

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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## Boat facility should not be dismantled

*Port of Astoria's rationale doesn't pass the sniff test*

Having a boat repair yard at a Port at the mouth of the Columbia River makes sense. That's why it was part of the Marine Services Center, which the Port Commission adopted as its strategic plan in 2001. That plan was amended in 2010 to accommodate log exports.

Suddenly Port management is in a hurry to dismantle the boat yard, which was established with considerable investment.

Edward Stratton's Monday story reported the Port's reasons for this move. They mainly have to do with alleged requests from the Department of Environmental Quality.

The problem is that Port Executive Director Jim Knight's version of the commission's reasoning falls apart upon cross examination. That interrogation took place last week. Knight was challenged by other Port tenants: Greg Morrill of Bergerson Construction, Kurt Englund of Englund Marine & Industrial Supply and Andrew Bornstein or Bornstein Seafoods.

In a nutshell, the Port of Astoria is not under an ultimatum to shut down the boatyard. There is a way to respond to the DEQ and not break the bank.

## Get used to warmer, wet winters

Ready or not, here it comes: 2015 is shaping up to be a sneak peek at Pacific Northwest weather patterns expected to become completely normal as this century moves forward.

The weather is turning misty again this week and we undoubtedly still have plenty of storms ahead this year, and long into the future. But this extraordinary winter of sunny days, warm temperatures but still-ample rainfall is being described as quite similar to what we and our children can expect every year by 2050 or so.

Most local residents are likely to cheer this news. Astoria and its environs have been singled out as having the worst weather in the mainland U.S. by some definitions — foggy, windy, wet and capricious. We who live here and love it may find this judgment unfair. But few of us would object to having routine stretches of delightful winter sun.

An animation on astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson's recent television series *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey* showed many years of global temperature predictions in flickering succession. It was striking that the Pacific Northwest Coast centered here — basically the geographical zone sometimes called Cascadia — is predicted to be an oasis of moderate weather in a world that will be getting more and more uncomfortable.

Lucky us, right? Well, kind of.

There was considerable regional news commentary last week about the lack of mountain snowpack and the growing potential for a summer and fall of drought and forest fires. Some of this will have direct impacts here. In particular, lack of Cascade Mountains snow will mean warmer water in salmon-spawning beds — something that will hurt reproduction success — and lower, warmer rivers will impact the migration of fish to and

In the short run, Knight is mortgaging his personal credibility on a Port Commission rationale that lacks substance. Knight needs to remember that the Port's dysfunction over many years was there before he got here. Many of us simply aren't inclined to believe the commission. Knight knows that the Port's financial documents are unreliable.

This move to eliminate the board repair facility is akin to the Port Commission's abortive tax on fish moving across Port docks. They are both aimed at moving fish, fish processing and maritime-related services away from the Port in favor of cargo and the longshoremen who benefit from that.

In the long run, it would be stupid of the Port to abandon its boatyard. It made sense as part of the Marine Services Center concept. It will always make sense.

from spawning grounds. Three and four years from now, depending on ocean conditions, this is likely to mean fewer salmon for fishermen. This in turn argues for ample funding for directed net-pen fisheries like the ones in Youngs Bay and Deep River, Wash.; these salmon that return to Columbia estuary bays and tributaries will be far less impacted by drought upriver.

Around here, snowpack in the Coast Range is sometimes a helpful natural reservoir for a while in the spring, but our ambient temperatures and rainfall mean that if we want to store water for use between July and September, we must engineer it ourselves. Though lower Columbia residents have a well-founded suspicion of dams and reservoirs, we wouldn't be remiss in at least starting to brainstorm possibilities for additional water-storage capacity.

Wet weather and cool temperatures that have long tortured local sun lovers are well on their way to becoming high-value assets. In coming decades, population growth could be the biggest local impact we see from discombobulations in the weather. Whether it's extreme heat in the Southwest or extreme winter cold in the Northeast, our conditions are highly enviable in comparison. This reality increasingly is coming to the attention of outsiders.

Besides water storage, we must pay more attention to development on shorelines, protecting key resource lands for industry, residential use, habitat and recreation. Growth can very quickly gain momentum, as we can see based on recently disclosed Coast Guard expansion studies and Tongue Point development wishes. We can endeavor to shape our communities' destiny, or else allow circumstances to take their own course.

