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Well, here it is our fifth issue... didn't think we'd make it, did you? We never had any doubt... Even though we are now a Gypsy publication being pasted up all over the upper left coast, as we look for a new home on the edge of America.

We want to thank everyone for their help, and especially those who have written to ask for subscriptions. We will try to get your paper to you if you send \$5 and your address to us.

Once again we want to remind our readers that our advertisers deserve your support.

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The question was recently asked, "Rev." of what Church?

Good question deserving of a good story. Once upon a time, Gino Sky, remember that name, wrote a novel about the legend of the Cowboy Buddah. Being an impressionable young person (early thirties at the time) and having already been ordained by mail in the Universal Life Church for \$5 (Doctor of Divinity \$20), I gathered my own flock and called it the Rastified Church of the Cowboy Buddah.

We believe horses are better than pick-ups, pick-ups are better than cars, beer should be cold and yellow, Bob Marley was right, and pitchers should bat. Every day is the Sabbath and work is forbidden but Art is encouraged.

"There is no quantum world. There is only an abstract quantum description of it."  
Niels

**The Face of Responsibility**

by Margi Curtis  
Our scene: A super market where I like to go for the weekly family grocery shopping. At the checkstand I venture a polite, "How are you today?" to connect with the human face behind the counter.

"Oh, I'm great today!" She smiled back at me with more warmth than the usual perfunctory greeting. She was a small woman, maybe in her mid-50's, with a gentle looking face. She appeared to be someone who had worked 8 hours a day, 5 days a week for many years. She expertly pulled the items out of my cart, flipped them evenly through the price sensor.

The young man at her side busily bagged the groceries and smiled also, "Yeah, I love Wednesdays," the 2 co-workers gave each other knowing looks, both grinning. This made me smile too.

Out of friendly curiosity, and because I felt so comfortable, I asked, "What's different about Wednesdays?"

The checker wryly said, "The manager's not here on Wednesdays. Everything always goes better when he's not here. Everyone is less stressed."

Imagine, these poor, hardworking folks were so relieved not to have the BOSS hovering over them. The mere absence of pain became, itself a pleasure. Is this the human condition? These people were getting their work done, they were happy, smiling, relaxed, and the heavy wasn't on shift.

A startling thought, we have all probably had a boss or three like that. The ones who seem to make their "subordinates" cringe with an ever present sense of inadequacy, who don't mind using humiliation in response to other's mistakes, who people say were "different" before they were promoted.

I've known some, the memory of which makes me nauseated.

A few weeks later I found myself at the same store, and at the checkstand I looked up to see the lean, tense face of a man, in his mid-30's I guessed, who appeared harried and tired. His jaw clenched tight, he glanced at me as another object to be dealt with.

I ventured a timid, "Hello."  
With out looking up he returned a clipped, "Hi."

Then it dawned on me that this fellow must be the manager I had previously heard about. The aura around this man was dark and unpleasant. I couldn't wait to be out of his way. I felt a certain degree of pity for this human being, but I didn't have to work for him.

Why does power corrupt? Who came up with the notion that work has to be grueling and uncomfortable? There has to be a balance, another way of veiwing work, and what "responsibility" looks like. Mostly, I believe, it should have a human face.

THE GREAT UNMENTIONABLE

**MONOTHEISM AND ITS DISCONTENTS**



GORE VIDAL

The word "radical" derives from the Latin word for root. Therefore, if you want to get to the root of anything you must be radical. It is no accident that the word has now been totally demonized by our masters, and no one in politics dares even to use the word favorably, much less track any problem to its root. But then a ruling class that was able to demonize the word "liberal" in the past ten years is a master at controlling—indeed stifling—any criticism of itself. "Liberal" comes from the Latin *liberalis*, which means pertaining to a free man. In politics, to be liberal is to want to extend democracy through change and reform. One can see why that word had to be erased from our political lexicon.

Now to the root of the matter. The great unmentionable evil at the center of our culture is monotheism. From a barbaric Bronze Age text known as the Old Testament, three antihuman religions have evolved—Judaism, Christianity and Islam. These are sky-god religions. They are, literally, patriarchal—God is the omnipotent father—hence the loathing of women for 2,000 years in those countries afflicted by the sky-god and his earthly male delegates. The sky-god is a jealous god, of course. He requires total obedience from everyone on earth, as he is in place not just for one tribe but for all creation. Those who would reject him must be converted or killed for their own good. Ultimately, totalitarianism is the only sort of politics that can truly serve the sky-god's purpose. Any movement of a liberal nature endangers his authority and that of his delegates on earth. One God, one King, one Pope, one master in the factory, one father-leader in the family at home.

