

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

Last fall, Lylla Gaebel and other leaders on the North Coast sent a message to state planners: Please don't turn U.S. Highway 101 into an official freight route, a designation that could give rumbling big rigs priority over efforts to build wider sidewalks and other tourist-friendly features along main streets.

The Oregon Department of Transportation did not include the coastal highway in a list of possible new freight routes for state commissioners to consider. And Gaebel, a Clatsop County commissioner, breathed easier.

Now things aren't so certain.

A Senate committee today will take up a bill pushed by the state's influential trucking industry that would overrule draft recommendations from Transportation Department staffers and add about 1,700 new miles of freight routes in Oregon — including U.S. 101.

The old Safeway store is finally coming down.
At Monday's meeting, the Astoria City Council voted to award a contract to demolish the building to Custom Excavating, a local firm which submitted the lowest bid for the project — \$46,450.

It was a sunny day in Astoria, but inside the historic Liberty Theater it was dark and noisy.

Instead of rows of seats, scaffolding filled the auditorium area and a cacophony of sawing, sanding and hammering assailed a visitor's ears. Whenever there was a lull, eerie silent-film style organ music filled in the pauses.

It was a normal day for Phase 2 of the restoration of the Liberty, where work proceeds at a frenetic pace toward a finish line only three months away.

50 years ago — 1965

Balmy weather, more typical of summer than of early March, brought hordes of weekend visitors to the Sunset Empire's sun-baked beaches.

At Seaside the crowd was estimated at 30,000 visitors, biggest March weekend crowd in Seaside history, by Police Chief Kenneth Healea.

The city council's special library planning committee Tuesday recommended a site on 10th between Duane and Exchange for a new city library and recommended that Ernest and Ebba Brown of Astoria be chosen as architects to design the building and parking area.

Following one of its longest meetings in many months, the Commission of the Port of Astoria Wednesday has embarked on a new policy of "clean-up, paint-up, fix-up," and had endorsed in principle the development of a maritime park in Astoria.

Construction of a satisfactory dock as a permanent mooring place for the Coast Guard cutter Yocona has become a community necessity. The Columbia River Maritime Museum Association, sponsor of a project for a public waterfront park at the foot of 17th Street, proposes a dock there which could accommodate both the Yocona and the Lightship No. 88, a museum exhibit.

If the Coast Guard proposes to close Point Adams lifeboat station and provide a corresponding expansion of Cape Disappointment station, we fail to see the logic of the move.

It would seem more reasonable to have the lifeboat forces dispersed, as they are now, for quick response to calls for help in any part of nearby waters.

The Cape Disappointment station is six minutes closer to the ocean than Point Adams. But, by the same token, Point Adams is six minutes closer to upriver accidents.

75 years ago — 1940

An urgent "SOS" message was received at the Chamber of Commerce this morning by the committee in charge of the jitterbug contest to be staged Wednesday night along with the spring dance and city-wide style show.

Contrary to the usual interpretation, however, the "SOS" was translated to mean "short on shaggers" for the Jitterbug Contest.

The stern-wheeler Lewiston, on the last lap of its "swan song" voyage from Lewiston, Ida., down the Snake and Columbia rivers, pushed out of here this morning.

The Lewiston gave a defiant toot at one of the new boats, pushing a barge up the river, which has taken its place as the transporter of the rich wheat trade of other days.

Russian air attacks on civilians are becoming an every day affair in the beautiful Finnish seacoast town of Turku in the southwestern part of the country, according to a letter received here by Mrs. Jack Carlson, 779 Glasgow, from her sister, Tilda Aunio, who is proprietor of a knitshop and notions store in the ancient city. Among buildings destroyed by the indiscriminate bombings was a castle erected in the middle ages.

"Sad times have certainly come here lately. For many weeks now we have been bombed from the air. We often hover in shattered bomb shelters. On one occasion we were forced to stay six and a half hours in bomb shelters while the enemy bombed our town," the letter read.

Growing like a weed in spring rain, the Jeffers Gardens district is in need of improvements of other communities — good roads, satisfactory mail delivery and particularly an adequate supply of water. There are about 110 families in the community. So rapidly is the area being populated that 14 new homes have been erected north of the highway within six months on two blocks.

The largest crowd ever to assemble for such an occasion was present for the Retail Merchants spectacular spring Opening show at the Recreation Center last night. It was estimated that approximately 1600 persons attended the opening.

If we forget purpose, institutions begin to die

PURPOSE LIES AT THE heart of an institution. When we forget that purpose, the institution begins to die.

Restraint is what keeps an institution healthy. The restraint of its leaders who choose not to cross the line and devalue its birthright.

One need look no further than Salem to see an institution corrupted. Former Gov. John Kitzhaber and his girlfriend (first lady) ceased to serve the people.

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THE MOST ALARMING deterioration of our institutions is in the nation's capital.

This devolution has long roots. The late Sen. Mark Hatfield 40 years ago described to me the damage done by Sen. James Allen of Alabama who realized that he could flood the Senate with amendments and exhaust hours through debate of each amendment.

Some 35 years ago, while I was a correspondent, it was obvious that the real business of Capitol Hill had become celebrity and fundraising, not lawmaking or oversight. It was also clear that senators and congressmen had ceased to know each other. They had become the equivalent of traveling salesmen — out of town more than in their chambers and meeting rooms. It is hard to do the difficult work of legislating if you don't have personal relationships with your colleagues.

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THE LATEST debasement of Congress was by House Speaker John Boehner. By unilaterally inviting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to speak to a joint session, Boehner enabled a campaign speech for the Israeli electorate, at the expense of the comity that has existed between presidents and Congress over foreign policy.

