

This is the piece I had hoped never to write. I am angry and disgusted, venomous and spiteful, saddened for us all. A clique of Stumptown Brahmins, fattened on inheritance, attorney fees, the spoils of computer software and trustfunds have begun gouging at the fore - and secondary dunes at Chapman Point. Oh, yes. It's all very legal and proper. All the site plans, developer's renderings and legal machinations have been lubed and polished. Five thousand to ten thousand square foot manses will soon hunker down on thousands of yards of concrete, hard testimony to a certain kind of modern success, or what passes for success in a small, sour time, a dark history window.

My friends plead with me to relax. "Be flexible," they say. "If you don't you'll go crazy." Maybe so, but I will have my say first.

Some years ago the State of Oregon was approached by the property's owner, requesting the land be included in state lands, left in perpetuity as natural dune. His heirs and executors, apparently keener on collecting art trinketry and personal aggrandizement than in preserving natural beauty, have decided to sell off to the highest bidder.

"Let's soften the sinecure, Herbert. Crushed velour is nice, but real leather feels much nicer on the burn. And it's affordable now!"

I curse them and their progeny for 100 generations. In the 1960's, a plan was proposed by a group in the community to place are lights on Haystack Rock, fully illuminating the rock, so that tourists could see it at night. A walkway up its face was suggested. This idiocy was summarily quashed by the federal government which recognized the rock as a wildfowl refuge.

We live in a fat, bloated time. The natural world, places of inherent beauty, have few champions and defenders. One's sensibilities reel from the blows. How many Opal Creeks, Hoh Rivers, and Chapman Points must we sully and grind into rubble and wood chips before we see?

Is it fitting that Yosemite be turned into a nature theme park for recreational vehicle families? Should Ninja Turtles scale the slopes of Saddle Mountain? Should Oregon beaches really be paved with asphalt as Reverend Hults suggests, so that people will have greater automobile access? Will we pass the corner newspaper stand one morning to discover that Ecola Park has been bequeathed to the former distinguished Oregon Senator, Bob Packwood, for his many years of trusted service?

Nothing surprises me anymore. An O.J. Simpson juror plans to sell photos of her naked

body to Playboy Magazine. Inheritors set a price on the priceless land at Chapman Point and sell it off to some tired Boeing executive or hack

lawyer from Lake Oswego. Wake up people. You're asleep in your own mire. Have you no shame?

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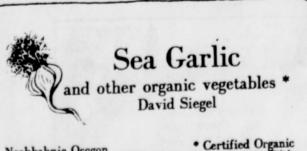
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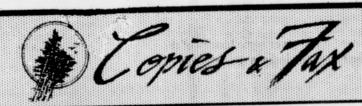
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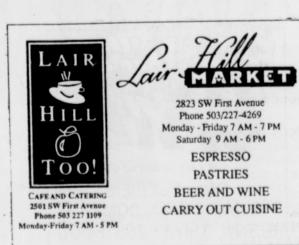
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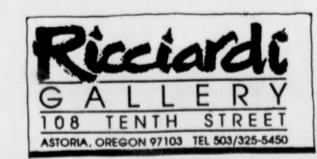
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