

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

As the mighty Columbia River rushed by Maritime Memorial Park under the Astoria Bridge in Uniontown Monday afternoon, seagulls screamed overhead, the clanging bell of the Astoria trolley was heard in the distance and a bright yellow pilot boat anchored offshore.

Then, just as people were arriving for the annual memorial program, the sun peeked through the clouds. Some alone, most in groups, many carrying flowers, people drifted toward the names engraved in black granite rectangles on the walls of the monument.

Because it was Memorial Day, the walls were dotted with small bouquets of flowers.

Can anyone beat the Astoria Fishermen? Check back in June, and we'll let you know.

No one was able to do it in May, as the Fishermen capped an undefeated month with a big win over the Newport Cubs Tuesday at Aiken Field, a 7-6 victory that sends the Fish to a place they've never been before.

Astoria will play for a Class 3A state championship Saturday at Volcanoes Stadium in Keizer, where Sherwood will have the last shot to do what no team has been able to do since April 13.

Good luck, Bowmen. Astoria is on a 17-game winning streak and the Fishermen will be throwing their No. 1 pitcher – Matt Brause – who, incidentally, has not lost all year.

When Knappa middle school students gather for assemblies, the student council takes up more than 75 percent of the seats.

That's because most of the sixth, seventh and eighth grade students at Hilda Lahti Elementary choose to participate in the volunteer council, says their adviser, Kathi "Jacks" Jackson, a leadership and physical education instructor.

And while the council's work has earned the school state awards the past nine years, its achievements have risen to a new level. The National Association of Student Councils recognized Hilda Lahti Elementary this month as one of 10 student councils across the country to receive its Gold Council of Excellence Award for middle schools.

50 years ago — 1966

The U.S. Army Engineers turned over a lease on 725 acres of land including Cape Disappointment and Peacock spit to the Washington State Parks commission at a ceremony Friday at Fort Canby State Park.

The donation practically doubles the size of the existing Fort Canby park that was established in 1957 and brings total area to 1516 acres.

The Russian fishing fleet off the Pacific Coast is not catching salmon, only ocean perch and hake, the flotilla commander said Saturday.

Commodore Alexander Chepur also said the fleet was observing a self-imposed 15-mile limit, although some ships might stray to within 12 miles of the shore.

Gov. Mark Hatfield said today he had asked the Coast Guard to check reports of Russian trawlers operating 1 1/2 miles off Oregon river mouths.

He said the Coast Guard was stepping up its surveillance of Russian fishing activity to prevent any violation of the 3-mile limit.

75 years ago — 1941

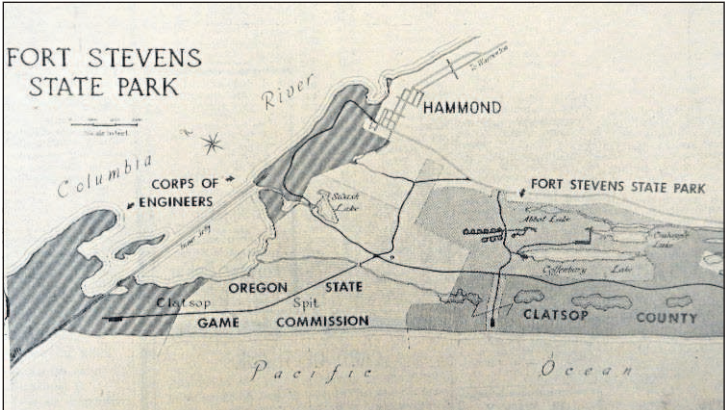
A splash of color marched to the beat of drums and the call of bugles down a lane of American flags unfurled at half mast in Astoria today as hundreds of spectators watched Clatsop veteran and patriotic organizations, with interspersed units of the Army and Coast Guard, stage the annual Memorial Day parade.

Federal, state and local military and civilian law enforcement officers and special detailed watchmen and workmen in mills, factories, canneries and harbor facilities in Astoria joined the nationwide watch for possible Memorial Day and week-end sabotage last night and today and will continue the vigil until further order.