Many have written about the damage that Speaker Boehner did by inviting a foreign leader to address a joint session without

'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



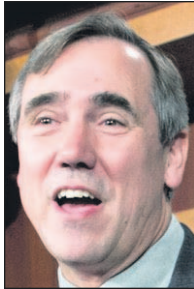
of Cabbages and Kings



Rep. Suzanne Bonamici



Sen. Ron Wyden



Sen. Jeff Merkley

conferring with the White House. While there is abundant commentary on that transgression, I've not seen members speaking to it — marking this as a moment when one branch of Congress devalued itself.

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“THE ARRANGEMENTS (for the joint session) were partisan, dead wrong,” said Sen. Ron Wyden.

“I thought it was very inappropriate — bypassing existing protocols,” said Sen. Jeff Merkley. “It was not an easy decision (to attend),” said Rep. Suzanne Bonamici.

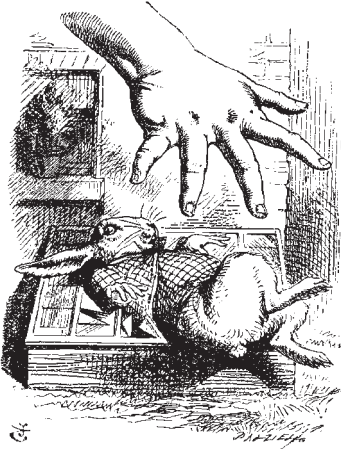
Because he is Jewish, Wyden felt special pressure to walk across the Capitol and take a seat in the House chamber. He, Merkley and Bonamici cite the overriding importance of America's bond with Israel.

But Wyden is not Netanyahu's fan. While Wyden found the courage to oppose the Iraq War, Netanyahu beat the drum for it. Of the joint session speech, Wyden said, “I was there because of the (U.S.-Israel) relationship.”

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INTEREST GROUPS ON the left and right are fond of applying litmus tests to

The best litmus test for our lawmakers is whether they build the institution or destroy it.



— S.A.F.

College will change for a new age

By JOE NOCERA
New York Times News Service

Kevin Carey has a 4-year-old girl.

Carey, the director of the education policy program at the New America Foundation, has been thinking about the role of universities in American life for virtually his entire career.

But after his daughter was born, that thinking took on a new urgency.

“All of a sudden there is a mental clock,” he told me the other day. “How am I going to pay for her college education? I wanted to write a book that asked, ‘What will college be like when my daughter is ready to go?’”

His answer is his new book, *The End of College*, which is both a stinging indictment of the university business model and a prediction about how technology is likely to change it. His vision is at once apocalyptic and idealistic. He calls it “The University of Everywhere.”

“The story of higher education's future is a tale of ancient institutions in their last days of decadence, creating the seeds of a new world to come,” he writes. If he is right, higher education will be transformed into a different kind of learning experience that is cheaper, better, more personalized and more useful.

Universities in their current form have been with us for so long that it is difficult to imagine them operating any other way. But Carey begins *The End of College* by making a persuasive case that the university model has long been deeply flawed. It has three different missions: “practical training, research and liberal arts education.” Over time, the mission that came to matter most within the university culture was research. Great

research institutions derived the most status. And professors who did significant research — publish or perish! — were the ones who reaped the rewards of the university system.

On the other hand, actual teaching, which is what the students — and their parents — are paying for, is scarcely valued at all. There is also the absurd importance of the football team. The hundreds of millions of dollars spent to create an ever newer, ever fancier campus. The outmoded idea that college should cater to students just out of high school, even though a significant portion of students are in different stages of life.

And, of course, there is the cost. Student debt now tops \$1 trillion, and Carey spoke to students who were going to graduate with more than \$100,000 of debt, a terrible burden at the beginning of one's career. Schools like George Washington University and New York University became top-tier universities in no small part by aggressively raising their prices — which, in turn, became part of the reason they are now considered prestigious universities.

Although Carey has long been aware of the flaws of the university model, it is the out-of-control cost of college that he believes will cause people to search for a different way to educate students. Indeed, much of the rest of his book is devoted to the educators, scientists, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists who are developing new ways to provide learning that make much more sense for many more students. “You don't need libraries and research infrastructure and football teams and this insane race for status,” he says. “If you only have to pay for the things that you actually need, edu-



Joe Nocera

cation doesn't cost \$60,000 a year.”

Carey spends a good chunk of *The End of College* exploring the new world of online learning, for instance. To that end, he took an online course — problem sets and exams included — offered by Eric Lander, the MIT professor who was a principal leader of the Human Genome Project. It was, he concludes, a better experience than if he had sat in Lander's classroom.

He expects that as more people take to online learning, the combination of massive amounts of data and advances in artificial intelligence will make it possible for courses to adapt to the way each student learns. He sees thousands of people around the world taking the same course and developing peer groups that become communities, like study groups at universities. “A larger and larger percentage of the education that has been historically confined to scarce, expensive colleges and universities will be liberated and made available to anyone, anywhere.” That's what I mean when I say his vision is an idealistic one.

(Carey also believes that over time, new kinds of credentials will emerge that will be accepted by employers, making it less necessary to get a traditional college degree. He explored this subject for The Upshot, which was published in Sunday Review in The Times over the weekend.)

When might all this take place? I asked him. He wasn't ready to hazard a guess; colleges are protected by government regulation, accreditation boards, and cultural habit, among other things. But, he said, it was inevitable that we were going to see an increased educational experience at a far lower cost.

Maybe he'll even be able to stop saving for his daughter's college education. Maybe the rest of us will, too.

Student debt now tops \$1 trillion.