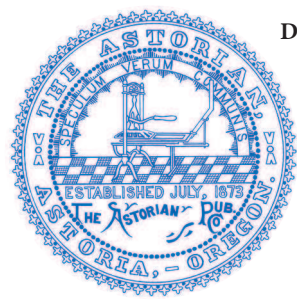


# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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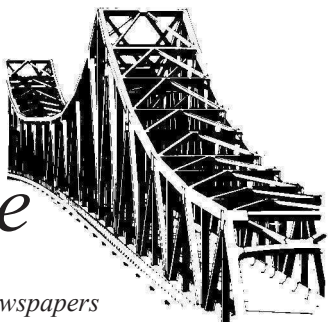
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## Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

### 10 years ago this week — 2007

The Astoria Police Department is asking for public help: Did anyone see anything suspicious Friday night or Saturday morning?

The action follows the discovery of a "bomb-like device" that caused a scare Saturday and led to the Astoria Regatta Grand Land Parade being diverted.

Eventually, the item was destroyed as a precaution by a state bomb expert.

A similar device was found in Portland two months ago, and the FBI is investigating whether there is any connection.

**In the land of clouds and rain, the sun usually makes an effort to shine down on the Astoria Regatta Grand Land Parade. This year's event was no exception.**

**Martin Bue, one of the Regatta organizers, said in recent years, "it has rained before and after, but not during."**

Some Americans are reducing their contributions to climate change by driving less, using energy-efficient appliances and insulating their homes.

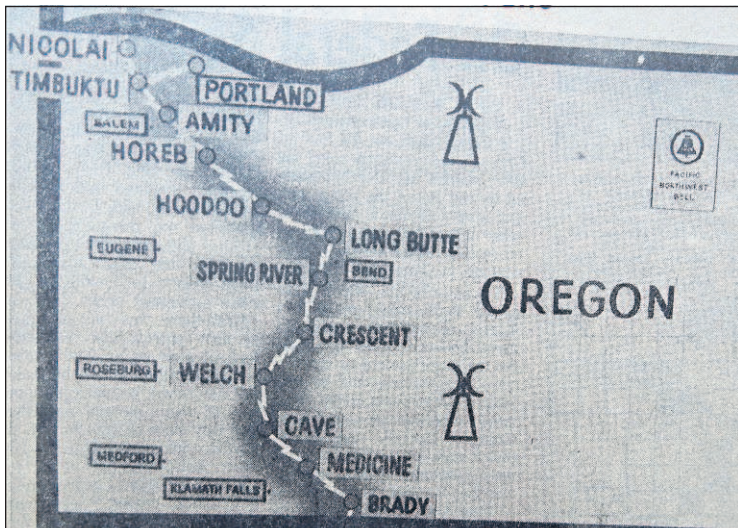
But dozens of activists who've spent the past six nights sleeping under the stars in Skamokawa want to do more.

For them, combating human impacts on the Earth's climate means fighting fossil fuel development; it means pressuring the biggest polluters to cut back and leaning on financiers to invest in renewable energy; it means speaking out and demanding action.

Over the past week, about 70 West Coast people have camped at the Wahkiakum County Fairgrounds in Skamokawa to model sustainable living, compare notes on environmental and social justice campaigns — and loudly oppose liquefied natural gas projects on the lower Columbia River.

Their plan starts with living low-impact, switching from petroleum and natural gas to solar and wind power, reducing waste and water consumption, and recycling and reusing purchased products.

### 50 years ago — 1967



The Daily Astorian/File

**Clatsop County's Nicolai Mountain will be location of one of 13 relay stations to be constructed in Oregon as part of the new \$21.7 million microwave network to link the Pacific Northwest with California. All repeater stations will be atop mountain peaks to provide unobstructed transmission signals.**

**No, the city did not make a mistake. The 15-star flag flying over Fort Astoria at 15th and Exchange should bear just that number of stars.**

**The reason is historical, dating back to the number of states in the union when the fort was originally erected.**

**Mrs. Chester Love made the flag for the city approximately 1 1/2 years ago. City police are responsible for raising and lowering the flag each morning and evening.**

The newly-appointed Columbia River area representative of the Maritime Administration said today the shrinking reserve fleet near Astoria should be phased out "within a year."

Joseph F. Corcoran Jr. labeled it strictly an economy move.

"We are reducing the number of mothball fleets from three to two on the West Coast and from nine to seven nationally," he said.

**The Astoria Bridge recorded its heaviest traffic average of the summer season this past weekend, tabulating a total of 9,646 vehicles for the three day period. Friday, 2,656 vehicles crossed the Columbia via the 4.1-mile span. Saturday numbered 3,169, and Sunday soared to 3,821. Average per day over the weekend was 3,215.3.**

### 75 years ago — 1942

The "Go" signal has been given on a \$3 million wooden shipyard and barge construction program for Astoria, it was announced today; and work starts this week on the Lower Columbia's first major shipbuilding effort since the first World War.

