

# Editorial Now & Then

In wildness is the preservation of the world. What does that mean? I originally thought Mr. Thoreau said, "In wilderness is the preservation of the world," which seemed more reasonable, like we could discover cures for cancer or something from the fruits of the unexplored world; but no, he apparently said "Wildness", and our society doesn't seem to look too favorably on wildness. Wild animals, wild Indians, wild in the streets, all have negative meanings. Could Thoreau really mean that this is what will save the world? Chaos, a lack of order, or to quote Random House Dictionary of the English Language (available at Jupiter's Rare and Used Books for \$12.50) uncivilized, barbarous, frantic, undisciplined, lawless, crazy, disregarding of moral restraints; these will be our salvation? Well, maybe, but Mr. Snyder puts it better in this issue in Augusta's column.

## More Stuff,

Well, we finally got a letter to the editor that said something more than how much someone enjoyed the paper, not that we don't love those and especially the ones that say "check enclosed", but unless you get letters that are from outraged people who think you are crazy, you are just "preaching to the choir" and not actually getting into the hands of those whose behavior you disagree with. Apparently our last two issues reached the right hands because we got the following letter:

Dear Sir:

Being a graduate forester I was absolutely disgusted with the contents of your recent paper degrading any form or level of forest management in Northwest Oregon. Pity the poor uninformed out of state tourist who picks up your "newspaper" and might actually believe the dribble you dish out in your radical articles. It is obvious that you know absolutely nothing about such things as silvics and silviculture of Pacific Northwest Forests. The misinformation and disinformation you put out should be on the news racks in grocery stores next to the National Enquirer. The forests in your area are for the most part tax paying tree farms. Should you like to visit outdoor museums, make the effort to visit the very fine state parks in your area or go further and explore the National Parks in the northwest. You are not playing with a full deck when you slam privately owned working forests by trying to turn them into the old federal forest service concept of the "greatest good for the greatest number". Or in your case total lock up for the few extremists.

How many pounds of forest-derived wood and paper products does your family use per year. Contrary to radicals like

you, most people do realize these items grow on trees. Try some objective journalism, it won't be that painful.

Gary Hanson  
Union, Washington

Gary, Gary, where do we begin to address your comments? Shall we make cheap shots about your spelling and punctuation, "a question is usually followed by a question mark", nah, too easy; stating the obvious, that you either did not read the articles or didn't understand what you read. (We blame the educational system. Not you. We think you confused "drivel": to talk childishly or idiotically, with "dribble": to flow in small drops, trickle.) And we do know that Silviculture, root word; Sylvan: a mythical diety or spirit of the woods, has to do with the cultivation of forest trees. Not forests, trees, there is a difference, as you may have heard, between a tree farm and a forest. A tree farm produces trees, a forest produces clean air, clean water, wildlife, and a wide range of plants that we are only beginning to understand. As to your comments about "outdoor museums" we would refer you to the next line in the Joni Mitchell song that provided our headline, "they paved paradise and put up a parking lot". It goes, "they took all the trees and put them in a tree museum, and charged everybody a dollar and a half just to see them." It should be noted that it now costs three dollars a carload to enter Ecola State Park, here in Cannon Beach.

According to the slick pamphlets you sent along with your letter, each individual uses the equivalent of one 100 ft tree a year, so that's almost 50 for the humble reverend, but of course we do our best to recycle more

than that each year. And though we know that paper is made from trees, we also know that there are some very good alternatives, like Willamette Valley Grass that has been historically burned after harvest, not to mention the "Devil Weed" hemp.

We also take umbrage at you calling our out of state tourists "uninformed"; as we point out in this issue they are constantly asking questions and learning about the world around them.

The comment about the National Enquirer, well our little capitalist heart just skipped a beat at the comparison to the most successful independent newspaper in America. And as for the last shot about "objective journalism" not being painful, well, we don't know, we've never seen it, and have never pretended like Hearst or Newhouse to practice it. Freedom of the press belongs to the guy who owns the press, so if you want an objective journal, start your own damn newspaper!

Finally, we are not radicals or extremists. Your beloved editor is a registered Republican, who believes like Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt (Republicans) that individual civil rights and the conservation of the resources we as a country hold in common are paramount for the future of this country. And we are sure you remember what Sen. Goldwater (Republican/Arizona) said about extremism in the defense of liberty. We didn't agree with him then and don't agree with you now, but we are willing to listen to other voices, and try to understand. Gary, your pamphlet

carried several endorsements of your work in the forests and on the tree farms in the Northwest, and we have no reason not to believe them. There are good people in the timber industry, and there are good people in the environmental community, and there are idiots in both. If the good people can find solutions we will not have to suffer the ravings of the idiots, but, evil will triumph if good people do nothing, so thanks for the letter, and to paraphrase Joni Mitchell, "call me at the ocean, the lines are open."

NIMFY (not in my front yard)

So, we have these friends, both artists. One is a single parent supplementing his service industry wages playing music on the street. The other is creative, gentle activist, who is struggling with high rents, taxes, and all the headaches of owning a small business in a tourist town. She believes that when he plays his music her shop loses money. He thinks music attracts people interested in the arts.

Our problem is that both people have our respect and affection, and being a small business owner as well as a musician, of sorts, we know both sides are absolutely correct.

This problem is also being debated in that "other" newspaper, so it is not just a local problem.

We know this isn't as important as Bosnia, but.....it would be good practice in problem solving. We'll keep you posted.



**WHERE TO GET AN EDGE**

**CANNON BEACH** Jupiter's Rare and Used Books, The Cookie Co., Coffee Cabana, Bill's Tavern, The Whaler, Osburn's, Cannon Beach Book Co., The Bistro, Midtown Cafe, & Once Upon a Breeze

**MANZANITA** Manzanita News & Espresso & The Video Store

**TILLAMOOK** Muddy Waters Tea & Coffee Co. & Rainy Day Books

**NEKOWIN** The Hawk Creek Cafe

**NEWPORT** Don Petrie's Italian Food Co. & Oceana

**EUGENE** The WOW Hall, KLCC, Oasis & Sundance

**Salem**: Helitrope

**ASTORIA** KMUN, Columbia Cafe, the Community Store, & Cafe Uniontown

**SEASIDE**: Turnaround Books, Earthtide & Cafe Espresso

**PORTLAND** The Goose Hollow Inn, Powell's Books (Two Locations), Music Millennium (Two Locations), The Laurelthirst, Key Largo, East Ave. Tavern, and many many more.....

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310 Lake St • POB 72, Ilwaco, WA 98624 (206) 642-4256

Time is but a stream I go a-fishing in.  
Henry David Thoreau

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