Officials acted on information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and officials of steamship lines, who reported rumors of possible sabotage "somewhere along the Pacific Coast" on Memorial Day.

The presence of a so-called brindle deer in the vicinity of Fort Clatsop reportedly seen by various persons at different time over a period of three or four years has been somewhat discredited by those hearing the story as no such animal was thought to exist.

One day this week however, Henry P. Marxen operating bulldozer on the Alex Maum farm in the locality saw three deer, which he judged to be yearlings and one of them was a brindle.



The Daily Astorian/File

Feel the math, Bernie

By PAUL KRUGMAN
New York Times News Service

This is my fifth presidential campaign as a *New York Times* columnist, so I've watched a lot of election coverage, and I came into this cycle prepared for the worst. Or so I thought.

But I was wrong. So far, election commentary has been even worse than I imagined it would be. It's not just the focus on the horse race at the expense of substance; much of the horse-race coverage has been bang-your-head-on-the-desk awful, too. I know this isn't scientific, but based on conversations I've had recently, many people — smart people, who read newspapers and try to keep track of events — have been given a fundamentally wrong impression of the current state of play.

And when I say a "wrong impression," I don't mean that I disagree with other people's takes. I mean that people aren't being properly informed about the basic arithmetic of the situation.

Now, I'm not a political scientist or polling expert, nor do I even try to play one on TV. But I am fairly numerate, and I assiduously follow real experts like *The Times'* Nate Cohn. And they've taught me some basic rules that I keep seeing violated.

First, at a certain point you have to stop reporting about the race for a party's nomination as if it's mainly about narrative and "momentum." That may be true at an early stage, when candidates are competing for credibility and dollars. Eventually, however, it all becomes a simple, concrete matter of delegate counts.

That's why Hillary Clinton will be the Democratic nominee; she locked it up more than a month ago with her big Mid-Atlantic wins, leaving Bernie Sanders no way to overtake her without gigantic, implausible landslides — winning two-thirds of the vote!

The liberal blind spot

By NICHOLAS KRISTOF
New York Times News Service

Classic liberalism exalted tolerance, reflected in a line often (and probably wrongly) attributed to Voltaire: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

On university campuses, that is sometimes updated to: "I disapprove of what you say, so shut up."

In a column a few weeks ago, I offered "a confession of liberal intolerance," criticizing my fellow progressives for promoting all kinds of diversity on campuses — except ideological. I argued that universities risk becoming liberal echo chambers and hostile environments for conservatives, and especially for evangelical Christians.

As I see it, we are hypocritical: We welcome people who don't look like us, as long as they think like us.

It's rare for a column to inspire widespread agreement, but that one led to a consensus: Almost every liberal agreed that I was dead wrong.

"You don't diversify with idiots," asserted the reader comment on *The Times'* website that was most recommended by readers (1,099 of them). Another: Conservatives "are narrow-minded and are sure they have the right answers."

Finally, this one recommended by readers: "I am grossly disappointed in you for this essay, Mr. Kristof. You have spent so much time in troubled places seemingly calling out misogyny and bigotry. And yet here you are, scolding and shaming progressives for not mindlessly accepting patriarchy, misogyny, complementarianism, and hateful, hateful bigotry against the LGBTQ community into the academy."

Mixed in here are legitimate issues. I don't think that a university should hire a nincompoop who disputes evolution, or a racist who preaches inequality. But as I see it, the bigger problem is not that conservatives are infiltrating social science departments to spread hatred, but rather that liberals have turned departments into enclaves of ideological homogeneity.

Sure, there are dumb or dogmatic conservatives, just as there are dumb and dogmatic liberals. So let's avoid those who are dumb and dogmatic,

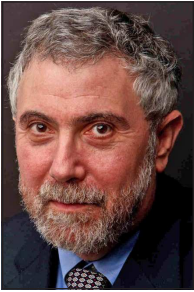
— in states with large non-white populations, which have supported Clinton by huge margins throughout the campaign.

