

Class of 1995 meets

The Astoria High School Class of 1995 is holding their class reunion at 6 p.m. Aug. 1. The no-host meet and greet starts at the Fort George Brewery, and dancing with a DJ follows at the Port of Call. The class welcomes family, friends and past teachers/coaches of members to join in and visit this casual gathering of classmates.

On Aug. 2, the class will again have a chance to gather with family and friends for a no host lunch at Fultano’s Piz-za in Astoria. Please help us spread the word and find lost classmates so we can have a great turn-out.

Find us on Facebook at “Astoria High School Class of 1995,” or contact Heather Ficken, senior class president 1995, at 541-377-0350.

HEATHER FICKEN  
Helix

Not happy with plan

I was a member of the orig-inal Riverfront Vision Plan Steering Committee that was appointed by the mayor to create a ‘vision’ for the future of the Astoria waterfront.

When the condos appeared at 39th Street in 2007, I put together the Astoria Preser-vation Action Committee. We gathered petition signatures to present to the city council and held a meeting at the Astoria Library that hosted an over-flow crowd. The chief concern of our committee was to preserve public access to the crown jewel of our wonderful city — our spectacular water-front views.

There are places that cry out for renewal and develop-ment in Astoria, but we truly shoot ourselves in the foot when we block the views of the water and hills of Wash-ington beyond.

I must clarify that I have been misquoted about being “happy” with the Vision Plan. The “happy” comment was based on a misunderstanding on my part about the 500-foot limit to over water develop-ment proposed in the Civic Greenway area. It ended up being less restrictive than I had hoped. So in fact, I was not happy at all.

The Riverfront Vision Plan was a compromise that was weighted towards develop-ment. It was not a balanced reflection of what most peo-ple expressed during the pub-lic outreach events we held during the visioning process. I was appalled with the final result.

I regret now that I signed off on the RVP. I did so be-cause we had no limits on development and it was better than nothing, but we could have done better. The RVP was not the vision of the ma-jority of the people of Astoria. Smoke and mirrors then, a devil’s bargain now.

ELIZABETH  
MENETREY  
Astoria

Pantry will miss leader

At their June 15 meeting, the board of the Cannon Beach Food Pantry has handed something most unexpect-ed: the retirement letter of Molly Edison. The board ac-cepted her announcement in stunned surprise. We under-stand the difficulty of her de-cision to retire from the pan-try and we honor her decision. Molly’s almost seven years of experience in our pantry will be missed.

Under Molly’s leadership, the pantry has progressed from an idea to a well-orga-nized effort. Our pantry pro-vides food and essentials to those who pass through our doors every Wednesday. She led us into our first pantry at the Cannon Beach Bible Church and then to our new home in the vacated Cannon Beach Elementary School.

The devotion and atten-tion to detail she provided cannot be overstated, Molly is the face of our pantry. She is well-respected throughout the region. She had a smile for everyone and a shoulder for every care. Words are not adequate to express the high esteem we hold for Molly.

Her departure from the pantry leaves a void. One thing it does not do is bring about the end of our pantry. The pantry board and volun-



teers have been able to move efficiently to take up Molly’s work load, a tribute to Molly’s leadership. Before her depart-ure she saw to it the pantry functions in accordance to all rules and regulations, is finan-cially stable, and feeds the hungry in a loving and com-passionate manner.

Thank you, Molly, for your years, your caring, and your devotion.

CARLA O’REILLY  
Cannon Beach Food  
Pantry Board of Directors

Summer work

Is your current budget stop-ping you from taking that special winter trip, or buying that special something? Why not work at your favorite busi-ness this summer?

I had never worked at a restaurant, and last summer decided to work one day a week at a restaurant in Cannon Beach. I spent all day looking at Haystack Rock while I vis-ited with people from all over the world. I now have a bet-ter understanding about the workings of a restaurant, and I earned extra spending money.

Most of the businesses currently have job openings for part-time summer employ-ment. Have you ever thought about working at your favor-ite business? Would you en-joy greeting and helping the guests visiting our beautiful area? Now is a great time to speak to the owner or manag-er of your favorite business and ask them about working part-time this summer.

