece of significance.

The new aspect of this story is that it all broke online. Each news organization posted the stories to their websites while between print editions. That added to the velocity of events.

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NOTABLY ABSENT from all this was our state capital newspaper, the *Statesman-Journal*. In a strange column published Monday, SJ Executive Editor Michael Davis berated *The Oregonian* for its Feb. 4 editorial urging Kitzhaber to resign.

The O's editorial was hardly the main show. The heart of the bat was revelation after revelation about how the Kitzhaber administration had put its office up for sale through Cylvia Hayes. That's what sank the ship.

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AMONG HARD-CORE liberal Portland Democrats there no doubt is some mourning over Kitzhaber's demise. But they are



Hillary Borrud



Nigel Jaquiss

weeping over John Kitzhaber of the first and second terms. The third term John Kitzhaber was different. Kitzhaber was exceedingly poorly served in that third administration. I don't think I've encountered a more inept political press secretary than Kitzhaber's in that term. State Sen. Betsy Johnson regularly told me how the governor's staff was not up to the task during those four years.

Moreover, if a governor's wife or companion had taken money in six figures from the Koch brothers, do you think urban liberals would see no evil?

The essence of the crime committed in the state capital was captured by Brent Walth who told an Astoria Columbia Forum audience in November: "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."

—S.A.F.



Soldiers face a moral injury

By DAVID BROOKS
New York Times News Service

David J. Morris returned from Iraq with a case of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The former Marine turned war correspondent was plagued by nightmares.

His imagination careened out of control; he envisioned fireballs erupting while on trips to the mall. His emotions could go numb, but his awareness was hypervigilant. Images and smells from the war were tattooed eternally fresh on his brain, and he circled back to them remorselessly.

"Trauma destroys the fabric of time," Morris writes in his book, *The Evil Hours*. "In normal time you move from one moment to the next, sunrise to sunset, birth to death. After trauma, you may move in circles, find yourself being sucked backwards into an eddy or bouncing like a rubber ball from now to then to back again. ... In the traumatic universe the basic laws of matter are suspended: ceiling fans can be helicopters, car exhaust can be mustard gas."

Morris' book is so good because it relies on literature, history and psychology to communicate the reality of PTSD, both to those who live with it and those who never have. But this book is also important because it's part of a broader re-evaluation of trauma.

Most discussion about PTSD thus far has been about fear and the conquering of fear. But, over the past few years, more people have come to understand PTSD is also about exile — moral exile.

We don't think about it much, but in civilian life we live enmeshed in a fabric of moral practices and evaluations. We try to practice kindness and to cause no pain.

People who have been to war have left this universe behind. That's because war — no matter how justified or unjustified, noble or ignoble — is always

a crime. It involves accidental killings, capricious death for one but not another, tainted situations where every choice is murderously wrong.

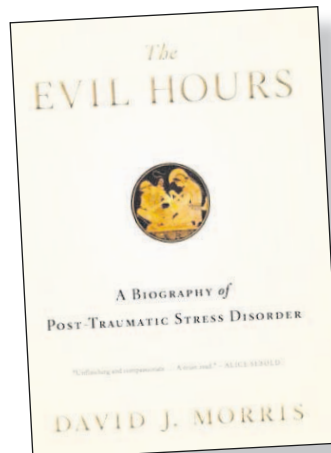
Many veterans feel guilty because they lived while others died. Some feel ashamed because they didn't bring all their men home and wonder what they could have done differently to save them. When they get home they wonder if there's something wrong with them because they find war repugnant but also thrilling. They hate it and miss it.

Many of their self-judgments go to extremes. A comrade died because he stepped on an improvised explosive device and his commander feels unrelenting guilt because he didn't go down a different street. Insurgents used women and children as shields, and soldiers and Marines feel a totalistic black stain on themselves because of an innocent child's face, killed in the firefight. The self-condemnation can be crippling.

The victims of PTSD often feel morally tainted by their experiences, unable to recover confidence in their own goodness, trapped in a sort of spiritual solitary confinement, looking back at the rest of the world from beyond the barrier of what happened. They find themselves unable to communicate their condition to those who remained at home, resenting civilians for their blind innocence.

People generally don't suffer high rates of PTSD after natural disasters. Instead, people suffer from PTSD after moral atrocities. Soldiers who've endured the depraved world of combat experience their own symptoms. Trauma is an expulsive cataclysm of the soul.

We now have a growing number of



books and institutions grappling with this reality, including Phil Klay's novel *Redeployment*, which won the National Book Award; Nancy Sherman's forthcoming *Afterwar: Healing the Moral Wounds of Our Soldiers*; and therapy programs like the one on moral injury found at the San Diego Naval Medical Center.

These writers and therapists suggest that there has to be a moral reckoning, a discernment process that doesn't whitewash what happened but does lead to merciful judgments about how much guilt should be borne; settled and measured conclusions about how responsibility for terrible things should be apportioned.

Sherman, who is a philosopher at Georgetown University, emphasizes that most of the work will have to be

More people have come to understand PTSD is also about exile — moral exile.

done at the micro level — through individual conversations between veterans and civilians that go beyond the cheap grace of "thank you for your service." The conversations have to deal with the individual facts of each case. The goal is to get veterans to adopt the stance of a friendly observer, to make clear how limited choices are when one is caught in a random, tragic situation, to arrive at catharsis and self-forgiveness about what was actually blameworthy and what wasn't.

The civilian enters into the world the veteran actually inhabited during those awful crowded hours and expands his own moral awareness. The veteran feels trusted, respected and understood — reintegrated into the fabric of his or her homeland.

We live in a culture that emphasizes therapy, but trauma often has to be overcome morally, through rigorous philosophical autobiography, nuanced judgment, case by case.

Where to write

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