

Behind the Times

Michael Burgess

By the time you read this, a critical turning in Oregon history will have been taken. Ballot Measure 9, the witch hunt mandate, will either have passed or been delivered the trouncing it so richly deserves.

No matter how the votes add up, we need to realize this: Oregon has already acquired an international reputation for bigotry it will take years of right action to scrub away.

No whining, just fact.

It would be easy, deliciously so, to lay the burden of our humiliation and shame on the doorstep of Lon Mabon and the Oregon (Rabid) Citizens Alliance. But to do so would deny at least two nasty truths.

The first truth is that, if history is any judge, the flogging is long overdue. Oregon's red face is color coordinated with its red neck. As Indian Jack Schwartz, my attorney, loves to point out: "Scratch an Oregon liberal and you find a white hood."

Indian Jack, an unindicted co-conspirator in the Chicago Seven trials, is a nice Jewish boy from Brooklyn who grew up on stories of his grandma hiding in the root cellar from cossacks. His first professional clients were the Sioux warriors at Wounded Knee, and he wound up spending five years of his life defending native fishing rights on the Columbia.

By the time he'd finished with Salmon-scum, Indian Jack considered Oregon the most racist state in the union. "Indians going to federal prison for catching fish that belonged to them, and you bullshit liberals didn't say peep."

And he's right, we didn't.

"You've got pictures of your holocaust," a young Yakima pointed out. "We've got pictures of buckboard wagons filled with dead Indians."

Blacks, we recall, were not so much as allowed in the territory, even as slaves. There were no welcome wagons for the Chinese who worked themselves to death building the railroad. Or for the Okies who worked the shipyards in WWII. There was no popular uprising when, along with the rest of the land of the free, we trundled our Japanese neighbors off to internment camps and confiscated their homes and businesses.

So much for our liberal credentials. But that was then and this is now. Unfortunately, it's easy to confuse the two in the dark.

Nasty truth number two is this: we live in a time when intolerance masquerades as virtue. When the Fourth Reich is rising, not just in Germany, but here. When an article, written by a Japanese general advocating military takeover as a cure for civil corruption is published in one of that country's most popular magazines. When Bo Gritz could easily become Idaho's next governor.

We live in a time, for the love of God, when Sinnéad O'Connor is booted from the stage at a Bob Dylan tribute for having torn up a photo of the world's leading advocate of phalocracy, unwanted children, and suicidal sex.

All politics, it's been said, is local. The truth is even closer to home. All politics is personal. A world free of hatred and injustice is built one act of love and compassion at a time.

If we have any political convictions in our post-Measure 9 world, let them be these: what goes round comes round, we'll get the new world order we deserve, and it's hard to stop the peasants once they reach critical mass.

Editorial



Rev. Hults

Now & Then

Now and then we as a Nation are given the opportunity to change. When the constitution of this country was written, only white male land owners could vote. Things have changed. This is good. The Constitution reflects those changes.

We are being asked to change our state constitution this year by the Oregon Citizens Alliance. We are being asked to declare some of our citizens to be abnormal, based on their sexual preference. The basis for this request is Biblical teachings.

The words in the Bible have not changed in over two thousand years. Some of them are based on ignorance and fear, some on love and compassion.

The book of Leviticus, if you haven't read it, speaks mostly about blood sacrifice and personal hygiene. When it gets into sexual practices in chapter 20, verse 13 it forbids any but those between husband and wife. It forbids further anyone with a "broken foot or broken hand, or a hunchback or a dwarf" etc. to offer a sacrifice to God. This is the God of the Old Testament. This is the God of the OCA and he hasn't changed in two thousand years, now would be a good time to take a look at those old laws and maybe change a few.

Just wanted to get that off my chest....

More Stuff....

We are glad to see some new support for the Edge from around town and the state. And we are sorry to see some folks go. Welcome El Mundo, Pacific Produce, Muddy Waters, Blue Note Records, East Ave., and Ursula. Good-bye for a while to Hanes (til they find a new location), and Castle Carpet Cleaning, and Holland Flowers til spring. David Hershey our dear friend and computer golfer has sold "Coffee & Fax", we'll miss him but are in good hands. (See ad in this issue)

Now to the fun stuff...if this is now when you are reading this (before the election) we would like to recommend you vote for the following, if you are reading this then (after the election) these are our predictions. I told you this was fun. Ballot Measures One thru Six: YES
Measure Seven: Tough Call!
Measures Eight and Nine: NO!!!!!!
County Commission Buckmaster & Strickland
U.S. Congress: Furse
U.S. Senate: Aucoin
U.S. President: Tough Call/Clinton
And so it goes....

We would like to welcome James Massa back to Cannon Beach as a permanent resident

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Coaster	10
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Surforest	14
Tolovana Wayside	15
Haystack Heights	16
Wave Crest	25
Maher	30
Going North	
Leaves from:	
Maher & Hemlock	10:30
Tolovana Wayside	35
R.V. Park	40
Midtown	45
Ecola Square	50
White Bird Gallery	55
Les Shirley Park	00

(Not all stops listed)
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