

# 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 — 2006

2005 began with joy that the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial was finally here, mixed with considerable apprehension about the prospect of liquefied natural gas terminals being built on the Columbia River.

It sank to its lowest low just before midnight Oct. 3, but hit a new high just hours later.

When news emerged about the Fort Clatsop replica burning, a fire blamed on an errant spark from one of the fireplaces, first reactions were that it would cast a pall over the Bicentennial less than six weeks away. Hours later, the line of cars snaking to Warrenton packed with scores of well-wishers offering help and pressing money into park rangers' hands was testimony to the resilience of the North Coast. Days later, help was on the way from all over the world.

**The mother of the first baby born in Clatsop County in 2006 wasn't exactly thrilled by the timing.**

**"That little tax deduction would have been great," said Denille Haines, mother of Dakota Rachele Haines.**

**But she is pleased by her bundle of joy. "Oh, she's gorgeous!" mom enthused when a reporter called to congratulate her. "The doctor said, 'I think this has got to be the prettiest baby I've delivered in a long time.'"**

To protect the marbled murrelet, a small seabird, logging stopped across wide swathes of old-growth Oregon's coastal forests.

But a new study indicates that the murrelet, which lays its single egg atop mossy branches, may have been forced into decline not just by logging, but by overfishing.

Fleets that hauled sardines from the West Coast may have forced the murrelet to rely on poorer-quality food, undermining its breeding, say scientists from the University of California at Berkeley.

### 50 years ago — 1966

**Complaints that a new foghorn on the Astoria bridge is murdering sleep in many parts of Astoria came to the floor of the city council Monday night.**

**Council members told Mayor Harry Steinbock to call the Coast Guard and see if something could be done.**

Preliminary reports by Stevens and Thompson, consulting engineers, indicate a feasible dam site has been found and studied on Youngs River 1.5 miles above Youngs River falls, the city council was informed Monday night.

**The John Jacob Astor family of Hever, England, who gave \$100,000 that will go into construction of an Astoria library, are "delighted" by the project, Gavin Astor, publisher of the London Times, has written Mayor Harry Steinbock.**

**"My father and I and the family are delighted to know that our donation has now been increased to \$270,000 and that you hope to have completed the new Astoria public library building by the end of 1966.**

Local people apparently will just have to learn to get along with the non-stop fog horn on Pier 169 of the Astoria bridge. Federal regulations require that there be such a warning signal in operation when surface visibility is two miles or less, Coast Guard officials said.

There is nothing in the regulation to turn it off when visibility is more than two miles.

### 75 years ago — 1941

**Astoria's famed Astor column again drew the attention of visitors to this locality and according to the 1940 register kept at the foot of the stairs, 21,789 persons entered the tower. No record is kept at the top to see how many made the climb.**

Oregon motorists race past school buses that are discharging children at regular stopping places, it was reported by Clatsop County school bus drivers meeting at the county court house today.

The county's school bus driver said that school children were exposed to hazards as a result of the traffic that ignores signs on the buses to slow down. They said that Washington motorists slackened their speed in passing buses unloading children.

**Ten Clatsop County draftees will be called into service during the week of January 20, it was announced today by the local selective draft board.**

**In this number will be included Walter Osanik, Astoria, a volunteer. A former subject of Estonia, Osanik has taken out his first naturalization papers. He served for a time in the Estonian artillery and played in the band. He was a professional musician in Estonia.**

George Anderson, local contractor, was successful bidder on the new Safeway store to be erected on Eleventh Street between Duane and Exchange, it was announced today.

#### Glimpses At Oregon's Past



**"Glimpses At Oregon's Past" appeared weekly in The Daily Astorian 75 years ago.**

# Seattle's paper thrives while Portland's dies

**O**n a cold winter night, Street 14 Coffee is a cozy location for dinner. My wife and I and about 15 others enjoyed its New Year's Day supper.

The steelhead entree was nicely done. So were raw oysters. Taken as a whole, it was a dinner experience one doesn't find in other restaurants of our region. Micha and Jennifer Cameron-Lattek have done a good job of differentiating their restaurant product.

Micha's big score was hiring the chef Andy Catalano, formerly of New York's Grammercy Tavern and Portland's Ned Ludd.



WHEN OUR TRAIN FROM Vancouver, British Columbia, pulled into Seattle's King Street Station two days after Christmas, the Sunday edition of the *Seattle Times* was put on board. The *Times* has been through staff contractions, so it was heartening to see such an engaging Sunday product, especially compared to *The Oregonian's* curious tabloid. Most recently, The O offered buyouts to its most senior reporters, including Jeff Mapes and columnist Steve Duin.

So why does the Seattle paper persist as a vital product while Portland's daily is easily ignored?

The answer lies in their respective ownerships. In a nutshell, the Blethen family that owns the Seattle paper has journalistic values and experience. They also care about Seattle, where they have resided for over a century. The New York-based Newhouses have no journalistic instincts and they plainly do not care about Portland or Oregon.

All of us in newspaper or magazine publishing are dealing with shifting economics and digital publishing. But there is more than one way to adapt. The Newhouse model, tried first in New Orleans, fails because it lacks a journalistic underpinning.



"CONCUSSION" IS A TOUGH movie. It is about professional football and the damage it does to many players' brains. The forensic pathology behind the story is well-documented.

