



Proving once more that if we wait long enough, the benevolent forces of the marketplace will satisfy needs you didn't know you had -- behold the battery powered lollipop.

No, we're not kidding. Yes, it may be time to get the passport renewed.

The answer to someone's very bored prayer is, basically speaking, a modified electric toothbrush designed for suckers and selling at a mall much too near you. A byproduct of a civilization whose calls are not being returned by the Mars probe, it sets a horrible new standard for labor saving devices. By merely pushing a brightly colored button (a feat easily managed by bored primates) thus signalling your desires to the marvelously inefficient penlight battery in the machine's plastic core, one's mounted lollipop spins at what one can be sure is a speed that market research found optimal.

One needn't be a personal injury lawyer behind on his BMW payments to smell potential disaster. The lollipops supplied are round for good reason. Mark my words, some terminally indulged 8 year old is going to load the puppy with a flat sucker and beat her lips into a lawsuit. Life is good.

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Because we were doing our nails that day, we missed one of the most stirring annual events on this or any coast. Yes, the Mudflats Golf Tournament.

Each year, the gentle (if very odd) natives of Lincoln City gather in Siletz Bay at low tide (no fools they) to terrify clams and raise money for some very embarrassed charity. For the record, nine teams of five sodden nitwits each raise \$300 for the Fur and Feathers Wildlife Rehabilitation Fund. There are many forms of wildlife in Lincoln City in need of rehabilitation.

Rather than draw unwelcome attention to the winners, we'll report that the team from the Lakeside Golf and Racquet Club (whose members should all know better) finished third. "If they'd had had one more person barefooted," Wayne Thompson, one of those responsible, explained to a doubtful reporter, "they'd have won the whole thing." Talk about your agony of defeat.

For those out of the loop, mud golfers who slog through the tidal muck without rubber boots and inertubes get a two-stroke handicap--in addition to those they brought with them.

Giving credit where it's due, the team from Lincoln County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Task Force fired a startling thirty strokes to finish dead last. "But," as Mr. Thompson reported, "they had the most fun." One hesitates to speculate why. Eat your heart out ESPN.

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And finally, this. A bumpersticker spotted on a vintage Rambler station wagon: **U.S. Out of America.** If anyone can pull it off, we can.

Stupid Tourist Questions (True questions!)

- 1) "Are the public restrooms for everyone?"
- 2) "When do the deer turn into elk?"
- 3) "Who decides when the tide comes in and goes out?"

Smart Local Answers (Not true answers)

- 1) "No; you get a permission slip when you buy something at one of the shops."
- 2) "Usually after Labor day weekend."
- 3) "The City Council; they coordinate the tide based on Sand Castle Day, so they can have the longest possible low tide during that day."

More Stuff

One nice thing about having your own newspaper is that folks tell you stuff you wouldn't get to know otherwise. Last month's little tirade on recycling brought several responses. And delightfully they were mostly positive. The business community, especially, were praised for their efforts and fiscal support of the Recycling Program in Cannon Beach. And though the restaurant business is a tough one when it comes to recycling, it should be noted that Blue Sky in Manzanita has been recycling on a regular basis and a massive scale for longer than any other eatery in that little corner of the edge. Give Julia a call. She knows that a good meal isn't really over, even after the dishes are done, until everything is returned to its proper place in the cycle.

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And this just in (boy, we love this job) from Eugene.

Dear Beloved Reverend Hults,

We are writing to tell you that we have to get married. You see, Roscoe lost his teaching job due to corporate greed in Oregon (Ballot Measure 5).

Since health insurance is only for the relatively privileged people, and since single, unemployed people don't count under our country's approach to capitalism and health we must get married.

Please don't worry about us. At least for this year, Roscoe can be covered by Katherine's policy. Who knows what will happen when Katherine loses her teaching job next year? You see, corporations in this state refuse to pay their fair share of the revenue we need to fund schools.

At the courthouse, they asked Katherine if she wanted to be given away by somebody. Some things haven't changed.

We thought about asking you to do the marriage, since you are a Beloved Reverend, but you are too far away on the Upper Left Edge.

Because we don't see weddings as guilt-induced opportunities to suck up toasters and crock pots from friends and family, we are sending you \$10 as a wedding gift. In sickness and health insurance, Katherine and Roscoe

(We love this stuff!)

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Why is it you get 5 years if you drop a needle in a Pepsi can, and six months if you assault a black man?

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Why is it EKHON gets to pay itself almost 40 million for the cost of cleaning up a mess they made?

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Why is it we refused to shut down Trojan for fear of a rate increase and the loss of jobs, and then we lose the jobs, get a rate increase,

and Trojan is shut down. Is democracy fun or what?

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Why is it that "The Right to Life" people shoot doctors?

These days we have been watching too much television, The Simpsons, the Bundys, Roseanne...ad nauseum, but...every once in a while we inadvertently come upon intelligent human beings (yes, on television, no not the Cubs). The other day while sifting through the channels we came upon possibly the most intelligent male on the tube. Yes, William F. Buckley, and to our delight, Charles Colson, Watergate figure, and Born Again Prison Reformer. We watched Lord Buckley, defender of the legalization of drugs, talk with the man who stated he would walk over his grandmother to see Richard Nixon elected President; about mandatory sentencing, and privatizing the prison system; well, it was what television could be. We laughed, we cried, we listened, we learned, we thought deep thoughts.

There is a vote coming on a Sales Tax. We don't think it is a good idea. We think universal health care is a good idea. We the people of this country are being manipulated and mistreated by not only our government but by our corporations, and until we stand up at the ballot box and the grocery store and the gas station things won't change.


We are reminded of an old flag, way back during the original revolution (no, not the sixties). There used to be a flag, before the stars and stripes. The flag was yellow and had a coiled rattlesnake and the words "Don't Tread On Me". If there is a flag for the people of this country, at this time, this is it!

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Alex is fishing this month and, well, Dr. Karkeys decided to go fly a kite.

The benefit for Donna on Sept. 8th, 6-midnight at the chamber in Cannon Beach is to show support for individuals who spend their own money and time to be of help to others. We, so many of us, have so little time to spend even on our families and friends; that it is very important when someone does more than is even asked. We encourage that behavior as a community and a society. Donna and her family have worked for years to let us hear the voices of those who lived in this land before our ancestors arrived. We encourage you to attend, bring canned goods and clothing to donate, and some cash. We promise good music and friendship. A donation of \$10 or more is suggested, but no one will be turned away. This will be possible the last time to ever see anyone calling themselves "Billy Foodstamp and the Welfare Ranch Rodeo".

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