



Rev.  
Hults

# Editorial Now & Then

## "Either lead, follow, or get out of the way"

When we first heard the phrase it was a call to revolution, we thought. As we have mellowed a bit, we think it is perhaps more of a call to responsibility. We believe that those who can lead, who have a passion that burns bright, must take the responsibility of carrying the torch, so that those who follow can see the light and learn the way. And if you don't think the path is for you, at least don't try to stop others from following their own road, get out of the way.

Too many of us who have a passion tend to, out of fear, follow rather than lead. We let others tell us what is and what isn't what we want. We know they are wrong, but it is easier to go along to get along, and it is difficult to point a new direction.

But, being a follower is also a responsibility; we must encourage good people with good ideas to lead. We must express our support with our energy, our money, our votes. When we follow, we push leaders ahead, and they pull us along. And we all get there together.

And what about getting out of the way? Are we recommending you crawl in a hole and practice your apathy? Not hardly. But perhaps the hardest thing we do as social beings is keep our mouths shut and our eyes open. (We know it is very difficult, personally.)

What we believe is right is what is right for us. The way we do things, the way we think. But that doesn't make it right for other people. And we must let others try to find their own way, and not try to make their dreams fit our prejudices. Of course, if we believe the direction is wrong then we must become a leader, or a follower of a different leader. But, standing in someone's way, without a direction of our own, is not quite fair. And standing in the way of danger is not quite smart. Getting out of the way is often the wisest move. When we find ourselves becoming part of the problem rather than the solution, we should get out of the way. For example, Sen. Packwood should, we believe, get out of the way.

We are reminded of Ex-Mayor Bud Clark of Portland, when nine years ago at Christmas, he made the decision to run for public office. Bud had never run for anything before, and Incumbent Mayor Frank Ivancie was considered unbeatable by every politician in the city. No one would enter the race against him. Bud pleaded with several experienced professional politicians to come to the defense of the city he loves, and rid it of a man he could not abide politically, morally, or personally. (Bud was quoted during the campaign saying that Ivancie was an S.O.B.; he didn't deny it, even though the quote was supposed to be off the record. His defense was "It's true!") The point is that when no one who is supposed to be a leader, will lead, then those who are supposed to be followers, or are supposed to get out of the way, must lead.

And when you have done your best, as Bud did for eight years, you must then get out of the way and let others try. And even though leading is tough, (Bud was condemned for everything from his language to his beard), you can make a difference, which possibly no one but you could make. (Bud took the city budget from a very dangerous point into what is now one of the most fiscally responsible city government budgets in the country. Being a small businessman, he, unlike a lot of politicians who have never met a payroll, knew that you not only can't operate with a deficit, but you also have to have a rainyday fund, just in case everything goes wrong.) This is not only the opportunity offered by democracy, it is the responsibility we all must fulfill in a democracy.

We here on the Edge hope this paper does all three of these. We attempt to lead our readers toward a better, safer, more thoughtful viewpoint. We follow and support leaders in politics, business, and the arts who have new ideas for solutions to our old problems. And we also attempt to stay out of the way, by not getting in between people. We find that too many papers and other media do more harm than good when they tell stories about personal tragedies like murders and rapes and glorify the violence, often increasing the pain of the victims. We at the Edge believe there is more than enough information about who died, and how, and not nearly enough about who is truly living, and why.

So, we suggest that our headline be a New Year's resolution for us all.

Billy

I must follow the people. Am I not their leader?

Disraeli

## Hot news from the hinterlands

The dual job editor Peter "The Big Potato" Siegel brought back stuff from southern Ecotopia. There seems to be something called "Alliance for a Paving Moratorium", which we think is one of the better ideas we've heard this decade. We will be reprinting some of their ideas and stuff in this and other issues. But if you wish to contact them directly write Alliance for a Paving Moratorium, PO Box 4347, Arata, Ca 95521 Ecotopia 1-(707) 826-7775

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**Donna Osburn** (aka Barbara Bush) brings us more info about Nevada's Test Site and the ongoing attempt to stop the testing of nuclear weapons. (We have been to Nagasaki, trust us -- they work!)

The American Peace Tests Body of the Whole voted to call for a gathering of activists at Indian Springs, Nevada, April 1-3, 1994, where non-violence training, Peacekeeping training, Legal briefing and a workshop on the history of the Test Site will be offered. Something like a Graduate Course in the Politics of Peace. It will look great on your final resume. You can contact these folks at PO Box 26725, Las Vegas, Nv. 89126.

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Also from Donna "O".

## "Handyman for Peace"

So this guy Bill White has a motorhome, and it's got a TV and VCR and a generator and converter, a battery charger, a computer and printer, a 26x8 ft awning, a lot of electric and hand tools, a lockable storage box with an alarm, a sewing machine, an iron and ironing board, but then, who doesn't these days. Any RV that pulls into Cannon Beach can boast these features. The difference with Bill's Banana Peel (as he calls it) is he travels around to peace marches like the Global Walk from LA to New York and Walking Home in Canada, and lends his tools and his hands to support the activists for peace and the environment. "My true joy in life is to be thoroughly used for peace, the environment and social justice actions, and I'm a workaholic! If you can use me, please contact: Bill White, 887 Erringer St. Simi Valley, Ca 93065 (805) 526-5076 message phone.