'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



Melinda Sue Gordon/Columbia Pictures  
**Alec Baldwin, left, as Dr. Julian Bailes, and Will Smith as Dr. Bennet Omalu, in a scene from Columbia Pictures' "Concussion."**

### 'Concussion' is a tough movie.

ed. Some years ago, I read *The New York Times*' coverage of Dr. Bennet Omalu's research on the brains of deceased players. Dr. Omalu was able to connect the dots between these players' erratic and suicidal behavior and the head injuries they had received over many seasons.

A recent cover story of *Sports Illustrated* was about Will Smith's decision to make the movie and play Dr. Omalu. Even with Smith's star power, only one studio, Sony, would touch Peter Landesman's script. The other studios had ties to the NFL.

My wife is a devoted *Sports Illustrated* reader, and she was especially eager to see Smith's movie. Given the NFL's power to intimidate ("The league owns a day of the week, one the church used to own") it is remarkable that *SI* did early reporting on Dr. Omalu's research and put Will Smith on its cover.



BEN HUNT'S MEMOIR OF his first three days in Vietnam, 1968,

was a vivid description of the kind of terror that happens in a combat zone. When Ben came by last week to proof his article, he and I compared experiences. I had no encounters like Ben's as a chopper door gunner. But we did discover a shared experience — we both left Vietnam in time. Some months after I left Dong Ha in the summer of 1967, it was overrun by the North Vietnamese Army. Ben said that some weeks after he came home, his base was overrun. In war as in life, timing and inches matter.

—S.A.F.



# We live in the age of small terror

By DAVID BROOKS

New York Times News Service

**O**n New Year's Eve some friends and family members had a drink at a bar in Tel Aviv.

The next day a gunman shot up the place, killing two people and wounding at least five.

When I heard about the shooting I was horrified, of course, but there was no special emotion caused by the proximity 16 hours before.

These days, we all live at risk of random terror, whether we are in Paris, San Bernardino, Boston or Fort Hood. Many of us have had brushes with these sorts of attacks. It's partly randomness that determines whether you happen to be in the wrong spot at the wrong time.

But there is something important about the accumulation of these random killing sprees — the way it affects the social psychology and the culture we all inhabit. We are living in the age of small terror.

In Israel, there's the wave of stabbings. In this country we have shooting sprees in schools and in theaters. In cities there are police killings. In other places there are suicide bombings. This violence is the daily diet of the global news channels.

Many of the attacks have religious or political overtones. But there's always a psychological element, too. Some young adults have separated from their parents but they have not developed an independent self of their own. In order to escape the terror of their own formlessness or insignificance, a few commit to some fanatical belief system. They perform some horrific act they believe will give their life shape, meaning and glory. Creeds like radical Islam offer the illusion that murder

and self-annihilation is the noblest form of sacrifice.

These self-motivated attacks have become a worldwide social contagion. These diverse acts of small terror have combined to create a general state of anxiety.

Fear is an emotion directed at a specific threat, but anxiety is an unfocused corrosive uneasiness. In the age of small terror this anxiety induces a sense that the basic systems of authority are not working, that those in charge are not keeping people safe.

People are more likely to have a background sense that life is nastier and more precarious — red in tooth and claw. They pull in the tribal walls and distrust the outsider. This anxiety makes everybody a little less humane.

In country after country this anxiety is challenging the liberal order. I mean philosophic Enlightenment liberalism, not partisan liberalism. It's the basic belief in open society, free speech, egalitarianism and meliorism (gradual progress). It's a belief that through reasoned conversation values cohere and fanaticism recedes. It's the belief that people of all creeds merit tolerance and respect.

These liberal assumptions have been challenged from the top for years — by dictators. But now they are challenged from the bottom, by populist anti-liberals who support the National Front in France, UKIP in Britain, Viktor Orban in Hungary, Vladimir Putin in Russia and, in some guises, Donald Trump in the U.S.

The surge of anti-liberalism has meant one of the most important political fissures is now between those who support an open society and those who support a closed society. Back in the 1990s, openness and the



David Brooks

withering of borders was all the rage, but now parts of the left embrace closed trade policies and parts of the right embrace closed cultural and migration policies.

Anti-liberalism has been most noticeable on the right. Classically liberal conservatives are in retreat, as voters look for strongmen who will close borders and stultify the demographic and social fabric. It's too soon to tell if the Republican Party will have fewer evangelical voters this year, but the tenor of debate has certainly been less Christian — less charitable, less hospitable to the stranger.

It's up to us who believe in open society to wage an intellectual counterattack. This can't be done by repeating 1990s bromides about free choice and the natural harmony among peoples. You can't beat moral fanaticism with weak tea moral relativism.

You can only beat it with commitment pluralism. People are only fulfilled when they make deep moral commitments. The danger comes when they are fanatically and monopolistically committed to only one thing.

The pluralist is committed to a philosophy or faith, but also to an ethnicity and also to a city, and also to a job and also to diverse interests and fascinating foreign cultures. These different commitments balance and moderate one another. A life in diverse worlds with diverse people weaves together into one humane, multifaceted existence. The rigidity of one belief system is forced to confront the messiness of work relationships or a neighborhood association.

The anxiety caused by small terror can produce nasty mental habits. Mental resilience becomes as important as physical resilience. That means remaking the case for open society, open cultures and a basic commitment to moral pluralism. Openness is worth the occasional horror fanatics cause.

**These self-motivated attacks have become a worldwide social contagion.**