And no, saying that the race is effectively over isn't somehow aiding a nefarious plot to shut it down by prematurely declaring victory. Nate Silver recently summed it up: "Clinton 'strategy' is to persuade more 'people' to 'vote' for her, hence producing 'majority' of 'delegates.'" You may think those people chose the wrong candidate, but choose her they did.

Second, polls can be really helpful at assessing the state of a race, but only if you fight the temptation to cherry-pick, to only cite polls telling the story you want to hear. Recent hyperventilating over the California primary is a classic example. Most polls show Clinton with a solid lead, but one recent poll shows a very close race. So, has her lead "evaporated," as some reports suggest? Probably not: Another poll, taken at the very same time, showed an 18-point lead.

What the polling experts keep telling us to do is rely on averages of polls rather than highlighting any one poll in particular. This does double duty: it prevents cherry-picking, and it also helps smooth out the random fluctuations that are an inherent part of polling, but can all too easily be mistaken for real movement. And the polling average for California has, in fact, been pretty stable, with a solid Clinton lead.

Polls can, of course, be wrong, and have been a number of times this cycle. But they've worked better than many people think. Most notably, Donald Trump's rise didn't defy the polls — on the contrary, he was



Paul Krugman

Eventually, however, it all becomes a simple, concrete matter of delegate counts.

But that probably won't last; many Clinton supporters said similar things about Barack Obama in 2008, but eventually rallied around the nominee. So unless Bernie Sanders refuses to concede and insinuates that the nomination was somehow stolen by the candidate who won more votes, Clinton is a clear favorite to win the White House.

Now, obviously things can and will change over the course of the general election campaign. Every one of the presidential elections I've covered at *The Times* felt at some point like a nail-biter. But the current state of the race should not be a source of dispute or confusion. Barring the equivalent of a meteor strike, Hillary Clinton will be the Democratic nominee; despite the reluctance of Sanders supporters to concede that reality, she's ahead of Donald Trump. That's what the math says, and anyone who says it doesn't is misleading you.



Nicholas Kristof

Cocky? Narrow-minded? I suggest that we look in the mirror.

solidly leading the polls by September. Pundits who dismissed his chances were overruling what the surveys were trying to tell them.

Which brings us to the general election. Here's what you should know, but may not be hearing clearly in the political reporting: Clinton is clearly ahead, both in general election polls and in Electoral College projections based on state polls.

It's true that her lead isn't as big as it was before Trump clinched the GOP nomination, largely because Republicans have consolidated around their presumptive nominee, while many Sanders supporters are still balking at saying that they'll vote for her.

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don't have any evangelical friends.

Sure, achieving diversity is a frustrating process, but it enriches organizations and improves decision-making. So let's aim for ideological as well as ethnic diversity.

Third, when scholars cluster on the left end of the spectrum, they marginalize themselves. We desperately need academics like sociologists and anthropologists influencing U.S. public policy on issues like poverty, yet when they are in an outer-left orbit, their wisdom often goes untapped.

In contrast, economists remain influential. I wonder if that isn't partly because there is a critical mass of Republican economists who battle the Democratic

economists and thus tether the discipline to the American mainstream.

I've had scores of earnest conversations with scholars on these issues. Many make the point that there simply aren't many conservative social scientists available to hire. That's true. The self-selection is also understandable: If I were on the right, I'd be wary of pursuing an academic career (conservatives repeatedly described to me being belittled on campuses and suffering what in other contexts are called microaggressions).

To improve diversity, universities have tried to increase the numbers of minority scholars in the pipeline, in part by being more welcoming. Maybe a starting point to bolster ideological diversity would likewise be to signal that conservatives are not second-class citizens on campuses: We liberals should have the self-confidence to believe that our values can triumph in a fair contest in the marketplace of ideas.

There are no quick solutions to the ideological homogeneity on campuses, but shouldn't we at least acknowledge that this is a shortcoming, rather than celebrate our sameness?

Can't we be a bit more self-aware when we dismiss conservatives as so cocky and narrow-minded that they should be excluded from large swaths of higher education?

Cocky? Narrow-minded? I suggest that we look in the mirror.