

Rev.
Hults

Editorial Now & Then



On the subject of being born, we are still having excessive amounts of fun doing this, and one example is we have a new feature that we have coveted for years. A CROSSWORD PUZZLE!!!! Yes, our prince of dada, John Juan man fraser, begins with a challenging look at the alternatives to starvation in Cannon Beach. Also, (back to the whining) due to the suicide of Uncle Mike's computer (we believe it), and the subsequent succumbing to abuse of his electric typewriter, we are reprinting excerpts from the July & September 1994 issues, which made us giggle. So that you don't think this is just a journalistic form of lollygagging, we must explain that this is in fact a teaser for the long-awaited volume, "The Best of Uncle Mike", which will be in your local book stalls soon; no, not in time for Christmas. But stay tuned, we will be telling you more about that and the legendary "Uncle Mike's Guide to the Oregon Coast", assuming we can get more kids to give us their milk money.

More Stuff

Now, how about us Republicans!!!! The idea is to shut down the Government until the Liberals learn to treat folks like Newt Gingrich with the respect they are due. Your beloved Rev. is a registered Republican, who proudly cast his mail-in vote for the woman who will sit in the Senate seat, which we hope has been thoroughly cleaned since it was vacated by Mr. Packwood. The point being that the job, the responsibility of the representative in a representative form of democracy, is to represent. One wonders whom Mr. G is representing? The adolescent ego vote? Actually, he lives in a district that gets more per capita Government support than any other in the country. One wonders how he will do in the coming election. In the attempt to cut the size of government and the budget, we spent \$800 million to shut it down. And one of the more under-reported items in that budget is the Defense Budget which the Congress wanted to increase, even beyond Clinton's rather generous and perhaps guilt-ridden efforts on their behalf. Well, in spite of all this we must muddle on, and we do in fact recommend that you all cast your vote in any way available, in any elections you are able to. It is the only thing that separates us from the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free", and that even an imperfect democracy is something worth supporting. Yes, again we recall that we must be busy being born or we will surely be busy dying.

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The wailing of the newborn infant is mingled with the dirge for the dead.
Lucretius (96? - 55 B.C.)

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• GOOD FOR A YEAR'S READING OF THE EDGE •

Continued from page 1.

we printed the tide table for the wrong year and lived in agony for a month for fear someone would depend on us and suffer from our error.

This present mistake caused a great deal of agony as well, for we hold in high esteem those people like the Wessingers and former Mayor Schwab who give of themselves for the good of the community. Also, we mean no disrespect for John Yeon and the good he did in his life. But what we regret the most is when the discussion becomes divisive. The polarization of the rich and the poor in this country is reaching a dangerous level. Class warfare seems to be on the agenda of several groups of both the left and right. We believe that it doesn't matter how much money you have, it's what you do with it.

The final comment, "If the news media fails to do its utmost to get the facts straight the community is better off without it", caused a deep burning in our gut, and some serious thoughts and second thoughts about what the hell we are doing. Your editor is a 51 year old high school drop out trying to raise a 17 year old and run a used book store, in what he considers to be the most beautiful place left on the planet. The paper started as a way to promote the local music and arts scene. We do not strive to be the "paper of record"; most of our articles are editorial in nature. We print the Municipal Memo because the city asked us to. We don't charge them for the space. For the most part our advertisers are just like us, small businesses struggling to make the rent, and the deadline. Nobody has enough money or enough time.

We take our readers' opinions seriously, and if we cause them to think or even get angry, we serve a purpose. We print their letters. We listen to their complaints, and share them with the community. We try to do this with an attitude of compassion mixed in with the outrage. We are not, nor is any "media" perfect. Perfection is not even on our list of goals. A free press, like any part of a democracy, depends on the participation of the people, and it is inherently messy.

After we wrote the above, (one of the joys and pains of a monthly publication is that a long time passes between our deadlines) Herb popped in the door of the bookstore, and without comment handed us an envelope. Inside was the following note. . .

"Dear Billy,

Regardless of my letter concerning Chapman Point and the Yeon Property I believe your paper is a community asset worth supporting.
Sincerely, Herb Schwab

. . . and a check. In defense of Prof. Pete, not that he needs it, his story was written before the gift was announced. The confusion was totally in the mind of your editor. And nonetheless we still believe he is right that there is too much development taking place, period. Like it or not, we all get to have an opinion.

We were reminded that the most important thing about this messy process, is that it involves people who care about other people and their rights, and the respect we have for that relatively new concept on the face of this little blue ball. Thanks, Herb, as usual you teach us by example.

The Edge is a very personal project, and when we are told the community would be better off without it, we take it very personally. We are considering making the community better off; we had planned to publish for five years and then assess our situation and plot a new course or stay the present one. In view of decreasing ad revenues, increased costs, and the amount of time and trouble it takes each month to publish, we are considering making that assessment sooner. We will let our advertisers and subscribers know if we plan to hang on or just step aside and let Rupert Murdoch, USA Today, and the rest serve the upper left edge in the manner we have come to expect.

Well, so there you have it. It's like the end of Peter Pan or Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz; we are, as usual at your mercy once again. Click your heels together and say, "there's nothing like the Edge, there's nothing like the Edge." This is the winter of our discontent, and we are understandably cranky. If you, our readers, don't 1) renew your subscriptions, 2) send us your old and rare books, 3) write a check that will clear the bank, we, like many, many newspapers will, in fact. . . is this beginning to sound like an Oral Roberts sermon?

The goal of all life is death.
Sigmund Freud

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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