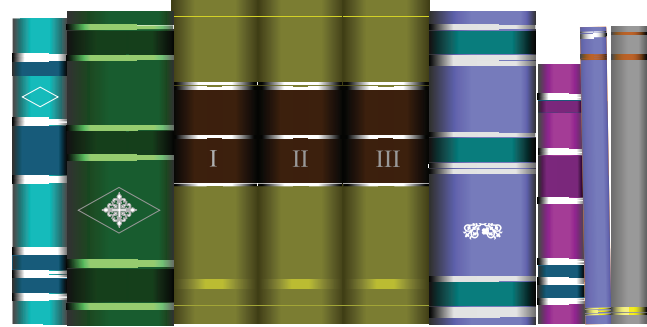




BOOKS

WHAT ARE THEY READING?



The Daily Astorian invites people to submit titles of books they are reading and share a few thoughts about the work. This week, Michael Morrissey, the former director of Oregon State University's Food Innovation Center in Portland and Seafood Lab in Astoria, shares some of his favorites. To submit, send to news@dailyastorian.com

I'm a big nonfiction reader and like history a lot, especially the bits and pieces we never learned in school. I just finished "Empires of the Sea" by Roger Crowley that covers the wars of the Islamic Ottoman Empire against Christian Spain, Venice (then an independent state) and Italy in the mid-16th century. Most of the novel is centered on three major events — the battle for Rhodes in 1521, a several month siege for the island of Malta in 1565, and the sea battle of Lepanto and all the political maneuvering in between.

It was thought at the time that whoever controlled Malta controlled the Mediterranean and the trade that was greatly expanding with the opening of new spice routes to the Far East. While the battles are driven by economic power and control of territory, the strong religious overtones made the fighting especially cruel and violent.

Although these are not direct parallels of what is now occurring in the Middle East, one can't help but understand how religious myopia has been deep seated for centuries.

Crowley is a tremendous writer and while one would think a war fought over decades and a siege that lasted months would be a bit tedious, he develops the characters extremely well and brings out little known history to life. And what characters they are: from the Knights of Malta, Barbary pirates, Suleiman the Magnificent, Charles V of Spain to a supporting cast with names

like Barbarossa, Don Juan of Austria and captains and soldiers who are larger than life in their bravery and barbarity.

"Empires of the Sea" is a page-turner and gives insight to the human condition at the time and the expanding geopolitical environment. Amazing stuff.

Lyndon Johnson biography

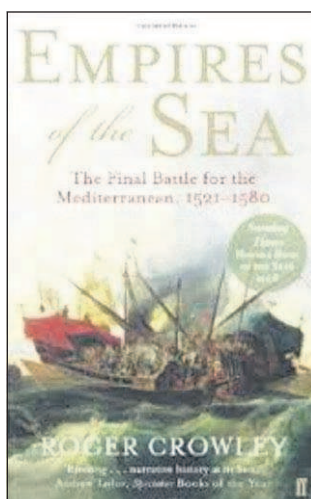
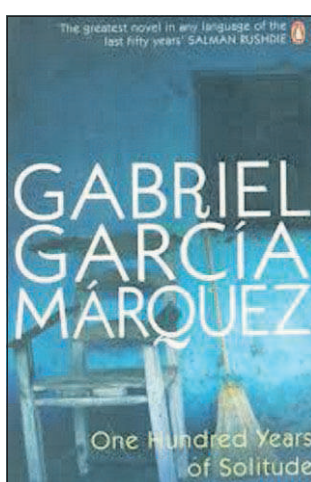
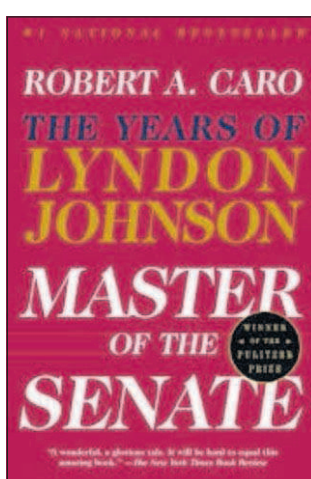
Late at night, I often reread parts of Robert Caro's biography of Lyndon Johnson. There are four volumes (the fifth and final one to come out later this year) and my favorites are the second volume, "Means of Ascent" and the third volume, "Master of the Senate".