The founders of the United States were not enthusiasts of the sky-god. Many, like Jefferson, rejected him altogether and placed man at the center of the world. The young Lincoln wrote a pamphlet *against* Christianity, which friends persuaded him to burn. Needless to say, word got around about both Jefferson and Lincoln and each had to cover his tracks. Jefferson said that he was a deist, which could mean anything or nothing, while Lincoln, hand on heart and tongue in cheek, said he could not support for office anyone who "scoffed" at religion.

From the beginning, sky-godders have always exerted great pressure in our secular republic. Also, evangelical Christian groups have traditionally drawn strength from the suppressed. African slaves were allowed to organize heavenly sky-god churches, as a surrogate for earthly freedom. White churches were organized in order to make certain that the rights of property were respected and that the numerous religious taboos in the New and Old Testaments would be enforced, if necessary, by civil law. The ideal to which John Adams subscribed—that we would be a nation of laws, not of men—was quickly subverted when the churches forced upon everyone, through supposedly neutral and just laws, their innumerable taboos on sex, alcohol, gambling. We are now indeed a nation of laws, mostly bad and certainly antihuman.

Roman Catholic migrations in the last century further re-enforced the Puritan sky-god. The Church has also put itself on a collision course with the Bill of Rights when it asserts, as it always has, that "error has no rights." The last correspondence between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson expressed their alarm that the Jesuits were to be allowed into the United States. Although the Jews were sky-god folk, they followed Book One, not Book Two, so they have no mission to convert others; rather the reverse. Also, as they have been systematically demonized by the Christian sky-godders, they tended to be liberal and so turned not to their temple but to the A.C.L.U. Unfortunately, the recent discovery that the sky-god, in his capacity as realtor, had given them, in perpetuity, some parcels of unattractive land called Judea and Samaria has, to my mind, unhinged many of them. I hope this is temporary.

In the First Amendment to the Constitution the Founders made it clear that this was not to be a sky-god nation with a national religion like that of England, from whom we had just separated. It is curious how little understood this amendment is—yes, everyone has a right to worship any god he chooses but he does *not* have the right to impose his beliefs on others who do not happen to share in his superstitions and taboos. This separation was absolute in our original Republic. But the sky-godders do not give up easily. In the 1950s they actually got the phrase "In God We Trust" onto the currency, in direct violation of the First Amendment.

Although many of the Christian evangelists feel it necessary to convert everyone on earth to their primitive religion, they have been prevented—so far—from forcing others to worship as they do, but they *have* forced—most tyrannically and wickedly—their superstitions and hatreds upon all of us through the civil law and through general prohibitions. So it is upon that account that I now favor an all-out war on the monotheists.

Let us dwell upon the evils they have wrought. The hatred of blacks comes straight from their Bad Book. As descendants of Ham, blacks are forever accursed, while Saint Paul tells the slaves to obey their masters. Racism is in the marrow of the bone of the true believer. For him, black is forever inferior to white and deserves whatever ill fortune may come his way. The fact that some monotheists can behave charitably means, often, that their prejudice is at so deep a level that they are not aware it is there at all. In the end, this makes any radical change of attitude impossible. Meanwhile, welfare has been the price the sky-godders were willing to pay to exclude blacks from their earthly political system. So we must live—presumably forever—with a highly enervating race war, set in train by the One God and his many hatreds.

Patriarchal rage at the thought of Woman ever usurping Man's place at the helm, in either home or workplace, is almost as strong now as it ever was. According to the polls at the time of the hearings, most American women took the side of Clarence Thomas against Anita Hill. But then the sky-god's fulminations against women are still very much part of the psyche of those in thrall to the Jealous God.

The famous tree of liberty is all that we have ever really had. Now, for want of nurture, it is dying before our eyes. Of course, the sky-god never liked it. But some of us did—and some of us do. So, perhaps, through facing who and what we are, we may achieve a nation not under God but under man—or should I say our common humanity? □

**No to the OCA**

Let us rise to the call, and meet the challenge from the far right, and keep Oregon a state which values diversity and personal freedoms. We need to send a message to the rest of the world that Oregon is NOT a bastion of bigotry, or an oppressive backwater of paranoid right-wing religious fanatics.