This winter you could then spend these earnings on that special something.

LINDA DUGAN  
Astoria

A family affair

“Cinderella” is charming. Another fine family production by the Peninsula Association of Performing Artists (PAPA) at the Fort Col-umbia Theater in Chinook, Wash., this fun show is a must for grandparents, and parents to take their little girls.

As well as the performers, I also watched the audience, and they were just taken by the singing, the story, Cin-derella’s transformation (it’s not just lights and mirrors, folks), the stepsisters, com-edy, and the family of four who brought their youngest, who was only 4, with them on stage for her first PAPA per-formance.

One family from Kelso, Wash., thought it was worth the trip and I agree. If you have young children or grand-children, I strongly recom-mend you take them to this summer’s PAPA production of “Cinderella.”

Remaining shows are July 24 through Aug. 9, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., and Sun-day at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased at www.papathe-ater.com or at Okie’s Thrift-way in Ocean Park, Wash.

New, padded, cloth cov-ered chairs are in, and the old folding chairs are out, so it is definitely a comfortable show to enjoy.

DANE WEBB  
Hammond

‘Cinderella’ sizzles

“Cinderella” sizzles in Chinook, Wash. Want to spend an entertaining evening at an off-Broadway show? (About as far off-Broadway as you can get in the continental U.S.)

Cross the bridge and see the Peninsula Association of Performing Artists (PAPA) production of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” at historic Fort Columbia, Wash., engagingly enacted with energetic performanc-es by Cindy, the prince and

an enthusiastic step family. Familiar tunes will have you humming.

And, help them buy an air conditioner for the aging ar-mory.

STEVE FISHER  
Ocean Park, Wash.

Rethink school move

Dear Citizens of Seaside: I recently read *The New Yorker* article, “The Real-ly Big One,” by Kathryn Schulz regarding the Cas-cadia Subduction Zone, and what will happen to the Pa-cific Northwest coast when it ruptures.

A section of the article mentioned Superintendent of Schools Doug Dough-erty’s efforts to pass a failed bond measure in Seaside that would have built a new K-12 school above the tsunami-in-undation zone. What are you thinking? Why would you not face this issue, and deal with it, to prevent the loss of your community’s most vulnerable members and your most pre-cious asset — your beautiful children?

I lived in Florida for 30 years before moving to Wis-consin. I’ve been through multiple hurricanes. You must do what you can to mitigate natural disasters, whether they arrive in your lifetime or in 100 years. It’s so worth it. Please reconsider.

And lastly, not doing this paints your community in a very poor light. Bad public relations for Seaside, for sure.

JULIE GARRETT  
Madison, Wis.

Birth control is bad

So “It’s about time” (*The Daily Astorian*, July 13)? Really?

Time to pass a law (done deal) allowing teenage girls to buy contraceptives at the pharmacy without a doctor’s prescription? Parents are already out of the loop, of course.

Never mind that “birth control drugs and devices aren’t 100 percent safe and effective.” It’s the “cost-ben-efit ratio” saving “time, has-sle and money.” Have you checked out the cost and has-sle of breast cancer in young women lately? Study after study links breast cancer with contraception use, especially before a first full-term preg-nancy. Google “Dr. Angela Lanfranchi— Breast Cancer Prevention Institute” if you’re interested.

How about the increasing incidence of premature birth due to damage from a previ-ous abortion — especially an abortion before a first full-term pregnancy? Those has-sles and costs can be long-term for the child involved.

Decades of contraception availability has increased abortion rates by making young girls “available” for short-term use by predatory males. Contraceptive fail-ures, very common in the teen bracket, are a source of income for abortion facili-ties. Why else would Planned Parenthood push so hard to make contraception available through-school based clinics? Abortion income keeps their doors open.

Widespread contraception has conditioned young men to be more self-indulgent and less responsible — not good preparation for marriage and family life.

And let’s not forget, many working moms would far rather be caring for their own children. Day care is expen-sive, and home cooking is cheaper and better than fast food.

In the bad old days, some-times dad got a second job.

