

Surviving survival

R.J. Marx's column about eliminating the tsunami risks for Seaside's schools is thought-provoking ("Southern Exposure: Anniversary of the high school: now can we move?" *The Daily Astorian*, May 16). If the schools are ultimately relocated, and surely they will be over time, then what? Surviving the tsunami is one thing. Surviving your survival is quite another, and all the more so for the young.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries notes that following a magnitude 9.0 event travel on U.S. Highway 101 will not be possible, and that roads to the coast from Portland and the Willamette Valley will not be restored for at least a year, and possibly longer.

Locally there will be neither electricity, nor sewer service, nor municipal water. Resupply of groceries and liquid fuel from points inland will be initially impossible, and later difficult. How are schools to cope when, post a school day tsunami, few parents are able to reach the school in a timely fashion, and many children are traumatized?

How will schools provide not only the essentials of shelter, food and water, but also manage distraught youngsters? How will sanitary facilities be provided, as well as basic sanitation for the survivors? And for how long?

Relocating schools brings a new set of complexities. There needs to be another level of planning, preparation and practice, practice, practice if desired outcomes are to be achieved. Being unprepared to survive survival is to contemplate a fate too horrible to consider.

JON CHAMBREAU
Ilwaco, Washington

End parties

The world we live in now has been tainted by those who have no need to think about how their actions affect others. People are passing bills, as we speak, that make life easier for one group of people, only to ensure that another group will be cast into hardship.

Having said that, this county needs to be non-biased, and no group should be able to silence the voice of a group just so that another will be satisfied. In other words, there should be no political parties.

LUKAS HELLBERG
Astoria

Community pass

I read an article about community members having to pay a parking fee to go take prom pictures at the Astor Column ("Astoria teens asked to pay before prom pictures at park," *The Daily Astorian*, May 19). Recently, a friend and family member of our community were shocked to realize they had to pay for parking, when they were only going to the Astoria Column to take pictures.

I believe that the members of our community shouldn't have to pay to see our local treasure. I understand charging tourists to maintain and improve the landmark, but since we live here we should be able to visit our city park whenever we want. Thank you Joe and Joanie Di Bartolomeo for taking a stand, and bringing this issue to light ("Grads get free pass at Col-

Students thanked for preservation projects

The Knappton Cove Heritage Center (KCHC), the site of the historic U.S. Columbia River Quarantine Station, thanks Lucien Swerdlhoff's Clatsop Community College Historic Preservation students for continuing their preservation projects at the 1912 Lazaretto (aka pesthouse) at Knappton Cove.

Dan Haslan has repaired and painted plaster walls in the isolation ward, Joe Cain is rebuilding the old cupola that adorned the top of the old water tower and Brooke Willoughby has been helping with yard work and historic landscaping plans. We are so thankful for these dedicated students keeping the center on track in the preservation of this old building.

The KCHC, 521 State Route 401 in Naselle, Washington, will be open summer Saturday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. We'll kick off our summer schedule on May 28 with a tribute to these CCC students. The museum is free but donations are tax-deductible, and always welcome.

NANCY ANDERSON
Gearhart

Letters welcome

Letters should be exclusive to *The Daily Astorian*. We do not publish open letters or third-party letters.

Letters should be fewer than 450 words and must include the writer's name, address and phone numbers. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy.

Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the writer by name, should refer to the headline and date the

letter was published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

Submissions may be sent in any of these ways:

E-mail to editor@dai-lyastorian.com;

Online form at www.dai-lyastorian.com;

Delivered to the Astorian offices at 949 Exchange St. and 1555 N. Roosevelt in Seaside.

Or by mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103

umn," *The Daily Astorian*, May 19).

LEXY SOLOMON
Astoria

Disgusted

I have been voting in Democratic primaries since the 1960s, and I have never witnessed one in which there was a greater sense of the fix being in, despite an immense groundswell of support for Bernie Sanders.

The coronation of Hillary Clinton in 2016 began as soon as Obama won the nomination in 2008. The superdelegate system, installed by corporate Democrats in the 1980s, has enabled an oligarchy of party notables to ride roughshod over the progressive Sanders' candidacy. Some one-third of delegates, representing powerful interests, will cast their votes for Clinton regardless of the outcome in each state's election.

Such oligarchic control contradicts the very purpose of primaries, to express the popular will. In Oregon, we have elite superdelegates like Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum declaring she will vote in the convention for her favorite, Clinton, despite the will of the voters in choosing Sanders by over 10 percent. Others override popular will with simplistic assertions like, "It's her turn."

Since when is the election of a nominee for the highest office a matter of taking turns, like children on a see saw? This is not a monarchy with a set succession

to the presidency. Many Democrats would like to see a woman president, but we have solid reasons for opposing Clinton.

I, for one, strongly oppose her extreme militarism in foreign policy. She is part of a bipartisan neo-conservative faction, which seeks U.S. domination over the entire earth, and exercises special belligerence towards Russia. It was Bill Clinton who, against the strong advice of cold war architects like Soviet expert George Kennan, chose to retain and expand NATO, a military alliance against the Soviet Union, even after it was abolished, with Russia going capitalistic.

Under neo-con imperialist influence, with Hillary's hearty support, NATO has surrounded Russia with troops and missile bases, and they have plans to do the same with China. Clinton and her neo-con cabal seek to bring "regime change" to Russia, much as they have done in the Middle East. Such policy needlessly risks nuclear war. Sanders eschews "regime change," favoring diplomacy instead.

While pursuing dangerous, aggressive foreign policy, Clinton Democrats gain most of their support from the corporate-financial elites who have given us the vastly unequal society Sanders progressives indict. It is the height of arrogance for Democratic elites to short circuit a vast popular upsurge for peace and equality. The result will badly split the party.

