

## The Wright angle ... from Cannon Beach

by Earl L. Wright

"An age which is desensitized to evils and horrors is also desensitized to its glories and its opportunities. The essential task, then, is to regenerate the vital responses, to reopen access to the clarifying functions of conscience, and to restore the capacity to dream about a better life. Despite all the billowing evidence to the contrary, humans are still capable of good purposes and decent works. We can still recapture command of our existence and the forces that are shaping it. And this regeneration requires only self-recognition to become real. *"When enough people can comprehend the reality of the human family, the beginnings of a genuine safety will emerge."* Norman Cousins, "Human Options."

I discovered this passage while spending a much-needed weekend in Cannon Beach, away from the anxieties and frustrations of urban existence. For me, true utopia: no yellow-ugly smog; no frenetic freeways; no men's bars, women's bars, straight bars, gay bars, leather bars, cruise bars, Levi's bars, juice bars, "in" bars, "out" bars, Izod bars, ad nauseum, only local drinking establishments; no noise other than the gentle sound of the Pacific; and most noticeably, no desire to leave the warm and cozy environment, except to walk on the beach or to climb the tide-pool rocks. I am now wondering why I came back...

... but back to good/wise Norman. The words "human family" and "safety" became data input and caused me to ponder whether or not we homosexuals, as one of many minorities, might be a bit myopic in our view of the human condition. How open are we in accepting others (even within our own ranks) as members of the human family whose ideas and lifestyles conflict with ours? From much of what is published in gay and lesbian publications one would gather that we would rather everyone be homosexual, thereby eliminating any possibility of confrontation based on sexuality. "Breeders," for example, seem to cause feelings for many of being threatened. This, of course, is absurd. For the most part we need not fear individuals, but do need to be involved in changing the system.

Perhaps we should take an in-depth look at how we perceive the general scheme of human interaction. The human family is each and every human being on this planet, all related by some long-lost genetic link. How then, can we justify elitism based on our own prejudices and lifestyle? *We can't.* If we encounter something which is not gay or lesbian oriented, or at least does not even have some sort of homosexual connotation, do we give it a second consideration? Usually not. Are straights given the same courtesy as we give each other when they venture into "our territory"? I have observed otherwise. To me this smacks of reverse discrimination.

We must begin at home and strive to eliminate the factions and frictions within our own ranks which tend to break down the united front we so desperately need for our own minority family. Then we must take a second look at our fears of straight society. Granted, they appear to be the majority. But are they? Remember, we are only one of many minorities which together would be the *new majority*. Slowly, but determinedly, let's open up and become more unconditionally accepting

of each other and then progress to society in general, until we truly "comprehend the reality of the human family." Only then will "the beginnings of a genuine safety emerge."

Looking for a creative place to lunch? I recommend the Oregon School of Arts and Crafts, 8245 S.W. Barnes Rd. (TriMet Route 77). Excellent homemade food, reasonable prices, and an opportunity to lunch with the artists, as well as browse through the gallery and gift shop. All in a truly beautiful setting — a feast for the eye as well.

If you missed "Phallacy's: Facts and Artifacts of the Phallacian Culture," a visual installation for Portland artist David Strough at Northwest Artists Workshop, you lost out. It was a truly wonderful, whimsical (seems to be his specialty) show, especially the slide presentation. The show deserves to be presented again. If so, don't miss!

As this column missed the deadline for the last issue, I now have the opportunity to tie it in with the Lesbian and Gay Pride theme of "Unity and More in '84 — Put Power in Diversity." From what I understand, the "unity" involved centers around unifying gays and lesbians into a united front to assert our potential strength against the bigotry and misunderstanding (fear) of a straight white male dominated society. Whether or not this has any effect is difficult to assess; however, it also serves to exaggerate our collective Achilles heel. That is, how we separate ourselves from the mainstream and proclaim that we are "different," and how we set ourselves up to appear "different." Society's fear of us as homosexuals and our own deeply hidden fear of ourselves centers on just that fact — our nonconformity to sexual mores of the so-called majority.

Being only a part of the human family, this apparent difference (our objects of love and sexual desire) is merely one aspect of what we actually are. Therefore, might we at some future time during this journey of self-discovery and development try to emphasize our universal humanness rather than our one and only diversity? We love, we hate; we cry, we laugh; we bond, we unbond; we're young, we're old; we live, we die; we work, we play; we wound, we heal; and on and on. Using these for comparison, are we really that different? Perhaps we should really be striving for Power in the Unity of the Human Family.

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by Douglas Bloch

**CANCER The Crab**  
June 21-July 20  
The Sign of the Nurturer  
A Personal, Water Cardinal Water Sign  
Water Image — A Nursing Mother  
"I Feel"

As the initial water sign, Cancer must resolve the element's key psychological conflict — security vs. insecurity. "Am I the giving parent or the needy child? Shall I nurture or be nurtured?" the Cancer asks itself. In the former role, it has no equal. For as the mother bear staunchly defends her cubs, a Cancer will instinctively protect and nurture the weak and the helpless. On the other hand, the watery crab will often see itself as the one who needs care. In viewing the world as threatening and unsupportive, the crab will either retreat into its shell or become involved in a dependency relationship. Here, however, he must deal with even a new and more crippling insecurity — the fear of rejection.

How then, can the crab constructively cope with its insecurities? As the ocean crab surrounds its soft, vulnerable interior with a hard outer shell, the human crab finds shelter within the confines of his domestic sphere. The home provides a protective sanctuary where the Cancer can let down its defenses and feel safe and secure. Outside the home, it is cautious and reserved, shy and timid; inside its secure place it is tender and caring, charming and self-assured. When love of

home and family becomes too extreme, however, the Cancer becomes clannish and exclusive, as illustrated by the patriot's edict, "America, love it or leave it." (Our country was born under Cancer on July 4). Therefore, the Cancerian must learn to open his home and heart to *all* human beings.

In its search for security, the Crab will also look to its past for memories of happier times. There it often finds and collects generations of treasured family heirlooms — great grandfather's rocking chair, grandmother's quilts and mother's jewelry, to name a few. Because of its tendency to cling to past experiences, Cancer has a hard time letting go — of possessions, lovers, and children, or any personal attachment. Hence, it is followed by the forward-looking fire sign, Leo.

Physiologically, the water sign Cancer corresponds to the breasts and stomach, organs of nourishment and sustenance. The link between the stomach and emotions is quite clear; when you become upset, you feel it on a "gut" level. If such emotions are not properly expressed, stomach ulcers will often result.

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