



Editorial Now & Then

Rev.
Hults

Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty may sound harsh, paranoid, or obsessive. But Wendell Phillips, not Thomas Jefferson (as we always thought) said it, and it's true. Wendell was an abolitionist and an early supporter of women's right to vote. Anytime we stop paying attention to what is happening to our liberties they are in jeopardy. This month (not last month as your silly editor thought) the ACLU celebrates the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights with an Uncensored Celebration. The Beloved Reverend and others will be spouting off on a soap box in front of Jupiter's Rare and Used Books in Cannon Beach at noon on the Ides of September. There are lots of other events going on around the State so check it out; a listing is posted in several places around whatever town you live in. (Check the book stores and coffee houses.) Celebrate your liberty, and vote, participate or perish.

Mayor Schwab dropped us a letter asking for a 'no' vote on the election of the Sheriff in Clatsop County, and we must agree. When professional expertise is called for politics should be used to decide policy, not personnel. We should hire the best, and fire them the minute they prove to be less than we are paying for. The Edge would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Schwab for his service to Cannon Beach. Though we have often disagreed on specific issues we appreciate the considerable wisdom he has brought to the office. We are reminded of his sister Mildred when she served on the City Council in Portland, and how she saw it as her first duty to protect the pocket books of the citizens who elected her. It must run in the family. Thanks, Herb, sir.

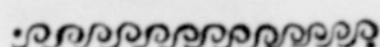
We all have ideas we think might make our world a better place, but they usually come one at a time, and are easy to find fault with or defeat. So we decided to ask for everything at once and see how that works.

Okay, here's the plan. First we change the name back to Ecola, Oregon. Cannon Beach is really in Arch Cape. Then we form a Public Utility District, so we can buy power directly from BPA, plus begin to make plans to generate our own. (Take your pick -- Wind, Solar, Tidal, we got 'em all.) Then we cut down all the power poles and bury fibre-optic cable. If you are beginning to think this might cost money and take time, congratulations, your brain is still working. Then with city ordinances we mandate passive solar codes for hot water and heating units in new construction. Plus tax breaks for retro-fits. Then we start the long hard job of dealing with the

automobile and how we keep its use limited to essential services. Getting cars off Hemlock in the downtown area is an absolute priority, we need the room for sidewalks.

Next, we begin to promote Ecola as an Environmental/Art/Spiritual Center. We know this is already how we perceive it, with our Environmental programs in place, and our thriving Art community, and of course the Conference Center, and the various spiritual gatherings, Native American Elders, Tibetan Monks, and New Age workshops, but we need to let others know.

Finally, we form a partnership with a college (Reed) or University (PSU) that would locate an Arts and Sciences year round program to do studies on how a small town like this can survive and be livable in the next century. Cool, huh? Just a thought.



Now for something completely different

A young man was arrested in front of the Clatsop County Courthouse a few days ago. He was selling pot. Anyway he believed it was pot, he didn't really know, having never smoked it himself. He was promptly arrested and bail was set at \$70,700. The young man has said that this is a revolution, a revolution of one, but a revolution none the less. We as citizens must, after all these years of misinformation on drugs and millions spent prosecuting people for the use of a relatively harmless (when compared to tobacco and alcohol, or barbituates, etc.) weed, must join this revolution. We are sick of lies, propaganda, and the whole stupid War on Drugs. Like the war on poverty, the victims are the working poor. When will we stop trying to legislate morality? Politicians argue that drugs cause violence and theft, so they must be made illegal. But violence and theft are already illegal, whether performed under the influence of drugs or not, and cause can certainly be debated! The point is an American citizen has decided that it is worth going to jail to stress the point that he (in this case) finds this particular law at odds with his concept of Liberty (yes, that is a capital "L") as articulated by A. Lincoln. It is to be noted that when the young man was arrested he was in possession of a book by Thoreau, "Walden". We don't know if it was the edition that includes the essay called "Civil Disobedience". Do we advocate breaking the law? No. Do we advocate changing the law? Yes! Can we change a law if we don't challenge it? No. We wish the young man and his revolution well, because he is imprisoned both physically and economically. \$70,700 is some bail! Does anyone remember what the last fine for toxic pollution to a major watershed resulted in?? \$5,000? Close enough. So stay tuned, the next issue will be way political! Fair warning.



NORML

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE
REFORM OF MARIJUANA LAWS
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW
SUITE 1010
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

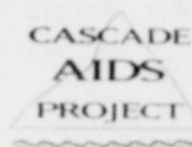
Woman's virtue is man's greatest
invention.
Cornelia Otis Skinner

Add one to the mystery, take one from the fold.

We remember a paper in Seattle put out by teenagers on the back of computer-print-out paper; it was called "who Died". It was, of course, a parody of "real newspapers" that basically tell you who died and how spectacularly they managed it. We knew long ago that the Edge would not be like other papers. But we knew there was no way to avoid obituaries, especially for folks we knew. You know what we dislike about the Astorian? No, not just that. In the obits, they never tell you the cause of death. They must have reasons, perhaps they think it is no one's business.

Yes, what this is all about is that a friend of ours died Aug. 23, a friend of the Edge. He helped us distribute papers in Newport, Neskowin, and the southern coast. He played music, he took damaged art and made it like new. He was a good and gentle man. His name was Rob Yost. He was alive 47 years. He died of AIDS. Why? We don't know but it is our business.

Please, practice safe sex and, DAMMIT, work for a cure!!



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