Johnson is such a complex person who often believes that the end justifies the means. His maneuvering to get the civil rights bill and social bills passed in a conservative U.S. Senate (with many southern Democrats blocking past legislation) is masterful and we will probably never see another politician like him in our times.

Caro's narrative of Johnson's election to the Senate in 1948 (he won by 87 votes — and thus one of his early nicknames "landslide Johnson") in the second volume is one of the best pieces of political literature I have ever read.

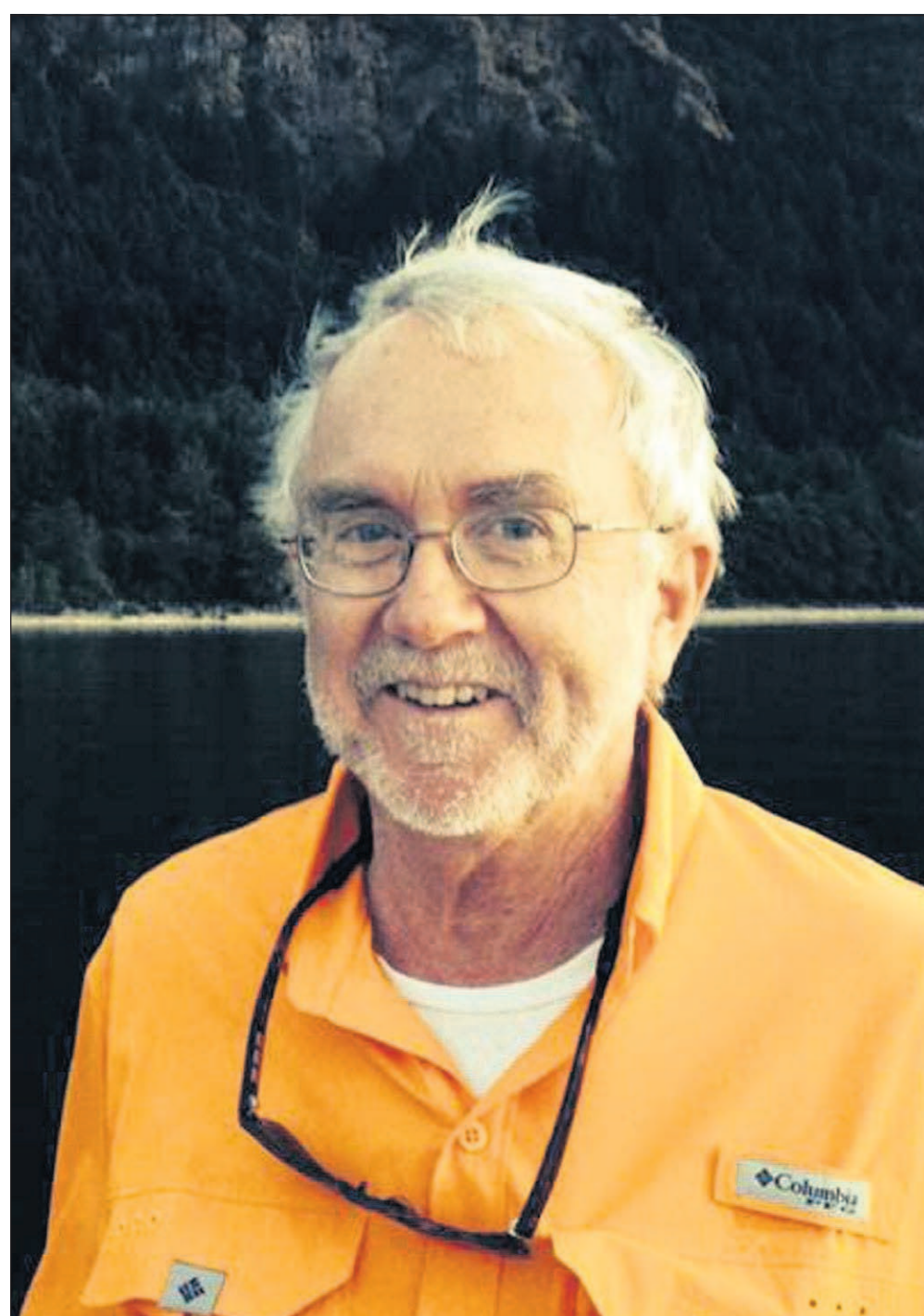
'One Hundred Years of Solitude'

I'm not much of a fiction reader but had the great fortune to read "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez when I was



young (in the early 1970s) and it did change how I thought about the world.

