

Rev.
Hults

Editorial Now & Then

There are many ways to take a giant step outside your mind; our favorite is of Zen.

Your Beloved Editor is, in fact, the only Minister in the "Rastified Church of the Cowboy Buddha" which is an extremely small Zen sect. The Cowboy Buddha believes that we can either add to or reduce the chaos, by buying into or bailing out of 'the system'. The choice and it's timing are important.

This being said, here are our recommendations for the November ballot measure initiatives. There are 23 measures up for a vote. 15 amend the Constitution of Oregon. We think 2 of them should be voted for, one for reasons serious and the other amusing. Measure 28 corrects a problem with Veterans eligibility, and it seems to make sense to pass it. Measure 39 on the other hand is the one that allows alternative health services to be covered under the Oregon Health plan. This is a sneaky ploy on the part of the tobacco industry to spend \$750,000 and split the resources of the medical industry, so they won't be able to overcome the media blitz to defeat Measure 44, a thirty cent tax on cigarettes. We think it would be nice to let the tobacco industry win one, and we can get any kind of health care we want, and we think we should let them lose one so we can pay for it. Cool, huh? Yes, your beloved editor is a smoker and any smoker would be a fool not to be willing to spend thirty cents a pack to make sure there is a health care system in place when, not if, they need it. We recommend only 8 yes votes over all.

Our choices are 28, 32, 36, 37, 38, 39, 43 & 44.

(32, is Light Rail, yes, it will be worth the money. 36, is raising the Minimum wage to \$6.50 in three years, yes, it will too be good for small business. 37 & 38 are the bottle bill and the clean streams initiatives, yes, they will be good for Oregon's environment and reputation. 43, is to allow collective bargaining for public employees in essential services like police and fire. These people protect our lives, yes, they can be trusted to bargain in good faith.)

The rest seem either to be just plain dumb, mean, or overkill.

We are again forced to deal with Bill Sizemore and Don McIntrey, and their concept of micro-management by mass manipulation. These guys and the one trick dog and pony shows have reached their zenith, hopefully. Voters have realized that a quick fix is often the beginning of a slow and on going problem.

Yes, representational government is not efficient, but the alternative is wild guesses at what might or might not work, made-up out of whole cloth by folks who have not been elected by the people to do the job. No, we don't want to discourage citizens who are willing to participate in the process, but we do think it is a good idea to check out the history of an issue, and what the ramifications of your ideas might be. The painful example is Bill Sizemore's Measure 11 from the last cycle. This was the three strikes, mandatory sentencing, and minors tried as adults measure that will be forcing the taxpayers of Oregon to join California and several other states in spending more on prisons than they do on schools. Which Molly Ivens correctly defines as a sign of a doomed civilization. Mr. Sizemore wrote that measure without consulting the legal or political minds in the state, and has earned their everlasting mistrust. Not to mention costing the taxpayers more than can be calculated without a degree in accounting.

As we ponder Volume 1 of the Voters' Pamphlet, we feel your pain as a voter. There is a lot of crap there. We took page after page of notes until we could get a rough idea what was going on. But it wasn't without it's giggles. The neat thing about the voters' pamphlet is that any nut with \$500 bucks can say what they want, so we get some weird reading material every election. We have scattered some of the more interesting quotes throughout this issue.

Also scattered hither and yon are some lovely drawings that the humble Ms. Lackaff drew for June's Garden. My, wouldn't it be nice to have a tidy and presentable little volume of June's columns with some lovely drawings by young Sally? Just a thought.

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In volume 2, **The Candidates**, is not nearly as weird. We hope our readers in Oregon will join us in supporting Tom Bruggere for the US Senate, he is the Democratic millionaire. He seems like a funny guy, and we especially like his line about government protecting us from "erection to resurrection" and his recent reply to Gordon Smith's charge of extremism, for accepting the endorsement of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, (after Smith had accepted the endorsement of the Oregon Citizens Alliance in the last go round) was nicely stated; "I would rather be endorsed by people who love trees, than people who hate people."

We did attend the Furse/Witt debate at the Coaster Theater here in Cannon Beach, and were our typically obnoxious self. We asked Mr. Witt if he had managed to settle the little fine (\$40 grand?) that he was allegedly levied, for turning back the counters on copiers he had sold to schools and churches, but he explained that we were mistaken, and we of course took his word for it. It did bother us a bit that during the debate he did seem to enjoy describing people as "pro-abortion" and the graphic details of the late term procedures.

Bill, the women in the audience, and yes, some of the men, find that about as relevant to politics as the procedures for a circumcision. The final blow was when you spoke about a constitutional amendment to ban flag burning, when the moderator Lars Larson was wearing a necktie that looked like an American flag. Hell, Abbie Hoffman got busted for that, back when you were a kid.

Yes, dear readers if you want values, and character, Ms. Furse has shown them for decades, founding the Peace Institute in Portland, and serving the people of Oregon with dignity and tenacity in Congress. These are things you don't slip on like a campaign tee-shirt these are what you put the tee-shirt over.

