

Editorial

Now & Then Rev. Hults

What a long strange year it's been. The paper you hold in your hand was at this time last year a four pager (one broadsheet) that was more or less one big ad for Upper Left Coast Productions music listings, with a blurb on recycling, some pithy sayings, a little home grown philosophy by Dr Karkeys, and some lovely line drawing by Ms. Lackaff. A merciful few of the one thousand examples printed remain. This present issue has sixteen pages and a press run of five thousand.

In the last year we have introduced you to a lot of folks who live, write, draw, play music, run businesses, and are concerned about life on the Edge, in the Valley, in the Northwest, in this country, and on this planet. We have attempted to be a different voice, a voice that does not shout in your face, but speaks to your heart and your brain. Some folks think we have a lot of ads, so we make a lot of money. No, we are not running these ads for the money, though without money we can't run these ads. These ads are a directory of people in business whom we think our readers deserve to know about. Some are doing well enough or like what we are doing enough to support us. So enjoy the paper, enjoy the ads and we hope to be talking to you again next issue and next year.



editor had the privilege of voting for) suggested we could cut gas lines in half with an odd/even license plate plan, and we also have the Initiative process, originally called the Oregon Solution. This is our method of direct voting by the people to deal with problems the Legislature is unwilling or unable to handle. Some good and some bad things have resulted from this type of direct Democracy. Measure 5 sent a very clear message that property taxes in Oregon were too high, and that people wanted the State to trim the fat. Now they are unable to handle that.

We are threatened with cuts to the bone in education, human services, and the largest campaign so far in a long history of thwarted Sales Tax schemes.

So, this Legislature must be awfully busy dealing with these issues. ... Right? No! Guess what's on the front burners lately! Whether every house in Oregon should be required to have a firearm available and someone who can use it! Disbanding the Ways and Means Committee, so that it is twice as difficult to decide who spends what where. And of course, where the City of Cannon Beach puts the money it collects from Motel Taxes, and our local laws as they concern Short Term Rentals!

Apparently Rep. Calouri has a few empty units in the Tolovana Inn during the winter and would like some of the city tax money to go to promoting tourism. (Might we suggest a full page ad in the Edge?) House Bill 3322: it's not just going to keep Cannon Beach busy all winter, it will keep the Legislature busy doing anything but what they are paid to do! (Oh, we mean their salaries. Not what they earn on the side.)

And then there is HB 2747, which concerns itself with zoning laws in Cannon Beach and Seaside. We are told there are more important issues at stake than what it is like to live in a resort, issues like, who owns the resort! The old Golden Rule, "Those with the Gold make the Rules!" Of course it would allow you to open a Bed & Breakfast in Lake Oswego.

Please folks, what about doing what you were elected to do. You can work for your buddies and your own interests on your own time; solve the big problems first! We can muddle along trying in our own small town way to deal with our problems here. You have enough to do!

Just a suggestion...

You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

A. Lincoln

You can fool too many of the people, too much of the time.

J. Thurber



Michael Burgess

Behind the Times

Another mystery has risen from the foggy bottom land of Salem. We'll call this one "The Case of the Perloined Commission"

Say you lived in a state where blood sport was the custom, where humans were not just encouraged to hit each other about the head and chest and stomp each other's soft body tissues, but were paid to do it while others watched, ate popcorn and drank beer. After 100 years of concussions, retinal detachments and body damage vile and various, you'd probably (unless your population included nothing but sociopaths) lay down a few ground rules. This is the persuasive logic that led to the formation of the Oregon Boxing and Wrestling Commission in 1985.

Now we come to the mystery. As we speak, the Commerce Committee (Business R' Us) of the State House of Representatives (Smothering Heights) is quietly suffocating an ugly duckling. HB 2125 is a funding measure that would levy a 6-percent tax on pay-per-view boxing and wrestling events. Having no shame, HB 2125 would ask the Don Kings of the world (a k a, Those With Diamond Pinky Rings) to leave some scraps on the table after loading the cash in the trucks. Were Don and the Boys to take time from lighting cigars to think about it, they would see it was a nice gesture for those at the top of the food chain to underwrite regulation of the local events whose gate receipts they ritually gut.

Well, they might.

It's a better bet that, if HB 2125 dies in committee, so will the Boxing and Wrestling Commission. With its fiscal plug pulled, the agency would be a toy poodle flung into an alligator pond. Local promoters (who by tradition, are hilariously unable to regulate themselves) will take off the gloves and get back to business -- tough guy brawls in saloons, pretend ring names, fanciful win-loss sheets, and Friday nights with cocaine-steroid cowboys slicing their foreheads with razor blades, bashing each other with folding chairs and (as in the case of Art Barr) sexually assaulting fans on back stairways.

Ah, the good old days.

For those with the brains God gave a two-by-four, questions naturally arise. Who would want to deregulate sports which, if performed on the streets, would lead to arrests? And why?

The man with the answers is Sneaker of the House Larry "Boom-Boom" Campbell. Here's how things work in the fog-filled back rooms of Salem (Grease City). If a bill has anything to do with money, and what doesn't, it must originate in the House. It's Boom-Boom's job to assign bills to committees whose leadership owe their position (or political life) to him. By tradition, Boom-Boom also gets to tell them which get to the House floor and which get put into a canvas bag and pitched into the Willamette.

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When we got into office, the thing that surprised me most was to find that things were just as bad as we'd been saying they were.

John F. Kennedy

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On the edge: Dave Bartholet and a Cast of Thousands!



more stuff...

Your beloved Rev./Ed. is just a little upset! Not unusual in itself, but this time there is more than ample reason.

Oregon is a unique state. We have a history of wanting to "get on with it" and solve our problems with what used to be called common sense. We are famous for our Bottle Bill; we already have a Motor Voter Bill; when the Energy Crisis happened our Gov. Tom McCall (the last Republican your



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