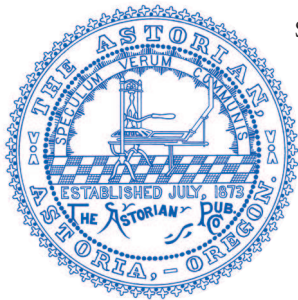


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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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

Although the Senate rejected emergency assistance for West Coast salmon fishermen as part of a giant spending bill approved this week, Oregon Sen. Gordon Smith said he would keep pushing for relief.

Smith, a Republican, tried to insert language into the \$109 billion emergency spending bill calling for \$81 million in disaster assistance for West Coast fishermen.

But he was shot down under Senate rules that limit assistance to natural disasters.

Boys with some very big toys are hard at work at the Columbia River South Jetty, shoring up the century-old structure against the elements.

Crews from Kiewit Pacific Co. have begun work on the \$18 million repair of the jetty, part of a plan by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fix weakened sections of the rock structures on both sides of the river's mouth.

The repair of the north jetty wrapped up last December with the placement of about 58,000 tons of rock on the structure.

The Clatsop Community College Board will not be swayed from its decision to examine John Warren Field as the top location for a new campus, leaders said Tuesday.

The college is studying the feasibility of building on the Astoria field, a plan estimated to cost \$60 million. The Oregon Legislature pledged \$7.5 million toward the project last year, which matched by the college will provide \$15 million for the new campus. The college plans to put a bond issue before voters to fund the rest.

To be in the running for Georgia-Pacific's Chairman's Environmental Excellence Award, the company's 300 facilities are rated on environmental compliance and other standards.

And last year, the Company's Wauna mill ranked highest among U.S. facilities with more than 500 employees, earning the paper mill the 2005 Excellence Award.

50 years ago — 1966

An ad from 50 years ago this week.

The president of the Congress of American Fishermen said today that the organization is now convinced that the Russian fishing fleet operating off the west coast is "military oriented and constitutes a serious threat to the security of the nation."

The two Clatsop County museums, which draw an average of 40,000 people a year between them, bring many thousands of dollars revenue by keeping these visitors a little longer in Clatsop County, speakers at the chamber of commerce luncheon said Friday.

Burnby Bell spoke on behalf of the Clatsop Historical Society's museum in the old Flavel home, Rolf Klep on behalf of the Columbia River Maritime Museum in the former city hall.

Both urged support of Measure No. 3 on the May 24 ballots, which will provide a tax levy of \$5,000 annually in support of two museums, to be matched by \$5,000 annually of state funds.

Contractors should be ready to start decking the 2,464-foot-long main through truss of the Columbia River bridge channel crossing before June 1, Highway Department engineers reported this week.

75 years ago — 1941

Governor Charles A. Sprague has interested himself in Astoria's effort to provide an armory and recreation building here and has had reassuring words from the national defense organization, he advised Chairman J.C. Wright of the Clatsop County Council of Defense in a letter just received.

The Columbia River Packers association today announced cancellation of its 1941 Bristol Bay fishing expedition because of "prohibitory union demands controlling the Alaska fishery."

After the cancellation decision was made, the packing firm chartered its 8,800-ton Alaska fisheries vessel to the States Steamship company for carrying defense materials and supplies under the lend-lease bill, it was announced today by William I. Thompson, chairman of the board of directors.

Great artists search for new persona

BIOPICS REMIND ME OF what the curator of the art in the U.S. Capitol said to me. "There is a lot of statuary in the Capitol," he said. "Some of it is good."

Biopics can be good, or very bad. *Miles Ahead* is somewhere in the middle.

The movie of Miles Davis' life was well-described by a reviewer who said the movie was not great, but that seeing Don Cheadle's layered portrayal of Davis is worth the ticket. I caught it in Portland last Saturday. There are three jazz biopics out right now. The others are about Chet Baker and Nina Simone.

The central struggle of the movie is the thing that afflicts all great artists — the need to recreate oneself. The KMUN jazz programmer Ben Hunt notes that, "Miles was always reinventing himself."

The movie's most disturbing moment is the true story of Davis being brutally arrested for loitering outside the club in which he was performing.

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SEEING AN OLD FRIEND after years is fun. Stan was one of my first friends at Portland State University. That mattered because I started winter term in 1968 after finishing my U.S. Marine Corps enlistment and Vietnam tour. No one — on campus or off — wanted to hear about what you had done in Vietnam. But Stan was curious.

In Economics 101, we sat next to each other in a classroom that was incredibly packed, courtesy of the accelerating baby boom.

I enjoy telling people how Stan never got a degree, but he did very well in business. If we look backward, we see how one relationship led to another. Through Stan, I met a woman who got me a great situation as an apartment house manager.