JEAN M. HERMAN  
Astoria

Europe’s impossible dream

By PAUL KRUGMAN  
*New York Times News Service*

There’s a bit of a lull in the news from Europe, but the underlying situation is as terrible as ever. Greece is experiencing a slump worse than the Great Depression, and nothing happening now offers hope of recovery. Spain has been hailed as a success story, because its economy is finally growing — but it still has 22 percent unemployment. And there is an arc of stag-nation across the continent’s top: Finland is experiencing a depression comparable to that in southern Europe, and Den-mark and the Netherlands are also doing very badly.

How did things go so wrong? The answer is that this is what happens when self-indulgent politicians ignore arithmetic and the lessons of history. And no, I’m not talking about leftists in Greece or else-where; I’m talking about ultra-respect-able men in Berlin, Paris, and Brussels, who have spent a quarter-century try-ing to run Europe on the basis of fantasy economics.

To someone who didn’t know much economics, or chose to ignore awkward questions, establishing a uni-fied European currency sound-ed like a great idea. It would make doing business across national borders easier, while serving as a powerful symbol of unity. Who could have fore-seen the huge problems the euro would eventually cause?

Actually, lots of people. In January 2010 two European economists published an ar-ticle titled “It Can’t Happen, It’s a Bad Idea, It Won’t Last,” mocking American economists who had warned that the euro would cause big problems. As it turned out, the article was an accidental classic: at the very moment it was being written, all those dire warnings were in

the process of being vindicated. And the article’s intended hall of shame — the long list of econ-omists it cites for wrongheaded pess-imism — has instead become a sort of honor roll, a who’s who of those who got it more or less right.

The only big mistake of the euroskeptics was underesti-mating just how much damage the single currency would do.

The point is that it wasn’t at all hard to see, right from the beginning, that currency union without political union was a very dubious project. So why did Europe go ahead with it?

Mainly, I’d say, because the idea of the euro sound-ed so good. That is, it sounded for-ward-looking, Eu-ropean-minded, exactly the kind of thing that ap-peals to the kind of people who give speeches at Davos. Such people didn’t want nerdy econ-omists telling them that their glamor-ous vision was a bad idea.

Indeed, with-in Europe’s elite it quickly became very hard to raise objections to the cur-rency project. I remember the atmosphere of the early 1990s very well: anyone who questioned the desirability of the euro was effectively shut out of the discussion. Further-more, if you were an Amer-ican expressing doubts you were invariably accused of ulterior motives — of being hostile to Europe, or wanting to preserve the dollar’s “ex-or-bitant privilege.”

And the euro came. For a decade after its introduction a huge financial bubble masked its underlying problems. But now, as I said, all of the skept-ics’ fears have been vindicat-ed.

Furthermore, the story



Paul Krugman

doesn’t end there. When the predict-ed and predictable strains on the euro began, Europe’s policy response was to impose draconian austerity on debt-or nations — and to deny the simple logic and historical evidence indicating that such policies

would inflict terrible econom-ic damage while failing to achieve the promised debt re-duction.

It’s astonishing even now how blithely top European officials dismissed warnings that slashing government spending and raising taxes would cause deep recessions, how they insisted that all would be well because fiscal discipline would inspire confidence. (It didn’t.) The truth is that trying to deal with large debts through austerity alone — in particular, while simultaneously pursuing a hard-money policy — has never worked. It didn’t work for Britain after World War I, despite immense sacrifices; why would anyone expect it to work for Greece?

What should Europe do now? There are no good an-swers — but the reason there are no good answers is be-cause the euro has turned into a Roach Motel, a trap that’s hard to escape. If Greece still had its own currency, the case for devaluing that currency, improving Greek competi-tiveness and ending deflation, would be overwhelming.

The fact that Greece no longer has a currency, that it would have to create one from scratch, vastly raises the stakes. My guess is that euro exit will still prove necessary. And in any case it will be es-sential to write down much of Greece’s debt.

But we’re not having a clear discussion of these options, because European discourse is still dominated by ideas the continent’s elite would like to be true, but aren’t. And Eu-rope is paying a terrible price for this monstrous self-indul-gence.



Devon Weaver, Nurse  
Home Health & Hospice  
2 years at CMH



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— Devon Weaver, Nurse

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