

# SCRATCHPAD

## A mixed reaction to Willamette Week piece

By **ERICK BENDEL**  
COAST WEEKEND

**B**y now, many of you have read the recent Willamette Week story “Astoria is the Best Place in Oregon For A Weekend Bender” by Matthew Korfhage.

It’s a fairly standard roundup of ways to get wasted in our community and geek out on Goonies lore, delivered

in a cheeky (or, as Korfhage calls it, “irreverent”) tone that, from a resident’s standpoint — or, really, anyone’s standpoint — could be read as reductive and condescending.

A sample: “Astoria makes no sense sober, in no small part because no one else is sober. As somebody is sure to tell you at some point during your stay, it’s a drinking town with a fishing problem — designed by drunks for drunks.”

In other words, the article is exactly what you’d expect from an alt weekly.

I’ve tried reading it from two angles: as a fellow writer, and as a local (albeit a relatively new one).

On one hand, the piece meets the minimum requirements of its genre. List of sites to get sloshed? Check. Token nods toward Astoria’s historical import?



DANNY MILLER/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Continued on Page 19 Features Editor Erick Bengel

### coast INSIDE THIS ISSUE weekend arts & entertainment

#### ON THE COVER

The 2017 Astoria Regatta Court at the Long Beach Loyalty Days Parade on May 7, 2017.

PHOTO  
BY SCOTT  
DOCHERTY

See story on Page 10



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**4 THE ARTS**  
**Koutsouras paints 'Big Red'**  
Uppertown net shed becomes subject of exhibition

**10 FEATURE**  
**Astoria Regatta**  
Festival commemorates 123rd season

**14 DINING**  
**Mouth of the Columbia**  
Los Tacos Locos: quick, easy, meaty and cheesy

#### FURTHER ENJOYMENT

MUSIC CALENDAR.....5  
SEE + DO ..... 12, 13  
CROSSWORD ..... 17  
CW MARKETPLACE ..... 18, 19  
GRAB BAG ..... 22



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