STEPHEN BERK
Astoria

The arrow of history

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — How do you distinguish a foreign policy "idealist" from a "realist," an optimist from a pessimist?

Ask one question: Do you believe in the arrow of history?

Or to put it another way, do you think history is cyclical or directional? Are we condemned to do the same damn thing over and over, generation after generation — or is there hope for some enduring progress in the world order?

For realists, generally conservative, history is an endless cycle of clashing power politics. The same patterns repeat. Only the names and places change. The best we can do in our own time is to defend ourselves, managing instability and avoiding catastrophe. But expect nothing permanent, no essential alteration in the course of human affairs.

The idealists believe otherwise. They believe that the international system can eventually evolve out of its Hobbesian state of nature into something more humane and hopeful. What is usually overlooked is that this hopefulness for achieving a higher plane of global comity comes in two flavors — one liberal, one conservative.

The liberal variety (as practiced, for example, by the Bill Clinton administration) believes that the creation of a dense web of treaties, agreements, transnational institutions and international organizations (like the U.N., NGOs, the World Trade Organization) can give substance to a cohesive community of nations that would, in time, ensure order and stability.

The conservative view (often called neo-conservative and dominant in the George W. Bush years) is that the better way to ensure order and stability is not through international institutions, which are flimsy and generally powerless, but through the spread of democracy. Because, in the end, democracies are inherently more inclined to live in peace.

Liberal internationalists count on globalization, neoconservatives on democratization to get us to the sunny uplands of international harmony. But what unites them is the belief that such uplands exist and are achievable. Both believe in the perfectibility, if not of man, then of the international system. Both believe in the arrow of history.

For realists, this is a comforting delusion that gives high purpose to international exertions

where none exists. Sovereign nations remain in incessant pursuit of power and self-interest. The pursuit can be carried out more or less wisely. But nothing fundamentally changes.

Barack Obama is a classic case study in foreign policy idealism. Indeed, one of his favorite quotations is about the arrow of history: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." He has spent nearly eight years trying to advance that arc of justice. Hence his initial "apology tour," that burst of confessional soul-searching abroad about America and its sins, from slavery to the loss of our moral compass after 9/11. Friday's trip to Hiroshima completes the arc.

Unfortunately, with "justice" did not come peace. The policies that followed — appeasing Vladimir Putin, the Iranian mullahs, the butchers of Tiananmen Square and lately the Castros — have advanced neither justice nor peace. On the contrary. The consequent withdrawal of American power, that agent of injustice or at least arrogant overreach, has yielded nothing but geopolitical chaos and immense human suffering. (See Syria.)

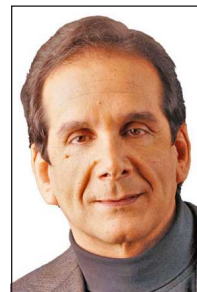
But now an interesting twist. Two terms as president may not have disabused Obama of his arc-of-justice idealism (see above: Hiroshima visit), but they have forced upon him at least one policy of hard-headed, indeed hardhearted, realism. On his Vietnam trip this week, Obama accepted the reality of an abusive dictatorship while announcing a warming of relations and the lifting of the U.S. arms embargo, thereby enlisting Vietnam as a full partner in the containment of China.

This follows the partial return of the U.S. military to the Philippines, another element of the containment strategy. Indeed, the Trans-Pacific Partnership itself is less about economics than geopolitics, creating a Pacific Rim cordon around China.

There's no idealism in containment. It is raw, soulless realpolitik. No moral arc. No uplifting historical arrow. In fact, it is the same damn thing all over again, a recapitulation of Truman's containment of Russia in the late 1940s. Obama is doing the same, now with China.

He thus leaves a double legacy. His arc-of-justice aspirations, whatever their intention, leave behind tragic geopolitical and human wreckage. Yet this belated acquiescence to realpolitik, laying the foundations for a new containment, will be an essential asset in addressing this century's coming central challenge, the rise of China.

I don't know — no one knows — if history has an arrow. Which is why a dose of cold-hearted realism is always welcome. Especially from Obama.



Charles Krauthammer

A dose of coldhearted realism is always welcome.




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| Linda Moreland – Round of golf for 4 plus cart and meal from Astoria Golf & Country Club | Andi Mackey – Placemats/prints from Forsythea and picture frames from Old Town Framing |
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Additional thanks to: North Coast Subway, Reed & Hertig, Van Dusen Beverages, John Kawasoe, Knutsen Insurance and to all our ALCP volunteer members.

Finally, a special thank you to everyone who supported our organization by purchasing tickets and participating in our event. You helped us reach our goal of dressing 650 school kids in need this school year.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US "HELP DRESS THE KIDS!"

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PREPAREDNESS
FORUM

Presented by the City of Astoria

Tuesday
May 31st

Liberty Theater

AT THE 1203 Commercial Street
Astoria, Oregon

Presentations
from 6pm - 8:30pm

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Speakers
to Include:

Dr. Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program Manager | Oregon Emergency Management
Tyree Wilde, Warning Coordination Meteorologist | National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Patrick Corcoran, Coastal Natural Hazards Specialist | Oregon State University, Oregon Sea Grant
Neal Bond, Protection Unity Forester | Oregon Department of Forestry

A question and answer period will immediately follow each presentation.
A final question and answer period will be available at the conclusion of the evening.

Tables with handouts, printed materials and examples of emergency preparedness tools and kits will be available in the Lobby.

City and County Emergency Management and Response personnel will be available to answer questions and provide information.