

Proposal to the District School Board concerning the future use of the current site of the Cannon Beach Grade School.

Prepared by Billy Lloyd Hults

It is proposed that the current site of the Cannon Beach Grade School be used as an educational facility to enlighten the general public as to the cultural, environmental and historic importance of this site. We believe this board has a unique opportunity to make the highest use of this property that will provide benefits for years to come.

When it was proposed that the Cannon Beach Grade School site was at risk to Tsunami conditions, and that the school be moved, the question arose what to do with this unique property. Though the options may be many, we would suggest that there is a highest use for the property under this board's jurisdiction. It is the uniqueness of this property that demands this highest use. As the board, and millions of Americans know, William Clark, Sacajawea, and a party from the Corps of Discovery visited this site on Jan. 9, 1806 to trade with the villagers living by the creek Clark named Ecola.

The historical significance of this visit and this site should not be underestimated. As Americans make plans to celebrate the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition in 2004, 2005 and 2006, thousands, perhaps millions of Americans and people from around the world will be visiting parts of or even traveling all of The Lewis & Clark Trail. From St. Louis to Ft. Clatsop, communities, government agencies, Native Tribes, Historical Associations and ordinary citizens are planning for this celebration. Have no doubt that a large percentage of these people will be fully aware of the historic significance of this site. They will come armed with copies of the Journals, and Captain Clark's drawings of the village which once was here. They will try to imagine that moment in our country's history, and perhaps some will agree that this is in fact the End of the Lewis and Clark Trail. With all due respect to Fort Clatsop, it has been suggested that a trail ends where the foot prints stop and turn back. This site is where the foot prints stop, and turn back.

Thus we feel that the highest use of this property, to further educational opportunities in this School district, to preserve and study an important site in the history of Oregon and America, and to add ongoing benefit to this community, would be as follows.

To use the existing buildings on the site, in cooperation with Clatsop Community College to offer courses related to this site's history, geology, & ecology. Include community involvement in the planning of a permanent facility at this site that would include an authentic long house similar to one of the five known to have been on or near the site. A landscaping plan that would include plants used by the inhabitants of the village, and perhaps a Whale skeleton. We would also encourage the planning of an archeological survey and dig. We feel the educational opportunities of this use of this site would be immense. We believe the positive impact on the community and the area would be likewise.

We believe there is support available from many sources to enact this proposal. No doubt, it is an ambitious proposal, and to enact it will take cooperation on the part of many different entities, public and private, and many decisions will have to be made, but you members of the School Board must make the first one.

Respectfully,

Billy Hults

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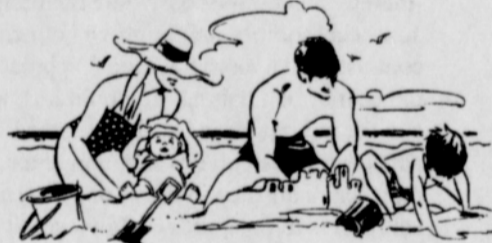
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The Oregonian wins Pulitzer; you want fries with that?

Though given ample opportunity, I have never -- well, only a few times -- disparaged the Oregonian in particular, or the media in general. That horse has been whipped to death by the media jockeys themselves. And I don't mean to demean the article on the journey of a potato into French fry-hood; it was well written, informative, and important.

Having said that, I still have the vision of the reporter at McD's, hearing the now icon-like phrase just one too many times, and gazing at his wilting, greasy, sugary and salted slice of a once proud potato, and muttering, "Poor Spud, how could this have happened to you?" And the rest is Journalistic history.

My problem is lately with that very history, and the current contributions we are offered daily; "the first rough draft of history" as Ben Bradlee called it. The American Newspaper is, and has been for quite a while, in serious trouble. Because of hostile takeovers, mergers, and increasing costs and competition, newspapers all over this country have just disappeared. Most cities, like Portland, have only one daily paper, owned by a multi-national corporation. Recently the Big O underwent a design change. I've heard that the person who did the makeover is the same person who introduced the little side-bar on the Living section front page that basically surfs the net for tasteless jokes, and then decorates them with little cartoons that look like they were drawn by a Generation X sell-out. Much to my embarrassment it is called The Edge. Well, this hip new format for the grand old paper (yes, that does make it GOP), is a change of font, smaller type, and new color wallet size photos of the regular columnists.

"Wow! It really does look like a web page." I imagine they exclaimed with delight. The probably most offensive 'new feature' was on the back of the Business section where the five day forecast changed from the familiar symbols for the clouds and the sun into little squiggles that looked like more work by the Gen-X cartoonist. That little feature was gone in days. You can get cutesie with some things, but in Oregon the weather is not to be messed with.

The problem I find with newspapers these days, is that they don't seem to want to be newspapers anymore. They want to be slow TV or a web page print-out. They think they are competing with the electronic media, when in fact they are not. Not in providing information. They are only competing for profits for the multi-national corporation that now own them. Newspapers are being run by television watchers who have no idea why people read newspapers, rather than watch television, or surf the net. To muddle a metaphor, newspapers should provide food for thought, not eye candy. Candy makes huge profits, and is very popular with young people.

But good wholesome food for thought is what makes for a strong healthy readership. As the newspaper of record, and the 'Largest newspaper in the Northwest', even after reducing its actual size, (The Upper Left Edge is one and one half inches wider) the Oregonian would be well advised to put some organic vegetables on the plate, along with some real meat and potatoes, and start serving up something that is not available at every fast food news outlet in America. I can 'read' the Oregonian these days in less time than it takes my old Mac to download the Drudge Report, and both seem to waste my time. The old grey lady just doesn't look good in Doc Martens, and a nose ring. Oh, and congratulations on your Pulitzer.

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My poetry follows in the exquisite footsteps of Miss Edna St. Vincent Millay, unhappily in my own horrible sneakers. Dorothy Parker

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