Our nation was founded on the principle of political, social, and religious tolerance for ALL. It has taken more than two centuries for our society to evolve to the point where these tenets have become more than just a dream for women, Native-Americans, Asian-Americans, Afro-Americans and for children of all colors. We have stood as an example for immigrants and oppressed peoples since the late 18th century, as a society that was capable of embracing diversity and making it a precious asset rather than a justification for fear-driven prejudice and politically ignorant behavior.

This is a value and a belief not easily won or sustained. Much blood has been spilt and lives and money has been spent to forge shining faith in these individual freedoms, on the anvil of prejudice and in the fire of intolerance and fear, into the standards so many of us value and prize so highly today.

Don't believe for one minute the political action groups such as the Oregon Citizens' Alliance will be satisfied with their quest to institutionalize, by legislation, their homophobic agenda! If their ballot Measure 9 passes they will unquestionably attempt to determine for Oregonians how they live and what they believe.

The OCA obsessively focus on their own definition of what they perceive to be natural or unnatural, and in so doing marginalize and depersonalize the love, affection, and friendship shared by sexually diverse people everywhere. By using the old strategy of "us" versus "them", they perpetuate the ancient cycle of op-pression and violence that begins with fear and ends in genocide.

To this day few of our "straight" brothers and sisters are aware of how many gay and lesbian victims were exterminated, because of their sexual orientation, in Germany during Nazi regime; along with Jews, Gypsies, and physically and mentally handicapped people rounded up from Germany and the countries occupied by the Nazis.

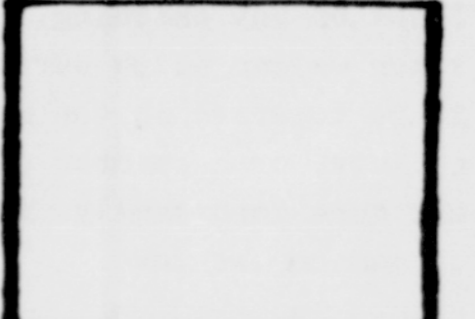
EVERY Oregonian stands to loose of Measure 9 passes. Let every Oregonian voter, of every gender, every color, and every sexual orientation unite to defeat this first step towards neo-fascism in our state constitution.

The ability to love is one of our greatest gifts and it is equally valid between men and men, women and women, and men and women. Look into your hearts and think of all those you love and ways you have loved, love, and will be loved and cared about in your lifetime. See how much variety and difference there can be as well as similarity in those we love. To fail to understand this, to cherish this, and to protect this, would be a tragedy. If the ballot Measure 9 passes, we as Oregonian, Americans, and as human beings will all be the poorer for it.

Remember that silence equals death, and that all that is required for the triumph of evil is that good men AND good women remain silent and do nothing.

Bill Ittman, Andy Kerr, Billy Hults, Sally Lackaff, the staff of The Upper Left Edge, and thousands of Oregonians who believe in FREEDOM!

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The King Christian Response to the attempted oppression of our fellow citizens. When Nazi forces invaded Denmark during WW II the primary offensive strategy was to identify and register all "criminals against the state." These "criminals" included Jews, homosexuals, Gypsies, and others. This means of isolating certain citizens was to aid the Nazi roundup and extermination of said groups. The ruler of Denmark at that time, King Christian, was outraged by the announcement that some of his citizens would be required to wear a mark identifying them as a criminal (yellow stars for Jews, pink triangles for homosexuals, etc). The day after the announcement, King Christian appeared wearing a yellow star although he was not a Jew. This roused the Danish citizenry to rally round their neighbors and friends. Many Danes took to wearing the marks of condemnation as decreed by the Nazis as a gesture of solidarity. They also launched a most ambitious and remarkable operation. The targets of Nazi oppression in Denmark were nearly all evacuated to Sweden before the Nazis were able to condemn them to concentration camps. Denmark was the only country which was able to do so. This pink triangle stands as a symbol of unity and support for our homosexual neighbors, friends, and family members. We who wear it stand staunchly against proposed ballot measures aimed at limiting the civil rights of lesbians and gay men. We are particularly sensitive to the misuse of religious doctrine as a means of persecuting individuals with lifestyles different than our own. Wear this pink triangle with pride and with love. Sponsored by the Religious Response Network - 458 Blair Blvd Eugene, OR 97402

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