Our area's active and engaged citizens will clearly prefer to maintain control of our own life raft in these risky times.

# Only the shadow knows

By MAUREEN DOWD  
 New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Somewhere in Smithsonian storage sits a portrait of Bill Clinton with two odd features: He is standing next to a shadow meant to conjure Monica Lewinsky's blue dress, and he is not wearing his gold wedding ring.

As we have been reminded by a recent wild cascade of stories, everything about the Clintons is convoluted. Nothing is simple, even a celebratory portrait.

Nelson Shanks, picked by Clinton to do his portrait for the National Portrait Gallery, revealed to the *Philadelphia Daily News* that he had used a blue dress on a mannequin to evoke the shadow of the Lewinsky scandal in the portrait.

I called the 77-year-old artist to ask about his devilish punking.

"It's an extra little kick going on in the painting," he said. "It was a bit humorous, but there was also a sort of authenticity to it. To do a Pollyanna, basically meaningless, symbolically neutral painting of somebody that has had a powerful influence on society is really copping out." He said that Clinton's lack of a wedding band has no ulterior meaning, noting: "I just forgot the ring." But Clinton aides weren't buying it.

He said when the omission first made news after the portrait was unveiled in 2006, Hillary Clinton sent him "a lovely little note saying don't worry about it, this is just a tempest in a teapot."

In a blog post last week, Eugénie Bisulco, a Clinton administration staffer who led the search team for a White House portrait artist, said it wasn't Shanks' attempt to put in "a moral compass" that grated. (The Clintons didn't even know about that.) Bisulco said it was that the portrait made Clinton look like "a disheveled Ted Koppel."

*Clinton Inc. can tough it out and even make stuff disappear.*

Other Clintonistas dismissed the allegorical shadow as "put-a-bunny-in-the-pot crazy."

Shanks said it was "like an ice pick going through my back" when he learned that his portrait was "exiled to the dark recesses" in 2009. On a visit to the museum a year and a half ago, he heard a docent telling a tour group that the Clintons put the kibosh on the painting.

He asked Kim Sajet, now director of the National Portrait Gallery, and she confirmed his darkest fears in an email, saying that they took it down because the Clintons disliked it. But, in response to a query, Sajet admitted that she was "repeating unfounded gossip," according to a spokeswoman, and insisted that the painting is merely in rotation.

Shortly after the art imbroglio broke, an email imbroglio broke. The Times' Michael Schmidt reported that, as secretary of state, Hillary did not preserve her official correspondence on a government server and exclusively used a private email account. She used a private server linked to her Chappaqua home, only turning over cherry-picked messages in December at the State Department's request.

Given the paranoid/legalese perspective that permeates Clintonland, this made sense: It's hard to request emails from an account you don't know exists. And your own server can shield you from subpoenas and other requests. If you want records from the Clinton server, you have to fight for them. Clinton Inc. can tough it out and even make stuff disappear. Instead of warning the secretary that she could be violating regulations, her aides fetishized her clintonemail.com account as a status symbol. Chelsea took on the pseudonym Diane Reynolds.

Near midnight on Wednesday, Hillary tweeted that she had asked the State Department to release the



Maureen Dowd

emails she had coughed up when pressed, noting: "I want the public to see my email."

Less true words were never spoken.

Schmidt's scoop followed The Wall Street Journal revelation that at least 60 companies that lobbied the State Department when Hillary was in charge had funneled more than \$26 million to the

Clinton Foundation.

Certainly, Hillary wants a lot of control. She has spent a lifetime cleaning up messes sparked by her overweening desire for control and her often out-of-control mate. She always feared that her emails could become fodder for critics, and now they have.

Everyone is looking for signs in how Hillary approaches 2016 to see whether she's learned lessons from past trouble. But the minute this story broke, she went back to the bunker, even though she had known for months that the Republicans knew about the account. The usual hatchets — Philippe Reines, David Brock, Lanny Davis and Sidney Blumenthal — got busy.

The Clintons don't sparkle with honesty and openness. Between his lordly appetites and her queenly prerogatives, you always feel as if there's something afoot. Everything needs to be a secret, from the Rose Law Firm records that popped up in a White House closet two years after they were subpoenaed to the formulation of her health care plan.

