



It occurred to me over the course of the last month that my rants against the governmental organization Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms could be construed, in light of the day's political climate, as somewhat right-wing militia oriented. Rest assured my distaste for the BATF comes from experience and solid left-wing roots. If however, you are loony enough to think that Pat Buchanan has credible ideas and that I am in your camp as an "anti-government activist", your line of logic is apparently as clear as Alan Keyes leaps of logic.

No, I only get into a huff when governments get ridiculous with their vigor to regulate things that obviously need minimal oversight, while ignoring areas which could use considerable concentration. Wine faces this over-burdening and it keeps getting worse in the days of downsizing. Just in the last month a bill was put forth in the Kentucky Legislature that would make direct shipping of wine or spirits to a resident of Kentucky a felony carrying a sentence of five years and \$25,000 fine. To what end does this proposed law serve the presumably good citizens of Kentucky? What it is backasswardly trying to do is further solidify the state and distributor monopoly on alcohol in Kentucky. It is government for the benefit of government and those already in the loop. Will Big Brother one day have to open, sample, test, and pour every bottle of wine at some point in a "Brazil" like future?

This is obviously one of the more overt actions governments in conjunction with the BATF take to impact the legal trade of wine and spirits. Most of the rules and regulations are stuff the consumer never gets to see. Sometimes the rules and regulations impact what the consumer gets to see and ultimately what is available to buy.

The regulations concerning labels borders on the outrageous. Labeling of alcoholic beverages is quite the bureaucratic event. Recently Chateau Mouton-Rothschild, perhaps the most famous and prestigious winery in the world, introduced a wine in its artist series label. Past labels have featured the works of such artists as Picasso and Warhol. This recent release featured a line drawing of a nude young girl. In a turnabout from other days in which the BATF rejected labels from Clos Pegase and Kenwood for artistic nudity, the Mouton label was approved. A turnabout? Not really, given the BATF's track record of taking on littler wineries and turning a head for larger ones. However, in the face of a firestorm of organized public protest from some really uptight people the BATF considered rescinding approval. The winery ultimately has withdrawn the wine from sale in the United States.

At the winery where I work we had to change the phrase "To make glad the heart with wine" to "... the soul with wine" because the BATF asserted we were making a health claim. We also had to submit a letter stating that the two areas on our label that contain artistically scribbled words (space fillers) had no "obscene or lewd content". We are also required, as all wine and spirit manufacturers are, to print the alcohol content on our labels. This decree came from the bureaucracy that has spent millions in lawsuits to keep beer manufacturers from voluntarily putting the alcohol content on their labels. The weirdness never ends.

Perhaps there will be some sort of sensible reform in coming years in the form of trickle down legislation. The BATF has been reluctant to deal directly with larger wineries that bend their arcane rules. It just happens that Gallo, yes the biggie of biggies, is the most generous funder of Bob Dole's entire political career. Gallo is also the 4th largest contributor to Bill Clinton's career campaign coffers. While what's good for Gallo isn't necessarily good for normal sized wineries, their exercising of political reform through cash contributions may spur some modest changes.

In the meantime keep the forms and rule changes coming.

**Recommended Wines for the Month:** It is now March and good weather lies ahead; however, gray and rain will still dominate the scene. Hearty reds should remain atop of your wine list.

**Penfolds Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon 1991:** A heart pounding example of Cab from Down Under. Possessing stunningly intense fruit, a velvety texture that leads into a long finish where the fruit pours over the structured tannins. As good a Cab as you can find anywhere in the world. \$35-40 is not an outrage for a wine good enough to drink now or in 15 years.

**Quinta Do Infitado Vintage Character Port:** Last month's Port suggestion was merely a prelude to this blockbuster. This is a big, monstrous, dark Tawny Port. It's also certified 100% organic. The nose is big with fruits, molasses and dark baked bread. The wine is heady (19.5% alcohol) with a big mid-palate of plums and cassis leading into a smooth, peppery finish. It goes for about \$24.



Lifelong dissent has more than acclimated me cheerfully to defeat. It has made me suspicious of victory.  
I. F. Stone

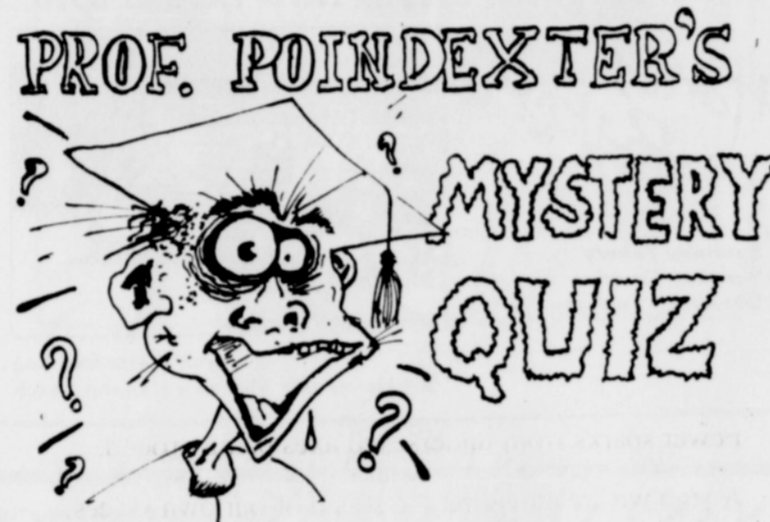
It is a warm sunny day on the beach... a beautiful view... a lovely bottle of wine from the daily lunch shop on the main drag in Cannon Beach operated by Laurel Hood.

