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Check. Flippant observations about the colorful townsfolk? Double check.

But the part of me that sees Astoria as an adopted home can't help wondering why, if Korfhage had to write about our town, he chose to cast it, first and foremost, as a place to get hammered. He delivers this bottom line reasonably well, to be sure, but it's a piece shaped, and necessarily limited, by a drunk's selective attention. (It's easy to conclude that no one here is sober when you only visit the bars, for example.)

Then there's the Goonies house bit, where Korfhage encourages visitors to wander up the drive and check out the Uppertown home. As he points out, "it's not a private drive. It's a public road, and you have the right to walk or drive up it. Never say die, and feel no guilt."

He is right. It is a public road. Fair enough. No journalistic misconduct here.

I CAN'T FAULT ASTORIANS WHO, KNOWING WHAT OUR RIVER COMMUNITY HAS TO OFFER, WOULD HAVE HOPED THAT AN OUTSIDER WOULD VALUE IT FOR SO MUCH MORE.

However, the city and chamber of commerce — and, for that matter, "Goonies" star Sean Astin — have been trying to keep people away from the property because the crush of visitors, many of them ill-mannered, made life miserable for the homeowners. Korfhage, for his part, provides the home address.

This casually dismissive attitude toward Sandi Preston and the neighborhood's well-documented Goonies hell makes it clear that Korfhage's allegiance is to pleasure-seeking tourists like himself rather than Astorians impacted by their behavior.

What the article lacks, in short, is a sense that Korfhage genuinely cares about

the people who live here.

Were I the author, I would argue that such criticism is beside the point. The piece is generally accurate, amusing in parts, fulfills its basic function. You want a sarcastic, superficial piece about how to have your way with Astoria in 36 hours? Here ya go.

Because Korfhage doesn't pretend to want a deeper relationship with Astoria than one where he uses it for drive-thru self-indulgence, I can't hold that against him. He is straightforward about his intentions.

But I can't fault Astorians who, knowing what our river community has to offer, would have hoped that an outsider would value it for so much more. **cw**

Jolie Holland plays the Sou'wester

SEAVIEW, WASH. — Jolie Holland, a founding member of the folk group The Be Good Tanyas, will play at the Sou'wester Lodge 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, to help fundraise her first record. Jared Samuel of the Invisible Familiars will open the show.

The album is the work of Holland and the band's front-woman Samantha Parton.

Attendees are asked to bring a donation. Cash, check and credit are accepted. The lodge is located at 3728 J Place, Seaview, Washington, 98644.



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