

Rev.
Hults

Editorial Now & Then



Now that the initial glow of being back in print has dimmed a little, and the work is once again required, a thought occurred. We have a strange lack of reviews in the Edge. Perhaps it is that most reviews we are used to reading in the media are written by the publicist for the book, movie, TV show, or some lobbyist for the cause of the month. The aforementioned thought was to write some book reviews of 'used' books, old movies, stuff that we might have missed. We thought it would be nice if our readers/writers would tell us the story of a book that they liked and don't think anyone else ever read. Or a movie or whatever. Don't be too eloquent, we will probably only be printing the titles, authors, etc., and maybe a little of why it is recommended.

Of course, if you insist on writing a concise, amusing, compelling story with no typo's, we would be force to print it.

So, read any good books lately?
We'll start with a small story.

We were sitting in the bookstore a while back when a couple in their late fifties, early sixties came in and began to browse, the gentleman commented on the classical music playing on the old turntable. We allowed as how classical music and books seem to work well together. The conversation then, not suprisingly, led to books and writers, and it was a pleasant intelligent sharing of information and emotions. The woman then mentioned that "George, here writes." The gentleman explained that he had had a few things published, a play that he turned into a novel, and a few mysteries. "Really," we gushed, having a well know weakness for writers, and an addiction to mysteries. "what kind of mysteries?" "Historical, I guess," he said, "my detective is Leonardo da Vinci."

Well, George Herman, who lives in Portland, Oregon, brought me a copy of his first book, "Carnival of Saints". It takes place in Italy in the 1400's, the times of the Borgia Pope's, the Medici, Machiavelli, and yes Leonardo da Vinci. It was also the beginning time for what later became popular theater, the commedia dell'arte. Theatre at that time was, of course the province of the courts, the church, or the patrons of the new merchant class. The hard life of the peasant held little intellectual stimulation or entertainment. Until companies of displaced but talented entertainers began to perform in the streets, and move from village to town to cities, doing broad bawdy parodies and the usual juggling and acrobatics. Mr. Herman who is a student as well as a teacher of theater, lovingly and irreverently tells the history of his craft with a cast of characters that you learn to love. The next two books, Mr. Herman dropped off at the store (signed first editions both, an author who understands a bookman) bring the Commedia dell'arte back to the courts and conspiracy as well as introducing Niccolo a dwarf with a photographic memory who is assigned to the Maestro Leonardo to teach the artist Latin. Yes, you get a good bit of delicious history with your mystery. Debauchery, gluttony, greed, envy, and a bunch of 15th century Merry pranksters wisecracking their way in and out of trouble, as history splashes all around them on the muddy roads that don't always lead to Rome. Leonardo's detective work includes using his studies in anatomy to reconstruct a face onto a skull of a murdered man.

The first volume "Carnival of Saints" was published in Feb. 1994 by Ballantine Books ISBN 0-345-38150-5, "A Comedy of Murders" was first published by Carroll & Graff in July 1994 ISBN 0-7867-0064-5, and "The Tears of the Madonna" was published in 1996 again by Carroll & Graff ISBN 0-7867-0243-5. These books are under that "Good Read" category that we need so often.

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Jail Break!

Ah, the joys of village life. When something untoward occurs in a village or small town, everyone knows someone involved one way or the other. This is a composite story.

Well, it seems someone broke into the Wayfarer the other night. It didn't seem to be a professional job, a crowbar to the front door, liquor taken. The M.O. of a healthy young drunk. The police were called, people were questioned, the investigation proceeded. The suspect was elusive. The battle of wit's was on, would the highly trained, equipped and paid guardians of law and order be able to out think this master of surprise and simplicity, would his judgment be impaired by the liquor he stole? How long would it last? Sure enough, as the cliché would have it; the alleged perpetrator returned to the scene of the crime. He was under a table, again in the Wayfarer, again having popped the front door and after drinking serious liquor and munching cinnamon rolls, decided to have a nap. Cannon Beach's finest were notified by the morning clean-up crew that the door was open... again. They jumped in their video equipped vehicles, drove two blocks and took the alleged perpetrator into custody, confiscating his shoes, and incarcerated him in the local lock-up. A small empty ventilated storage closet like place. Then, they did lunch. The aforementioned young drunk, having regained what there was of his wits, promptly dismantled the vent system enough to build a tool, popped the door of his cell and hit the beach. Barefoot boy with cheek comes to mind. Returning from their repast our finest sensed something amiss, and sounded the general alarm, bringing 57 varieties of peace officers to the village for the man hunt. Finally, through shrewd detective work, the fugitive was found, again, asleep, on the beach, recaptured and shipped off to Astoria where they have guys that kind of keep an eye on the captives, even during lunch. Case closed. Cool, huh?

Well,..... unless you happen to be the FBI who's job it is to investigate all jail breaks. They are expected soon. So, if you see some suits with wires in their ears wandering the village, it's just your tax dollars at work, don't make any sudden moves, and take a cop to lunch.

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- Manzanita:** Mother's Nature Juice Bar, Bayside Gardens, Cassandra's, Manzanita News & Espresso, Pacific Coast Books & Coffee, & Nehalem Bay Video
- Nehalem:** Mermaid Cafe
- Rockaway:** Sharkey's
- Tillamook:** Rainy Day Books
- Garibaldi:** Garibaldi Books
- Bay City:** Art Space
- Yachats:** By-the-Sea Books
- Pacific City:** The River House, Far Country Books, & Village Merchants
- Oceanside:** Ocean Side Espresso
- Lincoln City:** Trillium Natural Foods, Driftwood Library, & Lighthouse Brewpub
- Newport:** Oceana Natural Foods, Café DIVA, Cosmo Café, Bookmark Café, Newport Bay Coffee Co., Cuppatunes, Bay Latte, Ocean Pulse Surf Shop, Coastal Coffee Co., Sylvia Beach Hotel, Green Gables Bookstore/B&B, & 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 Espresso
- Portland:** Artichoke Music, Laughing Horse Bookstore, 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
- Cornellus:** The Weekend Garden Market
- The Dalles:** Klindts Bookseller
- Hood River:** Purple Rocks Art Bar, & Cafe
- Ashland:** Garo's Java House, The Black Sheep, Blue Mt. Cafe, & Rogue River Brewery
- (Out of Oregon)**
- Longview, WA:** The Broadway Gallery, & Carat Patch
- Long Beach, WA:** Pacific Picnics
- Naselle, WA:** Rainy Day Artisty
- Nahcotta, WA:** Moby Dick Hotel
- Duval, WA:** Duval Books
- Bainbridge Island, WA:** Eagle Harbor Book Co.
- 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
- San Francisco, CA:** City Lights Bookstore
- Denver, Co:** Denver Folklore Center
- New York, NY:** The Strand Book Company
- Washington, D.C.:** Hotel Tabard Inn

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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- ... 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.