



Let's call this one, Business As Usual.

There's dancing in the tents over at Intel, the solid state Goliath of Washington County. In a gesture of sympathy and understanding with the largest producer of microchips on the planet, the county mothers and fathers (at least the ones with chairs on the county commission) granted the less than struggling multinational a thirty percent cut in taxes.

Stop snarling.

Sure, nobody cut your taxes, but then you're not building a \$750 million facility, are you? And you're not generating 350 jobs, most of which (owing to an Oregon labor force no longer able to afford college even if there was one) will be filled by brand new Oregonians who make enough to send their kids to private schools.

It all works out in the big picture. You know, the one we're not part of. The one that includes turning Willamette Valley farmland into a silicon spawned array of condominiums (barracks for the upwardly mobile) and undertenanted shopping malls where those with more credit than good sense can overgraze the exosystem.

Explaining the need for a handout, Keith Thompson, Intel's caporegime in Oregon (things are different here, they're a bunch of rubes) murmured: "We are in a global competition and we have to watch our operating costs."

Mr. Thompson, whose firm threatened to relocate unless its demands were met, evidently believes in the free lunch and would just as soon someone else bought it.

Plummeting to the bottom line, Charles Schulbert, owner of Beaverton Bakery, Intel's pasty supplier and one of the many local merchants who think government kickbacks are a dandy part of any business plan, detailed the philosophical underpinnings of his support.

"I just thought, well, maybe they'll buy more donuts."

We doubt they'll be fat free.

In loosely allied news, a small round of applause for the Oregon Lottery Commission. After a humble scillion dollar beginning in what used to be called the numbers racket, the boys and girls in the green eye shades have come up with a labor saving device for the video poker impaired.

Yes, campers, instead of measly ones and fives, the friendly machines will now accept tens and twenties. No longer must the spiral-eyed addict leave the bells and whistles long enough to get change. Is Oregon a great casino, or what?

The lottery commission expects revenues to ahem, rise. But Bob Rice, executive vice president of the Oregon Restaurant (and Minicasino) Association, whose members currently get thirty-five percent of the take, doesn't believe upping the ante will have any harmful effects on the marks (or customers) who can, at least for the time being, cash out anytime they want.

"It's entirely up to the discretion of the customer," Friendly Bob says. "There's nothing to compel people to play a higher amount."

Unless we count human nature.

No truth to the rumor that the next generation of machines will accept payroll checks and food stamps.



The news has been full of laments about the division between urban and rural populations.

Many urbanites speak and write as if they believed farmers and ranchers to be rural racketeers sponging off other hard working taxpayers to the tune of thousands of dollars of government subsidy checks each year. That they are rapacious destroyers of topsoil, grazing public lands to the grassroots for quick profits.

I grew up on, lived and farmed land my great-great grandfather owned. It has been in the family and farmed since before the Civil War. The farm grows no wheat, soybeans, feed corn, cotton, etc. so receives no government subsidies. The lush fields, the lakes bordered by buffer zones of trees and brush, speak well of my family's 140 years of husbandry.

So I was at first distressed, later amused, by a harangue from an organic-foods-only urbanite over the use of fertilizers and pesticides on farms. When I mentioned the numerous scientific studies that found no nutritional differences between foods raised organically and with chemical fertilizers I was taxed with runoff from chemically fertilized fields fouling streams.

We were standing in his driveway surrounded by a beautiful, perfectly weed free green lawn. I could see a bag of a popular fertilizer/herbicide mix leaning against the garage wall. If one uses the recommended amount, one puts five times as much herbicide on one's lawn as farmers are allowed to use on their crops. His children were out there rolling around in it with some puppies.

Also, given where he lives, his and multiple thousands of other families send their bathroom excretions directly into the Tualatin river. Then there's the runoff from their herbicide drenched lawns running down storm sewers to the same stream.

I pointed this out (none too gently, I'm afraid) and received a completely blank stare in return. He'd never thought of it.

Yet, even now, with his consciousness (maybe) raised, I'll bet if I drive by his place next year, he won't be out in the lawn digging up weeds. He'll probably still be taking his daily dump into the Tualatin and complaining bitterly about rural use of pesticides and herbicides. And doing his very best not to think about it.

The most important phone number between now and election day is 1-800-622-SMART (1-800-622-7627).

The Voter's Research Hotline, a project of Vote Smart, will give you factual information on candidates, contributors, contact numbers and addresses, special interest groups, and ballot measures. Don't vote without it!!

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Health Care Now!

Well, there is finally **free health care** available in Clatsop County. For instance, every Tuesday evening there is a Clinic staffed by volunteer doctors and nurses, at The **Sisters of Providence Hospital in Seaside**. A \$5 donation is requested, but no one will be turned away because of inability to pay. You must call **738-2276** between 1:30 and 5:30 PM to make an appointment for the evening clinic. Doctors will be available for treatment and consultation for the full range of health problems. This program is designed to serve the residents who live south of Youngs Bay and north of Tillamook. If you have a medical emergency you are advised to call 911, of course. At the clinic they also help folks to participate in the Oregon Health Plan.

You can get more information on the **Oregon Health Plan** by calling **1-800-359-9517**.

For your Dental needs there is a **Free Dental Clinic in Astoria**. You can contact **325-6513** for more information.

Local Family Homeless! (as of October 6th)

Help 3 desperate people (including a proud smoker) and two cats find an affordable 2-bedroom home in Cannon Beach. We'd love a lease and wood heat, but our flexibility is legendary. Please call 436-2915 with any information.

UPPER LEFT EDGE OCTOBER 1994 **5**