

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

A new radio station was set to go on the air at 10 a.m. this morning. Licensed as KCPB 90.9 Warrenton, this low-powered FM service will originate from the Coast Community Radio studios inside Tillicum House in Astoria. The transmitter is co-located with KMUN-FM's antenna on Megler Mountain, just across the bridge from Astoria in Pacific County, Wash. Tillicum Foundation, the nonprofit membership corporation that operates KMUN-FM Astoria and KTCB-FM Tillamook, will own and operate this new station as well.

"Goodnight and good luck!"

Naziya Bissenova doesn't speak much English, but she does know Edward R. Murrow's famous nightly farewell, and she offered it Monday at the end of a visit to Astoria

Bissenova was among 16 journalists from countries in and around the former Soviet Union who came to Astoria as part of a three-week visit to the United States sponsored by the Murrow Program for Journalists and the U.S. State Department. The trip has taken the group to Washington, D.C., and communities around the country to provide the visitors a perspective on American media, government and society.

A beaming Mayor Willis Van Dusen accepted two \$20,000 checks on behalf of the city at Monday's Astoria City Council meeting and quickly passed them on to Finance Director John Snyder.

One check was presented by Dan Hauer, treasurer of the Uniontown Association. The group collected the money from donations raised during a fund-raising drive to renovate the exterior of the Doughboy Monument and upgrade one of its public restrooms, the only restrooms in the United States to be listed on National Register of Historic Places.

50 years ago — 1966

State Treasurer Robert Straub today called for the United States government to "assert its rights over offshore lands and tell the Russian fishermen in no uncertain terms to get off our property."

In a letter seeking Sen. Wayne Morse's assistance, Straub said the U.S. claims possession of the continental shelf outside the three-mile limit for oil drilling.

"We surely could do the same for fishing," Straub said.

He noted that the U.S. government has granted oil leases to private oil companies "in the very area where the Russian fishing boats are."

"If Russian oil rigs came over and set up to drill where their fishing boats now are catching fish we'd soon see a U.S. Navy cruiser running them off," Straub said.

Straub added, "I'm sure that our fishermen are entitled to as much protection from their government as are the oil companies."

A quarter-million dollar Thunderbird Motel will rise on pilings at the southwest corner of West End mooring basin as a result of a lease approved by the Port of Astoria commission Tuesday.

The port approved a 50-year lease to the Thunderbird Motel company, which proposes to erect a 42-unit motel overhanging the West End basin and located west of the Sea Fare restaurant.

75 years ago — 1941

"Any bugbears in your home?" asks Miss Barbara Miller, the charming and gifted director of the Happy Kitchen Cooking School, put on by the Astorian-Budget, to take place on April 16, 17, 18, at the River theater, between 2 and 4 p.m.

"Planning and preparing 1095 meals a year (3x365) often becomes a bugbear to the busy housewife, particularly if local conditions render food shopping a problem. "But no such difficulty confronts the housewife of Astoria," continues Miss Miller, "for I have visited many of the stores and markets since my arrival here and find them all unusually well stocked and equipped, capable of satisfying the needs of the most exacting shopper, and a well stocked larder makes for a Happy Kitchen."

What is believed to be the largest Douglas fir ever measured by the U.S. Forest Service, stands in a dense grove of spruce some two miles northeast of Wolf Creek junction in the southwest corner of section 7, township 5 north, range 9 west. The tree, which measures 15.5 feet at 4.5 feet above the ground, was found by Les D. Lloyd, timber cruiser, in September, 1940, but he has not made the exact location of the tree known to the public.

The Astoria Poultry and Egg store at Tenth and Astor streets isn't in London but it might as well be.

Hitler's Stukas can hardly have wreaked more damage to London shops than did an express truck driven by Stan Neururer which plowed through the front of the egg store last Monday.

Neururer steered the big van at an angle to the store, hoping to park it there, but the brakes apparently failed. With the same devastating force of a 500-pound bomb the nose of the big machine plowed into the store, breaking two plate glass windows, tearing out a huge block of cement walling, and upsetting an interior glass showcase, which struck Mrs. Louis Friedman, who until that time had been sitting peacefully at her table.

Mrs. Friedman was given immediate medical attention by physicians who said she received light shock and bruises.

'The Boy Scout's' endorsement of Sanders for president is puzzling

Sen. Jeff Merkley is a very Scareful guy.

When he was speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives, colleagues nicknamed him "the Boy Scout," because of the methodical way Merkley systematically worked his colleagues, building support for the next floor vote.

For a politician who has been the soul of premeditation, Sen. Merkley's endorsement of Bernie Sanders' presidential candidacy is surprising. In last Thursday's edition, we published Merkley's pitch for Sanders, which originally appeared in *The New York Times*.

In the U.S. Senate, Merkley used his Boy Scout persona to build a working group, which succeeded in making senators' delaying tactics an issue the Senate could not ignore. Legislative accomplishment has not been Sanders' habit. He is more a talker than a doer. And that's one reason why no Democratic senator, except Merkley, has endorsed Sanders.

When we look for the reason why politicians do things, we generally assume it will get them something. That is not apparent in this case. Hillary Clinton is more likely the nominee and more likely the next president. It's unclear what an Oregon senator gets for plugging Bernie to New Yorkers.

The moment of Sanders' unmasking came a couple weeks ago during the editorial board interview by the *New York Daily News*. When pressed on how he would break up large banks, Sanders appeared as though he hadn't thought about it.

The newspaper's subsequent endorsement of Clinton in the New York primary described Sanders as "a fantasist who's at passionate war with reality" who has "proved utterly unprepared for the Oval Office while confirming that the central thrusts of his campaign are politically impossible."