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- 1) What was the origin of the word "News"?
- 2) Why were buttons first put on coat sleeves?
- 3) What cheese is made backwards?
- 4) How did the ouija board get its name?
- 5) What is the origin of the term "A-1"?
- 6) What are policepeople called in Ireland and England, and why?
- 7) Where did the phrase "Mind your P's and Q's" come from?
- 8) How did the thimble get its name?
- 9) Who invented the banjo?
- 10) Who are the four Kings represented in a pack of playing cards?

**ANSWERS**

- 1) It is formed from the first letters of the words North, East, West, and South.
- 2) It was the idea of Frederick the Great to deter his soldiers from wiping their noses on the sleeves of their uniforms.
- 3) Edam, you moron. Wake up and pay attention, this isn't that hard.
- 4) Yes German, Yes French, get it?
- 5) Lloyds of London used this symbol to indicate quality of insurance risk and seaworthiness of ships. A is the best rating on the hull, and 1 would grade a superior rigging.
- 6) In Ireland, cops are called "peelers", and in England they're "bobbies". Both were named after Sir Robert Peeler, who founded both the Irish and London police forces, as well as taking the moribund Tory Party into Maggie Thatcher's Conservative Party of today. Or yesterday.
- 7) If you kept a tab in a Pub, the barkeep would score P for pints and Q for quarts. So, if you started to get too liquored up, or, more likely, ran out of shillings, he would say. . .
- 8) It was worn on the thumb, and was shaped like a bell. Thumb bell became thimble.
- 9) The banjo was invented by a versatile Irish musician named Joe Sweeney, a one man band. From that we get, obviously, band-Joe. Oh, my brain is so big it hurts!
- 10) King David the Psalmist, Charlemagne, Alexander the Great, and Julius Caesar.

**Score Your Worthless Self:**

- 1-9 Correct -- Fugedaboutit.
- 10 Correct -- Keep Workin' On It.
- 11 Correct -- Well Done, You Cheatin' Lying S.O.B.

*The Wine Shack*

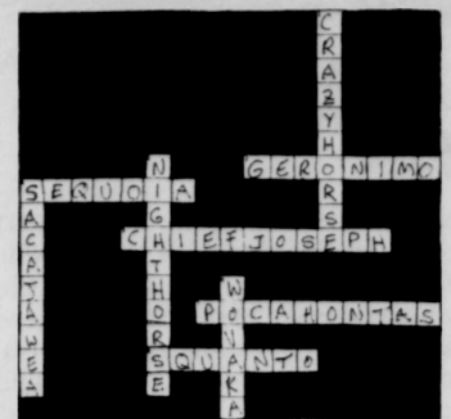
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**WHERE TO GET AN EDGE**

**Cannon Beach:** Jupiter's Rare and Used Books, Osburn's Grocery, The Cookie Co., Coffee Cabaña, Bill's Tavern, Cannon Beach Book Co., Hane's Bakerie, The Bistro, Midtown Café, Once Upon a Breeze, Knoodlz, Copies & Fax, Heather's, Haystack Video, Mariner Market, & Cleanline Surf

**Manzanita:** Manzanita News & Espresso, Bayside Gardens, Cassandra's, Pacific Coast Books & Coffee, & Nehalem Bay Video

**Rockaway:** Sharkey's

**Tillamook:** Rainy Day Books

**Pacific City:** The River House

**Oceanside:** Ocean Side Espresso

**Lincoln City:** Trillium Natural Foods, Driftwood Library, & Eats 'n' Stuff

**Newport:** Oceana Natural Foods, Don Petrie's Italian Food Co., Café DIVA, Cosmo Café, Bookmark Café, Newport Bay Coffee Co., Cuppatunes, Bay Latté, Ocean Pulse Surf Shop, Coastal Coffee Co., & Canyon Way

**Eugene:** Book Mark, Café Navarra, Eugene Public Library, Friendly St. Market, Happy Trails, Keystone Café, Kiva Foods, Lane C.C., Light For Music, New Frontier Market, Nineteenth Street Brew Pub, Oasis Market, Perry's, Red Barn Grocery, Sundance Natural Foods, U of O, & WOW Hall

**Corvallis:** Not Necessarily the News, & The Environmental Center

**Salem:** Heliotrope, Salem Library, & The Peace Store

**Astoria:** KMUN, Columbian Café, The Community Store, & Café Uniontown

**Seaside:** Buck's Book Barn, Universal Video, & Cafe Espresso

**Portland:** Act III, Barnes & Noble, Belmonts Inn, Bibelot Art Gallery, Bijou Café, Borders, Bridgeport Brew Pub, Capt'n Beans (two locations), Center for the Healing Light, Coffee People (three locations), Common Grounds Coffee, East Avenue Tavern, Food Front, Goose Hollow Inn, Hot Lips Pizza, Java Bay Café, Key Largo, La Patisserie, Lewis & Clark College, Locals Only, Marco's Pizza, Marylhurst College, Mt. Hood CC, Music Millenium, Nature's (two locations), NW Natural Gas, OHSU Medical School, Old Wives Tales, Ozone Records, Papa Haydn, PCC (four locations), PSU (two locations), Reed College, Third Eye, TransCentral Library, & YWCA

**Long Beach, WA:** Pacific Picnics

**Nahcotta, WA:** Moby Dick Hotel

**Duvall, WA:** Duvall Books

**Seattle, WA:** Elliot Bay Book Co., Honey Bear Bakery, New Orleans Restaurant, Still Life in Fremont, Allegro Coffeehouse, The Last Exit Coffee House, & Bulldog News

**Bainbridge Island, WA:** Eagle Harbor Book Co.

**Washington, D.C.:** Hotel Tabard Inn