**SALEM — A bill that may be submitted to the 1943 Legislature would prohibit women from entering beer dispensaries of state liquor stores. Identity of the sponsors of the proposed legislation was not disclosed.**

There are 540 Washington motorists on the state tire rationing board's blacklist as "tire abusers," State Patrol Chief James A. Pryde reported today.

Autoists convicted of traffic violations that are detrimental to tires are listed here and the list sent to the tire board. Their names are sent out to their home county boards and those motorists will be unable to get new tires.



## Getting Trump out of my brain

By DAVID BROOKS

New York Times News Service

Last week The Washington Post published transcripts of Donald Trump's conversations with foreign leaders. A dear friend sent me an email suggesting I read them because they reveal how Trump's mind works. But as I tried to click the link a Bartleby-like voice in my head said, "I would prefer not to." I tried to click again and the voice said: "No thanks. I'm full."

For the past two years Trump has taken up an amazing amount of my brain space. My brain has apparently decided that it's not interested in devoting more neurons to that guy. There's nothing more to be learned about Trump's mixture of ignorance, insecurity and narcissism. Every second spent on his bluster is more degrading than informative.

Now a lot of people are clearly still addicted to Trump. My Twitter feed is all him. Some people treat the Trump White House as the "Breaking Bad" serial drama they've been binge watching for six months. For some of us, Trump-bashing has become educated-class meth. We derive endless satisfaction from feeling morally superior to him — and as Leon Wieseltier put it, affirmation is the new sex.

But I thought I might try to listen to my brain for a change. That would mean trying, probably unsuccessfully, to spend less time thinking about Trump the soap opera and more time on questions that surround the Trump phenomena and this moment of history.

How much permanent damage is he doing to our global alliances? Have Americans really decided they no longer want to be a universal nation with a special mission to spread freedom around the world? Is populism now the lingua franca of politics so the Democrats' only hope is to match Trump's populism with their own?

These sorts of questions revolve around one big question: What lessons are people drawing from this debacle and how will those lessons shape what comes next?

It's clear that Trump is not just a parenthesis. After he leaves things will not just snap back to "normal." Instead, he represents the farcical culmination of a lot of dying old orders — demographic, political, even moral — and what comes after will be a reaction against rather than a continuing from.

For example, let's look at our



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

**President Donald Trump talks about North Korea during a briefing on the opioid crisis Tuesday at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J.**

moral culture. For most of American history mainline Protestants — the Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians and so on — set the dominant cultural tone. Most of the big social movements, like abolitionism, the suffragist movement and the civil rights movement, came out of the mainline churches.

### What lessons are people drawing from this debacle and how will those lessons shape what comes next?

As Joseph Bottum wrote in "An Anxious Age," mainline Protestants created a kind of unifying culture that bound people of different political views. You could be Catholic, Jewish, Muslim or atheist, but still you were influenced by certain mainline ideas — the Protestant work ethic, the WASP definition of a gentleman. Leaders from Theodore Roosevelt to Barack Obama hewed to a similar mainline standard for what is decent in public life and what is beyond the pale.

Over the last several decades mainline Protestantism has withered. The country became more diverse. The WASPs lost their perch atop society. The mainline denominations lost their vitality.

For a time, we lived off the moral capital of the past. But the election of Trump shows just how desiccated the mainline code has become. A nation guided by that

ethic would not have elected a guy who is a daily affront to it, a guy who nakedly loves money, who boasts, who objectifies women, who is incapable of hypocrisy because he acknowledges no standard of propriety other than that which he feels like doing at any given moment.

Donald Trump has smashed through the behavior standards that once governed public life. His election demonstrates that as the unifying glue of the mainline culture receded, the country divided into at least three blocks: white evangelical Protestantism that at least in its public face seems to care more about eros than caritas; secular progressivism that is spiritually formed by feminism, environmentalism and the quest for individual rights; and realist nationalism that gets its manners from reality TV and its spiritual succor from in-group/out-group solidarity.

If Trump falls in disgrace or defeat, and people's partisan pride is no longer at stake, I hope that even his supporters will have enough moral memory to acknowledge that character really does matter. A guy can promise change, but if he is dishonest, disloyal and selfish, the change he delivers is not going to be effective or good.

But where are people going to go for a new standard of decency? They're not going to go back to the old WASP ideal. That's dead. Trump revealed the vacuum, but who is going to fill it and with what?

I could describe a similar vacuum when it comes to domestic policy thinking, to American identity, to America's role in the world. Trump exposes the void but doesn't fill it. That's why the reaction against Trump is now more important than the man himself.

One way or another I'm gonna wash that man right outta what's left of my hair.

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