

This is a letter from our friend Bill in Cannon Beach to his friend Keith in Texas. We'd like to share it with you. It reflects some of the anger and frustration that many of us here in Oregon feel about the coming election and especially Measure 13.

Dear Keith,

What a joy to have your letter today telling us how much your summer in Cannon Beach meant to you and something about your present life away from us back here.

We have all sorts of things to tell but the overriding concern here is the upcoming election on November 8th. Not only do we have to watch from afar races like the one in Texas for the governorship and the race between Oliver North and Charles Robb, but we have a lot of local races and ballot measures in Oregon the outcome of which could strongly impact what you think you have left behind. There are some more than slightly unsavory candidates for the position of mayor of Cannon Beach, for U.S. Congress from our district, and for Governor of Oregon. Most serious of all however, from our point of view, is Ballot Measure 13, sponsored by the Oregon Citizens Alliance. One of the reasons I'm skimming right along is that I already know that by now you can sense what we are really talking about all along is the CHRISTIAN WHITE TRADITIONAL FAMILY VALUES AMERICAN WAY FLAG WAVING CROSS OF JESUS IS LORD AND KING OF THE WHITE MALE PATRIARCHAL IRRATIONAL AUTHORITARIAN RIGID GUN BEARING BIGOT BUT WON'T ADMIT IT PARTY vs. the rest of us.

The most recent concoction of this band of FLAT EARTH SOCIETY CRETINS is that gays in Germany caused the Holocaust during the Third Reich!!! This is especially galling because so many thousands of gays were forced to wear Pink Triangles and were put to death in the camps in Europe along with Jews, gypsies, the mentally ill, the handicapped and any other sub-group which the NAZIS deemed to be undesirable and therefore "disposable". However, the real purpose of Ballot Measure 13 is yet another attempt to create a velvety smooth caramel coated medication to SAVE OUR CHILDREN from the SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF SODOM, that ARMY OF SATAN and the GAY AGENDA that is about to enslave the little ones of Oregon and convert them into UNSPEAKABLE QUEERS.

So far all I can pick up out of this muck is that there is a little slim paper back book called "Heather Has Two Mommies" about a little girl who lives with her mother and her mother's woman-friend in a non-traditional family. It is a slight and non-threatening tale about diversity in the American family social unit today. It is simple and modest. However the OCA and their adherents treat it as the literal SPAWN OF THE DEVIL HIMSELF and as though it were some massive Tome of Devious Purpose laden with more subversive issues than the entire output of Marx, Engels, Lenin and De Sade combined. I suppose the OCA thinks that Heather's two Mommies and Daddy's roommate (another book under fire) are who really killed Nicole Simpson and Ron Goldman!!! I am very certain that very few of those who have resolved to vote yes on this measure have ever seen let alone read a copy of this book. Yet the OCA claims that the GAY AGENDA will make this little book compulsory reading for every school child in Oregon! I doubt that this state contains more than a scant few children who have either seen the book or read it, let alone heard of it. All this is going on while children are murdering children, and having babies, are raped by heterosexual family members and witnessing appalling domestic violence and chaos at home, and urban and social deterioration on a rampant scale all around them. Utter disregard is shown for the data which bears this out - or that it is highly probable that the majority of gay people are genetically predisposed to their sexual orientation or that there are already 6,000,000 children who live in a homosexual nuclear family today and that one rarely hears of this large minority of children suffering the sort of abuse on a per capita basis that their counterparts do in nominally heterosexual households. None of them acknowledge that only 7% of American households today consist of a white middle class non-working homemaker Mom and a legally married white bread-winner Dad of the "Ozzie & Harriet" model. Those television shows of the 1950's were not documentaries, they were fantasies. The "traditional" American family has always been largely a fiction and it is, in any case, a train that has already left the station.

Legislation against gays or any other minority group in America or in Oregon is not going to fix anything. It causes division, wastes time and money and takes away the focus from the real problems, plans for which people like the OCA have none. It is wool gathering of the most dangerous and insidious sort which can only lead to endless factionalism, infighting and legal waste.

I hope to be able to write to you after election day to inform you this measure has been defeated but it is not clear at this point what the outcome is likely to be. It is in the hands of those voters who actually exercise the right and privilege of the vote and who can also think! It's that simple, but as you know it really isn't. People don't like to think. They like to be told what to do in a way that makes them think that they think.


Till the next time -

Love from your pal
in Cannon Beach,

Bill

P.S. Jesus told me that Lon Mabon is no friend of his.

On one occasion I remarked... that democracy had at least one merit, namely, that a Member of Parliament can not be stupider than his constituents, for the more stupid he is, the more stupid they were to elect him.
Bertrand Russell



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A little unfinished business and a few apologies.

First, November 25th is our friend Jerome Arnold's birthday, and as he pointed out it is also the day, twenty years ago, that Karen Silkwood was murdered. If you don't know who Karen was, well, she was the first whistle-blower on the nuclear power industry. Until she let the public know the truth about the dangers of nuclear energy, there was no evidence to prove negligence by the power companies and the rest of the industry. Since Karen's death we have learned the frightening truth about Hanford, Rocky Flats, and we have suffered Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. But she was murdered to silence her words. Jerome worked in the nuclear industry. He no longer does. He wants us to remember a woman who lost her life for our future safety. The next time you drive by the now defunct Trojan plant on highway 30, think not just of Lloyd Marbet and our local activists, but think of Karen Silkwood. Thanks, Jerome.

There were other pieces that were left out of our October issue: ONRC info, more Coast Range stuff and much more that will not make it into this issue, either. We ask your patience. We are still homeless, and a lot of our files and stuff are in storage. Next month will be better, we promise.

We would like to thank our dear friends Prof. Pete, Ron Logan, Leslie, and Rick, for all their help in moving. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will be in our new home, if we can get these wonderful folks to help us again.

You may have noticed that Dr. Karkeys has been absent from these pages as of late, and we dearly miss his insightful and often vaguely tragic voice. We must inform our gentle readers that Dr. Karkeys is of course a nom de plume for Richard Gary Keiski. Gary, as we call him, is of Finnish heritage, a Finnish-American, if you go in for hyphens. The Finns are an interesting people, sharing the Scandinavian heritage, grudgingly, with the Swedes, Danes and Norwegians, and in salmon lore the closest thing to a salmon's butt. They fish. Dr. K's great grandfather (is your beloved editor really going to tell Scandinavian jokes? Yep!) once went ice fishing and finally returned home with a 200 pound block of ice, and when his wife tried to cook it they were both drowned. Being a fisherman, he asked in his will to be buried at sea, and two of his three sons were drowned digging the grave. The surviving son moved to Portland, Oregon, and later his child visited Astoria, where he was recently forced to call the police when he locked his keys in his car, with his family trapped inside. Well, you get the idea. If the beloved doctor does not return to these pages soon, this form of abuse will continue.

Our older sibling publication the North Coast Times Eagle is planning a Special Issue in November. It will be dedicated to Voltaire, in celebration of what would have been his 300th Birthday, had he lived. You remember Voltaire. "I may disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it!" What a guy. Why can't the OCA get it? Anyway, the plan is for this to be a FREE issue, and since the NCTE has almost as silly an ad policy as the Edge, some help will be needed. We suggest you join us in sending a check for \$5 to \$10 bucks (or more if liberty burns bright in your heart and money burns holes in your pocket) to the North Coast Times Eagle, 955 24th Street, Astoria, OR 97103. In a dark time the eye begins to see.

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