

Rev.
Hults

Editorial Now & Then



In our ongoing attempt to bring you a different voice, we would like to share some less than mainstream views about smoking and drinking. First, from the LA Village View April/May 94, Michael Ventura in his column "Letters at 3AM" offers his views "In Defence of Cigarettes". "The American generation now living to 75 came of age during World War II. That generation lived most of its life without 'No Smoking' signs. The majority of them smoked. They were the most productive generation in recorded history. They built the American infrastructure and achieved America's astonishing 1940-1980 output. (So much for the secretary of labour's argument that smoking damages productivity.) . . . In a world in which the sea, the forests, and even the planet's atmosphere are dying, smokers insist that death be visible, undeniable. . . A sentence from a recent Times article; 'Smoking kills about 418,000 people a year, making it the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S.' We have driven ourselves mad enough that in all seriousness we can, without flinching, write and read a phrase like 'preventable death'. . . The anti-smoking campaigners don't exactly say it, but the messianic tone of their rhetoric suggest that to ban smoking is to ban death."

Second, from a little piece we received months ago and, having finally stopped giggling, would like to share. This comes from Skull Varnish Press, 625 SW 10th Ave, Suite 163B, Portland, OR 97205, and is called; 'Alcohol: America's Secret Weapon (Common Sense for Sober Times)' and gives us a short history of alcohol in this country. . . "Consider, for example, the daring voyage of the Pilgrims. The long dangerous time at sea truly tested their mettle, but fortunately they were smart enough to bring along a hefty supply of "beere" for liquid spiritual solace. When the "beere" started to run low, however, the sailors had no choice but to force their human cargo to disembark at unpleasant Plymouth Rock, much farther north than their intended destination, to guarantee enough drink for the return trip. . . Furthermore, the following account taken from the United States Naval Institute Proceedings. . . It describes the voyage of the U.S.S. Constitution which began on August 23, 1779 from Boston: She left with 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shots, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum on board. Her mission was to destroy and harass English shipping.

Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there on 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. On the 18th of November she set sail for England.

In the ensuing days, she defeated five British Men-of-War and captured and scuttled twelve English merchant men, salvaging only their rum. By 27 January her powder and shot were exhausted.

Unarmed, she made a raid up the Firth of Clyde. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons to board by dawn. Then she headed home.

The Constitution arrived in Boston harbor on 20 February 1780, with no cannon shot, no powder, no food, no rum, no whiskey but with 48,000 gallons of stagnant water.

Because of their central role in the success of the American Revolution, drinkers emerged from the war intact, exuding confidence, with increased legitimacy and independence. Unfortunately, the rich snobs who subsequently emerged to rule the country didn't like this independence at all and started the long terrible process of strictly regulating alcohol consumption. Liquor taxes, suppression of the heroic Whiskey Rebellion, early closing hours, liquor licenses, mandatory drinking ages. . . This orgy of temperance finally culminated in Prohibition in the 1920's, which predictably led to economic collapse and depression. . . It behooves us all to seriously consider the example of Soviet Russia under Mikail Gorbachev's dictatorial rule. One of Gorbachev's first decrees, and certainly his most foolish, was the systematic implementation of his now infamous anti-alcohol program. As soon as this suicidal policy went into effect, the Soviet Empire started to collapse. Their economy ground to a halt, they admitted defeat in Afghanistan, confessed to the evil deeds of their past, and began junking Communism in favor of capitalism.

On the other hand consider the painfully sobering case of post-war West Germany. Germans increased their liquor consumption 500% in the years 1950 to 1976, a time of phenomenal economic growth many superficial analysts call a "miracle". . . We believe it's time for all patriotic Americans to stand up and help put alcohol back at the center of American social life, where it so obviously belongs. And that is why we've written and distributed this concise pamphlet -- to educate the American people and help you become a healthy, productive, liquor-loving member of society. In this way, we can all help America regain his rightful place as Number One among nations, and prove all those self-righteous teetotalers wrong!"

Mo stuff,

With access to cable TV we not only get to see our beloved Cubs sink again slowly to the basement of their division, we also get some really weird stuff like the Moscow evening news. Trust us, it is worth watching if only to remind yourself that we aren't that bad, and that the inherent weakness of the communist system was its lack of common sense. It was all idealistic frosting on a totalitarian cake, and to put none too fine a point on it they did, and to this day still do dumb things. Chernobyl was the final straw, but not the final episode of dumb. Recently on the Moscow evening news there was a report of a near miss of a nuclear power plant by a rocket from a fighter plane fired during a practice exercise. Scary? Yes, but what makes it dumb is that the nuclear power plant is located on the practice range. Planning.

Lately, due to the rising costs of paper, we have been reconsidering our advertising policies, and the most common question is: why doesn't the Edge accept real estate ads? Well, we do; we have on occasion run ads for individuals selling their homes. We don't currently accept ads from real estate companies, (not that we have been asked lately). The reasons are philosophical, and personal. But several arguments, such as, "Who would you rather move to Cannon Beach, someone who reads the Edge, or someone who reads L.A. Times?" give us pause. So, even though, as we have always maintained, "It's our paper and we can do what we want; if you don't like it start your own damn paper", we would like our readers' views on the subject. Okay? (Oh, and what about the Municipal Memo [page 3]? Worth the space?)

A personal note to Our Lady of MicroSoft. We received your blessing, and have mentioned your generosity during vespers at the Chapel of Bill's. Kissy Kissy, from Your Beloved Reverend.

As we go to press the Sahallie Project is coming up for a vote at the Seaside City Council, and we have had some rather dubious goings on the County Commission, so we recommend that you keep in touch with your elected or appointed public servants, and remind them. We are watching.

Congrats to Watt & Jenny Childress on the birth of Ms. Willa Byrd, way back in Lower Right America.

And our condolences to the 4th Amendment at the hands of the current Supreme Court. Apparently the War on Drugs can't be fought in a constitutional manner. And the crushing of the Vernonia Drug Cartel requires children to supply body fluids for examination on demand.

The Upper Left Edge is a monthly Broadsheet (approximately 12" x 21") publication with a current distribution of 5,000. It is circulated throughout the Oregon and Washington coastal communities and many larger metropolitan areas. As stated in the upper left corner of the Edge flag, it is Free to the vast majority of its readership; though there is a rapidly increasing number of subscribers worldwide. Now in its third year of continual growth, The Upper Left Edge relies on advertising funds to keep it in print.

Advertising rates are as follows:

Business Card Size Ad	\$30.
1/16th approx. 3 x 5	\$35.
1/8th approx 4 x 7	\$50.
1/4th approx. 6 1/2 x 9	\$100.
1/2 page	\$150.
Full page	\$300.
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. . . per month. Payment is due the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which the ad is to appear. Camera ready art is requested. We are usually on the streets by the first weekend of the month.

Please call (503) 436-2915 for further information; ask for Billy or Sally.

WHERE TO GET AN EDGE

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Very few people possess true artistic ability. It is therefore both unseemly and unproductive to irritate the situation by making an effort. If you have a burning, restless urge to write or paint, simply eat something sweet and the feeling will pass.
Fran Lebowitz

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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