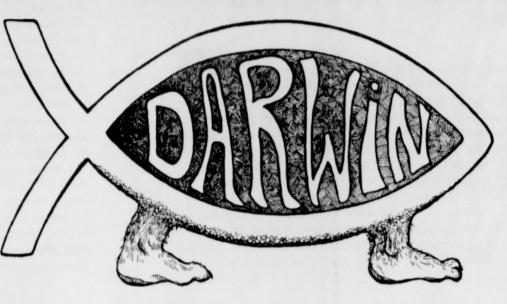


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"More Real Than Perfect"



So, it looks like the theme of this issue will be what is real and what is perfect.

Your beloved reverend, having pondered the question since the sixties has only come up with one answer; the universe. Real in that we can never know what it really is, and perfect in its chaos.

No, we do not worship the universe, though we are ordained in the Universal Life Church. We don't consider the universe a 'thing'. The universe, like everything, is a verb. We prefer to think of it as a song. "Music of the Spheres", and all that.

To all of our friends who do subscribe to the dogma of organized religions, we do not question your faith but we do not share it. Physics is as close as we come to having faith in something we don't understand. Perfect isn't even on our list.

Our headline this month is a phrase that has been applied to your beloved editor more than once. We have never thought to deny it. We have found no shame in it, we don't celebrate it, often, but we live with it, like everyone else. It is obviously part of our credo at the Edge.

In a perfect world there would be no death and suffering, there would be a just God, and we could be masters of our destiny. (Everybody eats, nobody hits, and we get to love whomever we wish.)

But it is a real world and people die, and suffer,

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, The Homegrown Cafe, 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

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, The Wet Dog Cafe& Café Uniontown
Seaside: Buck's Book Barn, Universal Video, & Cafe



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BASEBALL

We, meaning the Cubs, of course, are four games below five hundred, at this moment, and we face the last third of the season, with some trepidation, but with the hope that aprings eternal within the human breast. We'd bet even money if Grace, Amazing Grace, would have a chance at that. We would have a chance, if Grace would swing that bat. Or, maybe, Sosa. Go, Cubbies!!!!

and we aren't willing to classify "God" as real or just. We encourage our readers to laugh at their failures and giggle at their successes, and have a healthy skepticism when someone when listening to folks that speak of "the word of God".

In the late eighteen hundreds Col. Robert Ingersoll, and Civil War hero and biblical scholar tour the country giving lectures. We would like to share part of one with our readers.

"Man has no idea, and can have none, except those suggested by his surroundings. He cannot conceive of anything utterly unlike what he has seen or felt. He can exaggerate, diminish combine, separate, deform, beautify, prove, multiply and compare what he sees, what he feels, what he hears, and all of which he takes congnizance through the medium of his senses; but he cannot create. Having seen exhibitions of power, he can say, omnipotent. Having lived, he can say, immortality. Knowing something of time, he can say, eternity. Conceiving something of intelligence, he can say, God. Having seen exhibitions of malice, he can say, devil. A few gleams of happiness having fallen athwart the gloom of his life, he can say, heaven. Pain, in its numberless forms, having been experienced, he can say, hell. Yet all these ideas have a foundation in fact, and only a foundation. The superstructure has been reared by exaggerating, diminishing, combining seperating, deforming, beautifying, improving or multiplying realities, so that the edifice or fabric is but the incongruous grouping of what man has perceived through the medium of the senses. It is as though we shoud give to a lion the wings of an eagle, the hoofs of a bison, the tail of a horse, the pouch of a kangaroo, and the trunk of an elephant. We have in imagination created an impossible monster. And yet the various parts of this monster really exist. So it is with the gods that man has Robert Ingersoll made."



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