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WHY DIDN'T YOU GET ME OUT? is a Vietnam memoir by Frank Anton. Ben Hunt sent it my way. When Anton's chopper went down in 1968 he was captured by the Viet Cong. The book describes his five years of captivity, most of it in jungle confinement. His last jail is the Hanoi Hilton, which was comfortable by comparison.

The disturbing aspersion that Anton casts is that U.S. intelligence knew where he was, but chose not to rescue him. He also infers that hundreds of men were left behind at the war's end.

"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

Miles Davis is shown in concert in the old Roman Amphitheater in Caesarea, north of Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1987.

Miles Davis was always reinventing himself.

CUMTUX, THE QUARTERLY of the Clatsop County Historical Society, is the equivalent of a state historical society publication. The spring issue contains an element that I am developing for later publication.

One element of Lisa Penner's story is Astoria's Finnish language newspapers, which have fascinated me. I am realizing that there were more of these than I realized. Even a paper aimed at the male audience and another aimed at the female audience.

Tovari is the paper whose front page we have framed in one of our

conference rooms. A caption on this artifact notes that some of its editors were deported for their socialist leanings. I asked Penner where *Tovari's* offices were in Astoria. Alas, she said, she's never been able to find them. Apparently, they were always being evicted by landlords. —S.A.F.



Learning to put grit in its place

By DAVID BROOKS
New York Times News Service

Grit is persevering through unpleasantness.

We all know why it exists, but the grade-point average is one of the more destructive elements in American education.

Success is about being passionately good at one or two things, but students who want to get close to that 4.0 have to be prudentially balanced about every subject.

In life we want independent thinking and risk-taking, but the GPA system encourages students to be deferential and risk averse, giving their teachers what they want.

Creative people are good at asking new questions, but the GPA rewards those who can answer other people's questions. The modern economy rewards those who can think in ways computers can't, but the GPA rewards people who can grind away at mental tasks they find boring. People are happiest when motivated intrinsically, but the GPA is the mother of all extrinsic motivations.

The GPA ethos takes spirited children and pushes them to be hard working but complaisant. The GPA mentality means tremendous emphasis has now been placed on grit, the ability to trudge through long stretches of difficulty. Influenced by this culture, schools across America are busy teaching their students to be gritty and to have "character" — by which they mean skills like self-discipline and resilience that contribute to career success.

Angela Duckworth of the University of Pennsylvania is the researcher most associated with the study and popularization of grit. And yet what I like about her new book, *Grit*, is the way she is pulling us away from the narrow, joyless intonations of that word, and pointing us beyond the way many schools are now teaching it.

Sure, she starts the book by describing grit as persevering through unpleasantness. She describes Beast Barracks, the physical ordeal that first-year West Point cadets have to endure. She writes about high school students who grind away at homework for hours and athletes capable of practicing in the most arduous way possible.

And yet Duckworth notes that moral purpose also contributes to grit. People who are motivated more by altruism than personal pleasure score higher on grit scales. She also notes that having a hopeful temperament contributes to perseverance.

Most important, she notes that the quality of our longing matters. Gritty people are resilient and hardworking, sure. But they also, she writes, know in a very, very deep way what it is they want.

This is a crucial leap. It leads to a very different set of questions and approaches. How do we help students decide what they want? How do we improve the quality and ardor of their longing?

The GPA mentality is based on the supposition that we are thinking creatures. Young minds have to be taught self-discipline so they can acquire knowledge. That's partly true, but as James K.A. Smith notes in his own book *You Are What You Love*, human beings are primarily defined by what we desire, not what we know. Our wants are at the core of our identity, the wellspring whence our actions flow.

At the highest level, our lives are directed toward some telos, or vision of the good life. Whether we are aware of it or not, we're all oriented around some set of goals. As David Foster



David Brooks

Wallace put it in his Kenyon commencement address, "In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships." Some worship money, or power or popularity or nursing or art, but everybody's life is organized around some longing. The heart is both a driving engine and a compass.

I don't know about you, but I'm really bad at being self-disciplined about things I don't care about. For me, and I suspect for many, hard work and resilience can only happen when there is a strong desire. Grit is thus downstream from longing. People need a powerful why if they are going to be able to endure any how.

Duckworth herself has a very clear telos. As she defines it, "Use psychological science to help kids thrive." Throughout her book, you can feel her passion for her field and see how gritty she has been in pursuing her end.

Suppose you were designing a school to help students find their own clear end — as clear as that one. Say you were designing a school to elevate and intensify longings. Wouldn't you want to provide examples of people who have intense longings? Wouldn't you want to encourage students to be obsessive about worthy things? Wouldn't you discuss which loves are higher than others and practices that habituate them toward those desires? Wouldn't you be all about providing students with new subjects to love?

In such a school you might even de-emphasize the GPA mentality, which puts a tether on passionate interests and substitutes other people's longings for the student's own.