Yet the Clintons always act as though it's bad form when you bring up their rule-bending. They want us to compartmentalize, just as they do, to connect the dots that form a pretty picture and leave the other dots alone.

If you're aspiring to be the second president in the family, why is it so hard to be straight and direct and stand for something? Why can't you just be upright and steady and good?

Given all the mistakes they've made, why do they keep making them? Why do they somehow never do anything that doesn't involve shadows?

## Race, history, a president, a bridge

By CHARLES M. BLOW  
 New York Times News Service

As our van in the presidential Amortcade reached the crest of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., and began the descent toward the thousands of waiting faces and waving arms of those who had come to commemorate the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," the gravity of that place seized me, pushing out the breath and rousing the wonder.



Charles Blow

The mind imagines the horror of that distant day: the scrum of bodies and the cloud of gas, the coughing and trampling, the screaming and wailing, the batons colliding with bones, the opening of flesh, the running down of blood.

In that moment I understood what was necessary in President Barack Obama's address: to balance celebration and solemnity, to honor the heroes of the past but also to motivate the activists of the moment, to acknowledge how much work had been done but to remind the nation that that work was not complete.

(I, along with a small group of other journalists, had been invited by the White House to accompany the president to Selma and have a discussion with him during the flight there.)

About an hour north of where the president spoke was Shelby County, whose suit against the Department of Justice the Supreme Court had used to gut the same Voting Rights Act that Bloody Sunday helped to pass.

His speech also came after several shootings of unarmed black men, whose deaths caused national protests and racial soul-searching.

It came on the heels of the Justice Department's report on Ferguson, Missouri, which found pervasive racial bias and an oppressive use of fines primarily against African-Americans.

It came as a CNN/ORC poll found that 4 out of 10 Americans thought race relations during the Obama presidency had gotten worse, while only 15 percent thought they had gotten better.



AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin

President Barack Obama, center, walks as he holds hands with Amelia Boynton Robinson, who was beaten during "Bloody Sunday," as they and the first family and others including Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., left of Obama, walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala.

*Fear and restrictive laws are creeping back into our culture and our politics.*

The president had to bend the past around so it pointed toward the future. To a large degree, he accomplished that goal. The speech was emotional and evocative. People cheered. Some cried.

And yet there seemed to me something else in the air: a lingering — or gathering — sense of sadness, a frustration born out of perpetual incompleteness, an anger engendered by the threat of regression, a pessimism about a present and future riven by worsening racial understanding and interplay.

To truly understand the Bloody Sunday inflection point — and the civil rights movement as a whole — one must appreciate the preceding century.

After the Civil War, blacks were incredibly populous in Southern states. They were close to, or exceeded, half the population in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Virginia, Mississippi, Louisiana and South Carolina.

During Reconstruction, the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments were ratified, abolishing slavery, granting citizenship and equal protection to former slaves and extending the vote to black men. As a result, "some 2,000 African-Americans held public office, from the local level all the way up to the U.S. Senate," according to the television channel History.

This was an assault on the traditional holders of power in the South, who responded aggressively. The structure of Jim Crow began to form. The Ku Klux Klan was born, whose tactics would put the Islamic State group to shame.

Then in the early 20th century came

the first wave of the Great Migration, in which millions of Southern blacks would decamp for the North, East and West.

This left a smaller black population in Southern states that had developed and perfected a system to keep those who remained suppressed and separate.

Here, the civil rights movement and Bloody Sunday played out.

The movement was about justice and equality, but in a way it was also about power — the renewed fear of diminished power, the threat of expanded power, the longing for power denied.

Now, we must look at the hundred years following the movement to understand that another inflection point is coming, one that again threatens traditional power: the browning of America.

According to the Census Bureau, "The U.S. is projected to become a majority-minority nation for the first time in 2043," with minorities projected to be 57 percent of the population in 2060.

In response, fear and restrictive laws are creeping back into our culture and our politics — not always explicitly or violently, but in ways whose effects are similarly racially arrayed. Structural inequities — economic, educational — are becoming more rigid, and systemic biases harder to eradicate. But this time the threat isn't regional and racially binary but national and multifaceted.

So, we must fight our fights anew.

As the president told a crowd in South Carolina Friday, "Selma is not just about commemorating the past." He continued, "Selma is now."