Garcia Marquez is a Colombian author who wrote in a style called "magical realism." He has a way of interweaving stories of everyday life with fantasy that somehow



Submitted Photo

Michael Morrissey is the former director of Oregon State University's Food Innovation Center in Portland and Seafood Lab in Astoria.

makes sense and leaves the reader with wonderful images. The book opened me to the world of Latin America and its diverse history, never-ending battles between left and right politics, with an overarching theme of the strange twists of fate that take your life into a

completely different direction than you had planned.

The book focuses on five generations of the Buendia family, primarily Jose and his wife, Ursula, who like mothers everywhere is the rock-solid anchor to surviving the chaos that often surrounds us.

About four years after reading this book, an opportunity came up to work in Latin America, and I headed south of the border to begin my professional and familial life. It was a rich experience and a direction that I couldn't have imagined several years before.

Brewer's attempt to ease beer laws has opponents foaming

Brewers, retailers clash on Prohibition-era system

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Proclamation Ale Co., a small Rhode Island brewery that's pushing to change the state's beer laws, recently received an angry letter about its efforts. In response, the brewer set the letter on fire and posted to Facebook a photo of him holding the flaming document while flanked by brewery employees, with everyone raising a middle finger.

"It's Proclamation," said Dave Witham, the primary owner and brewer. "I thought we should make a statement."

The anonymous letter appeared to be from a liquor retailer, upset that Proclamation is urging lawmakers to remove the limit on the amount breweries can sell to visitors on site for consumption off premises.



AP Photo/Jennifer McDermott

Tom Pereira, tasting room manager at Proclamation Ale Co., fills a 32-ounce bottle of beer for a customer to take home during the release of a new beer in West Kingston, R.I., in April.

Rhode Island allows for 72 ounces per visitor. Many other states have a higher limit or none at all. Among Rhode Island's neighbors, Connecticut's limit is 9 liters; Massachusetts doesn't have one.

The owners of Proclamation in West Kingston, Rhode Island,

say that if the state's breweries could sell more beer directly to consumers, they could afford to hire more people and make more beer to send to distributors for the retailers, so every tier of the system benefits.

Some retailers, however, feel that the current system works

well and protects the public. And some worry that changing it could be bad for their businesses.

The letter, which was post-marked in Providence and mailed to Proclamation in late March, says, "Retailers are happy to see small brewer-

ies succeed with their endeavors, but it should not happen at their expense."

A Prohibition-era provision

The section of the law in question dates to 1933, when Prohibition was repealed. Under a three-tiered system, manufacturers sell alcohol to distributors, who, in turn, sell to retailers.

Lawmakers introduced bills this legislative session to remove the 72-ounce limit, arguing that Rhode Island needs to modernize, support its breweries and embrace beer tourism. Democratic Rep. Joseph Solomon, of Warwick, said he thinks changing the law could help retailers, since people who like the beer at the brewery will likely buy it in the future at their local liquor store.

"It's not taking away from anyone," he said. "It's an easy way to create jobs and boost the economy."

A lobbyist for independent liquor retailers in Rhode Island, Robert Goldberg, said he's working with lawmakers on a compromise. The Rhode Island Liquor Stores Association declined to comment, citing the negotiations.

Some liquor retailers are publicly supporting Proclamation's efforts.

Beer tourism

On Friday at Proclamation, about 100 people lined up outside the building for the release of a new beer.

The first in line, Ryan Lagace, said he went to the brewery to try the new beer, but he usually goes to breweries in Massachusetts because he can buy as much beer as he wants.

"Every time I go, I go out to eat, buy gas, make other purchases," said the 32-year-old resident of Burrillville, Rhode Island. "You can take that beer tourism and turn it into something profitable for the state, not just the breweries."

Proclamation opened in 2014. Witham said he's hoping Rhode Island lawmakers, who often talk about the need to create jobs, will support changing the law so breweries can grow.

Craft breweries in Rhode Island have an annual economic impact of about \$160 million, which ranks 48th in the nation, according to the Brewers Association, which advocates for craft brewers.

While other newspapers give you less, The Daily Astorian

GIVES YOU MORE

From left: Hillary Borrud, Mateusz Perkowski, Paris Achen

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