



BORN AGAIN BIRD BEGINS FOURTH YEAR OUT OF EGG

As much as it is permitted man to will, I come to destroy human fate, I condemn slavery, I drive away poverty, I teach ignorance, I treat sickness, I light up the night, I hate hatred.
 — Victor Hugo

It has been three years since The North Coast Times Eagle arose from the dead. It has been an austere time, one that would have seen the bird back in its grave if not for a growing support of readers and advertisers who feel such a publication, though not always to their taste or opinion, should have a place in a culture struggling toward promised liberties. The old Eagle proclaimed itself unique and distinctive; we shall say its reincarnation is at least odd. It is a direct descendant, at least in its intent, of the radical newspapers that bloomed briefly in the late 1960s — certainly in its financing — but its lineage goes much further back, to the independent press of our ancestors that ultimately fostered the First Amendment. It is a heritage of critical responsibility often lost in pursuit of profit and protection of a status quo that ensures profit. Amnesia and distortion of a free press has continually given rise to small newspapers and magazines whose only allegiance is to the First Amendment, and, not unlike political third parties that incubate ideas that the major parties eventually adopt, the small independent press in America and throughout



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ERA IS STILL ALIVE

The pretense that half the human race is unequal and subordinate to the other half is a persistent malignancy. It has been chronic through history, especially in periods when muscle and force held sensitivity and intelligence in thrall. Yet the need to be equal and free is the most stubborn human hunger. It has taken centuries for women to emerge from the dominance of their male counterparts — it took almost a century for American women to gain the vote. So it is no surprise that the Equal Rights Amendment will not stay dead.

The ERA was defeated on July 2, the day the nation's forefathers declared themselves free from England's tyranny and promised equality to "all men" two hundred and six years ago. The measure, which has the support of more than eighty percent of the electorate, failed because

of a handful of men in three state legislatures; five other states which had initially approved rescinded their votes. Those who consider women as chattel celebrated and pronounced the ERA dead.

The ERA has been sent to the grave more than once in the almost sixty years since Alice Paul wrote the amendment, which has not changed in its wording since it was first introduced in Congress in 1923: "Equality of Rights shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex." On July 14, which was the anniversary of the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789, fifty-one U. S. senators and two hundred and one representatives co-sponsored the ERA in both houses of Congress.

A national referendum would probably make the ERA law within a few months. Instead it must once more travel the torturously long trail through the states; thirty-eight states must ratify it, and even the most optimistic believe it will take years. Yet it will continue: in the meantime the women have vowed to vote from office all who have opposed the ERA.

BULLETIN

Little Mussolinis

The Cannon Beach Merchants Association has in its malicious campaign against the town's mayor, Lucille Houston, and in the recent public behavior of some of its members, shown itself to be a strongarm type of Mussolini League. Though it represents itself as a civic organization, its practices are a local symptom of a national illness: that money is all that counts and any manner in which it is made is legitimate. The platform of this particular group has been to knock out anything in the way of making a buck. Some of them are undoubtedly just trying to make it through a hard time, but they are keeping questionable company.

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There shall never be another season of silence until women have the same rights men have on this green earth.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

INSIDE

This anniversary issue is studded with all sorts of things; such as the final six months of a 1982 calendar by Jo Watterson, the art of Rex Amos, a voyage up the Columbia River to the Portland Rose Festival, an eccentric's warning about the probable removal of eccentrics from a coastal town, the high cost of maintaining America's Roman empire, an appreciation of Thomas Paine, who articulated the principles of the American and French Revolutions and never betrayed them, and two songs; one lamenting the end of a restaurant, the other a celebration of small independent newspapers.