For Oregonians these are the two most important votes we will cast this time. If we can keep Elisabeth Furse, and elect Tom Bruggere we have a pretty good chance of making it onto that bridge to the twenty first century 'ole slick Willie' keeps talking about.

Speaking of the Commander in Chief, we noticed that the Big "O" got it wrong again, they are for Smith & Witt, and they are against the bottle bill, and for Bill Clinton, for the second time in the last hundred years, they endorsed a Democrat. Granted a Corporate Democrat.

We must remember that Bill, like Bob is a product of his time. But (or butt) so is Joe Camel. We seriously believe that it is in the best interest of our readers that we strongly suggest that they chose Ralph Nader, if he is on their ballot, as he is here in Oregon. No, of course he has no chance, and no if you vote for Nader you don't have a chance in hell of getting Dole. What you have a chance to do, if Nader gets 5% of the vote, is doing what Perot did last time, get matching funds. Which establishes a base to build a party that is interested in corporate responsibility, environmental responsibility, and consumer's rights. We obviously have to reform the way we finance our elections, and the two party system is incapable of taking on the task. They are both beholding to "dance with them what brung 'em", as Molly Ivens puts it. (Yes, we like that woman.)

The amount of corporate influence on our political process is noticeable locally in the recent number of "news" stories about cougar sightings, and the "dangers" of air bags, prior the elections. We will be interested to see how much ink they get in December.

Mo stuff,

We are delighted to be possibly the first to report that a local shingler of some talent was among the finishers in the misnamed "Iron Man" competition on the Big Island of Hawaii. Laurie Beers finished the mere two mile plus swim, hundred mile plus bike ride, and twenty mile plus run, in fourteen hours and thirty two minutes. Reports are that she sensibly walked a ways with one of the other contestants, and hopes to better her time at the next event. Think about it the next time your too tired to get up to change the channel. Or just get a remote. It's your choice.

October 16, 1996

Letter to the Editor:

Kudos to Ken Campbell! He's preparing to rebuild and improve Bill's Tavern. In the process of anticipating a change to this landmark building, I reflect in this place I have danced, sang, held meetings, conducted fundraisers, read poetry and stories, done political activities, chowed down on burgers and consumed various quantities of beer.

I commend Ken that he has, over a long time, conducted a successful business. A business that has become an integral part of our community. I've enjoyed the older version and I'm looking forward to the new version. Change rubs some folks, apparently, the wrong way. Well--to them I say that not all changes is bad. And, in fact, some change is really good. For my part, I look forward to continuing having fun and memorable events at this hub of town. And I'm certain that Ken will continue in his behind-the-scenes way to donate to, participate in and, in general, support the locals whose patronage have both made this change necessary and possible.

Mary Anne Hershey
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Now for the bad news. If you do in fact hold this issue in your hands it is because once again the magic worked, or someone had pity on this poor publication, and loaned us enough to print and distribute, thus putting your beloved editor deeper in debt than he has ever been. This must stop. We are tired of begging, we are sick of the worry and pain. It costs \$668 to print each ten page issue of the Edge, it costs another almost \$400 to distribute it each month, not to mention various other costs. This, you might notice, doesn't include any money for writers, artists, editors, etc. As we write this the balance in our bank account is less than \$500, and our accounts receivable are about the same, but there's no telling when or if they will come in. Our advertisers are having a tough time too. It is winter again on the Upper Left Coast of America. Well, the point is we will try to fulfill our promise to publish for the full five years (March would be the last issue), but at this point the odds don't look too good. Fair warning. Our plans for publishing Uncle Mike's Real Guide to the Oregon Coast are likewise suffering from lack of support, and it may not reach the stores until spring.

So, what will it take to stop this whining? We are trying to throw a bunch of benefits for the Edge and the Left Coast Group, our non-profit group that will be publishing Uncle Mike's Guide, as well as Ms. Sally's Wildlife on the Edge, and you can too. Take the invitation below and fill in the blanks, send it to a bunch of friends, and take donations for the Edge, and orders for the books, (\$20 each for autographed limited editions), and send it in. Hell, it might work. If not, thanks for trying, and thanks for all your support over the years and the kind words about our little paper, we love you all, very much.

Billy
Billy

UNCLE MIKE'S GUIDE TO THE REAL OREGON COAST



MICHAEL BURGESS
with (disturbing illustrations by)
STEVE MCLEOD.

You are invited
to join with your friends and neighbors,
at a fund raising event, for the
Left Coast Group
(a non-profit corporation in Oregon).

"Uncle Mike's Real Guide to the Oregon Coast"
by Michael Burgess,
with disturbing illustrations by Steve McLeod,
"The Best of Uncle Mike"
by Michael Burgess, and
"Wildlife on the Edge"
by Sally Lackaff,
are ready to go to press!

We will be taking orders for the autographed limited editions of these three volumes, as well as tax deductible donations for the
Left Coast Group.

Where: _____

When: _____

RSVP (503)436-2915 or send checks to:
Left Coast Group Box 1222, Cannon Beach, OR 97110

Advertising rates:

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.
Back page	\$400.

... 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.