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My high school memory of Mspring is track meets — shivering as the wind blew off the sagebrush into Hermiston or feeling the Sun's warmth in LaGrande.

Having that empathy for high school track and field athletes is what led to The Daily Astorian Invitational Track Meet, which had its 28th running last Saturday in Seaside.

This was one of the biggest meets,

'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



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., right, and Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore. walk to a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington in November, to announce new climate legislation.

with teams from our region, as well as from the Willamette Valley, Beaverton and British Columbia. In our original vision, there was hope that we could attract some visitors from beyond Clatsop and Pacific counties.

Gary Henley's Monday story about the Astoria girls who dominated the competition painted a vivid picture. Spot-lighting individual performance is what this meet was intended to do.

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Interviewing Dawn McIntosh last week, I learned a new phrase — vicarious traumatization. It is the emotional effect that a violent incident can have on someone who views it from a distance. Many years ago our news staff covered a succession of violence, which included a young man who lit himself on fire in a street near Gray School.

It became clear to our managing editor that the staff was feeling the dark emotion of all this. We had a

It's not clear what an Oregonian gets for plugging Bernie to New Yorkers.

counselor come listen to them. Apparently it was vicarious traumatization, although we didn't know the term.

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Ann Marie, who died on April 7, was a delightful soul. I met her while she did framing for the Compleat Photographer. She was unfailingly pleasant and she had a great eye for how to frame a picture. Her home at 11th and Lexington was a menagerie of curiosities. If she were more dour, Ann Marie could have been cast as one of Charles Dickens' reclusive spinsters.

—S.A.F.



The Pope offers end of Catholic guilt

By TIMOTHY EGAN
New York Times News Service

Comedian George Carlin cursed to say that he was a Roman Catholic "until I reached the age of reason."

For Carlin, that happened sometime in the eighth grade, when all his probing questions about faith were answered with, "well, it's a mystery."

Of course, as a lifelong contrarian, Carlin also wondered if it was OK for a vegetarian to eat animal crackers.

I thought of him while reading the latest institution-shifting document from Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* — the Joy of Love. The title sets the tone for the continuation of a quiet revolution. Note that it's not called the Job of Love, the Duty of Love or the Unbearable Burden of Love. Instead, the pope implies that there's considerable fun to be had in human relationships. You can even find in its 256 pages a mention of the "erotic dimension" of love and "the stirring of desire." Yes, sex. The pope approves of it, in many forms.

And while skeptics were disappointed that the latest apostolic exhortation did not change church teachings regarding Catholics who are divorced or in same-sex marriages, the document signals the end for one particular kind of medieval millstone — Catholic guilt, especially in regard to sex.

He's not talking here about the guilt that generations of clerics and their enablers should feel for the crimes of sexual abuse against the young, an institutional cancer tied to its own awful pathology.

The new teachings, from a self-professed less-judgmental church, go to the everyday lives of people who don't believe that they should be constantly reminded of their inadequacies.

By emphasizing the inclusive and the positive, the church under Francis strives to be more "modern family" than "monastic denial," and will even let some things go. "No one can be condemned forever," says the pope, which seems to rule out that burn-in-hell-for-eternity thing. He offers tips, as well, for how to keep "the passion" alive.

It wasn't so long ago that hearing the word "erotic" from a man who's taken a vow of chastity was blush-worthy. Catholic doctrine, as laid out in spiritual statutes governing human conduct, featured an exhaustive list of enumerated offenses.

Sex was dirty. Sex was shameful. Sex was unnatural. Thinking about it was wrong. Premeditation itself was a sin, and so was flirting. Sex had one purpose: procreation, the joyless act of breeding. "The sixth commandment forbids all impurity and immodesty in words, looks and actions," was admonition No. 256 in the Baltimore Catechism, the standard text used to teach the faith from 1885 to the late 1960s.

No. 256 also warned about the dangers of "sinful curiosity, bad companions, drinking, immodest dress and indecent books, plays and motion pictures." If that sounds now like the dynamics of a good dinner party, you can also see this pope joining the fun at the table.

I can't tell you how many Catholics I know who are trying to work through the consequences of those sexual strictures. They wonder if there are still people doing time in purgatory because of the misdemeanor sins of masturbation or premarital sex. Life was all don'ts and dark thoughts.



Timothy Egan

As Jack Donaghy, the character played by Alec Baldwin in "30 Rock," explained: "Whether things are good or bad, or you're simply eating tacos in the park, there is always the crushing guilt."

The old message was: If you break the rules, you're condemned. Shame, shame, shame. The new message is: Welcome, for forgiveness is at the heart of this faith.

Sex "is a marvelous gift from God," Francis wrote. "The stirring of desire or repugnance is neither sinful nor blameworthy." Those living less than ideal marital unions are no longer vilified as sinners to be scorned. "Irregular unions" is the term coined by Francis.

"Hence it can no longer be said that all those in any 'irregular' situations are living in a state of mortal sin," he wrote. You can read that as a papal pardon of sorts. Yet for this kind of language and fresh air, the pope has come under renewed attack from conservative Catholics. One critic called the latest treatise "The Joy of Sex." Well, yes.

The pope's guidance would be a relief to the millions of Catholics living in those newly classified irregular unions, if they ever gave it a second thought. The truth is that a majority of Catholics in Europe and the United States have long since stopped listening to church dictates about sex. A British study in 2013 found that only 1 in 10 regular attendees at Mass felt any guilt over using contraception, long shunned by the church. Evangelical Christians and Muslims were more likely to feel guilt over sexual sins, the survey found.

Pope Francis is merely acknowledging the obvious. As he's done before, he's using words to change hearts, rather than trying to wrangle with the rusted plumbing of church doctrine. Still, to George Carlin's point, some things will always remain a mystery, but then so is love.