## \* STOP THE PRESS \* RETRACTION \*

We hate to admit it, but we made a mistake. Yes, we did. Ms. Linda Evenrude called the Edge the other evening quite upset that we had, in our December issue, stated that the "former chair" of the Seaside Planning Commission had left the country. What we had meant to say was that the former "City Planner" (one Dick Pearson) had left the scene of the crime against nature and the people of the area called Sahhallee. (He went to Canada for a visit and Ms. Evenrude went to California for a visit.) Ms. Evenrude pleaded not guilty to voting for or against the project because she was at the time working for the real estate company which was handling the sale, Weston and Everette, and for her to vote would be a conflict of interest. Ms. Evenrude stated that this was why she disliked journalists, "because they never get it right". Well, we have similar feelings about planners.

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In case you missed it, the Planning People okayed the conditional use permit for **Sahhallee**, a multi-million dollar condo being built on one of the last salt water marshes on the North Coast, and the site of a prehistoric village; and the City Council of Seaside voted six to one to let Cascade Trust do what it wishes. So, the paving of paradise goes on no matter what we say or do... The ONRC will take the SCC decision to LUBA but the bulldozers will make the point MOOT. But anyway, we would like to say how proud we are of all the people in Seaside and Gearhart and Cannon Beach and Astoria and Portland who showed up at City Council and Planning Commission meetings and wrote letters and signed petitions and generally did what citizens are supposed to do when they see something wrong about to happen. Please, folks don't get mad, get even. Let your elected officials know that you are the final decision makers in a democracy, and you can use the vote to change the leadership that does not respect your decision. And learn from this experience that you must be involved in the FIRST decisions that are made in your name and not just pay attention when someone starts the bulldozer in your back yard.

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On a more compassionate note, we here in the Cannon Beach area have a couple of families who can use our help. First, **Elena Sugelyl Guerrero**, a 17 year old Seaside High student, is still recovering from treatment for a brain tumor and a fund has been set up at both the Seaside and Cannon Beach branches of the US Bank under the name Elena Guerrero.

More recently **Lynda Benson**, the director of the Cannon Beach Children's Center, underwent emergency surgery at Providence Seaside Hospital. Her medical bills exceed \$35,000 and she has no insurance. Contributions to The Lynda Benson Fund can be made at any branch of the Bank of Astoria, or mailed to Bank of Astoria 80 Box 578, Cannon Beach, Or 97110.

Any amount is going to help, and until this country finally adopts a Health Care Plan it is up to us as neighbors to help, so next time you visit the bank fill out a deposit slip with someone else's name on it. It is the kind of savings account that saves more than money.

Beloved Reverend,

I wish to thank whoever penned the mathematical equations showing the ratio of trees to loggers. Ratios are relationships, and loggers are intimate with trees.

Blaming loggers for disappearing forests is like loggers blaming owls for disappearing jobs.

We depersonalize Nature by calling a forest a tree farm, or an estuarine wetland a piece of real estate.

If one makes the leap into timber industry jargon, one can see that loggers are migrant farm workers. The same forces that existed in the early 1900's that got agricultural labor off the farms are at play today. Mechanization to avoid high insurance costs keeps labor costs down and production high.

Fixing blame fixes nothing. Vote with your wallet. (One dollar: One vote.)

Join the resistance. Become a Coast Range Association Member.

A Chainsaw Philosopher

I like your rag  
I like that it's free  
Let's be reminded  
It once was a tree  
-- Chainsaw Poetry

ed-Yep

Dear Editor:

I was driving home to Tolovana Park from Seaside about 3:30 in the morning. I passed a Cannon Beach patrol near the second exit going the opposite direction. They whipped around and began their "hot pursuit". By the time I neared the end of the third exit, the white jeep was right on my back bumper. I thought to myself, "Man, they must have done 90 mph to catch me so fast!" Sure enough, the crazy lights came on and I was pulled over. The officer said my license plate light was not working. I had just checked all of my lights before leaving Seaside. I strolled to the rear of my vehicle and looked for myself. It was working just fine. I climbed back into the driver's seat. The officer with the round face came up and said he smelled alcohol and asked if I had been drinking. I said no. He asked me again. I said no. He walked away. The other officer came up and said he smelled alcohol and asked where I had been. He showed me dirt on his finger and said the dirt had come from my license plate light lens. I went back and wiped all the dirt from the lens... We passed each other at roughly 55 mph at night in the rain!... I can understand perhaps being followed for a short way at 3:30 am... I understand there is a lot of money to be made by issuing drunk driver tickets. For various reasons... this issue is getting tiresome. There are people out there toting guns and speeding and ordering me off the road. And they have badges! I am put off by this type of behavior from our public servants. I am writing this as a citizen's alert to our small town police state. Ron

ed-Yep

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