

Rev.  
Hults

# Editorial Now & Then



Biting the hand that serves you.

As faithful readers are aware, your beloved editor is known to frequent the local public house of an evening to conduct business in a pleasant atmosphere (take note IRS) and to tend to the spiritual needs of the flock, while refreshing the personal spirit as well. It is always a privilege to be invited to sit down at a well tended bar, and to be served with grace and good-fellowship.

So it was with some dismay that we found one of our favorite purveyors of barley pop, visibly upset as we settled onto a familiar barstool.

"Scheduling conflict, my....." he was muttering.

"Problem?" we inquired.

He explained in a rather animated manner that the folks at City Hall seemed to have forgotten who actually makes this little village by the sea function. "It's not loggers any more, or fishermen, it's the service industry!"

It seems that for reasons not clear the City decided to cancel the monthly food handlers' classes, given by Environmental Health Specialist, Erica VanEss in cooperation with Clatsop Community College, and required by law to work in any place that sells food. Our distraught barkeep showed us a schedule that listed the date, time and location for the classes for the whole year. Intrepid investigative journalists that we are, we called City Hall and left a message with the 'desk' of the City Manager. The desk obviously relayed the message, because returning home there was a flashing light on our old answering machine. It was Helen Westbrook, the occupier of the City Managers desk, telling us that there was some confusion about scheduling, and there had been a longstanding arrangement, and that ..... then the old answering machine stopped.

We called again and left another message.

While we awaited a reply we spoke to Ms. VanEss who told us that the City had called Clatsop Community College a 'few days' before the April 18th class was to be held and siting the dreaded 'Scheduling conflict', canceled the class. We called City Hall and were able to speak to Helen. We must say we didn't look forward to questioning Helen's judgment, but we owed it to our readers and our service industry personnel. "What's the deal!", we asked doing our best Sam Donaldson impression. Helen patiently explained the situation, well, three times. It finally sunk in.

We called Clatsop Community College and spoke to Ms. Unruh. She explain the situation and only had to go through it twice. A few more calls and we began to realize our great story about the insensitivity of the City Government to the service industry workers just wasn't a story.

Here's what went down. The City had been allowing the food handling classes to use a space at City Hall as a courtesy to the College and the Environmental Health Services, because the previous venue, the Chamber of Commerce required that the person running the class set up the chairs and tables required and then put them away afterwards, and the tables and chairs were already in place at City Hall. Makes sense. Then in March the City noticed that the class was scheduled for the same day in the same room as a meeting of the Committee on the Elderly and Disabled, and the meeting room in question was the only one with handicap accessibility available at the required time. So, they called Clatsop Community College and suggest the Chamber as an alternative site. Well, the College felt it might as well just cancel the April class and try to get a permanent location lined up for the June 6th class. There was no way to notify those who needed to take the class because you don't sign up for the class you just show up for the class. So, from now on the classes will be held at the Christian Conference Center, which, in a show of Christian charity, stepped in and solved the space problem. The City did the right thing the College did the right thing, and the Christians did the right thing. Ms. VanEss explained that anyone whose food service card expired in the interim would be give a grace period until the June 6th class. Again, the right thing. So, your beloved editor wasted several peoples time, made a few of them cranky, spent a small fortune on phone calls and has nothing to report other than everybody is doing their best. The City, the College, the Chamber, & the Conference Center are doing their best, we would like to thank them for their service. And as for the service industry folks, we encourage our readers to show their appreciation with a little extra tip the next time they are served. And we must always remember Uncle Mike's Motto:

"If it doesn't fold, it's not a tip." ©

Ps. Congratulations to Dave & Shelly and welcome to Cannon Beach Asa!

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Hardly a pure science; history is closer to animal husbandry than it is to mathematics, in that it involves selective breeding. The principal difference between the husbandryman and the historian is that the former breeds sheep or cows or such, and the latter breeds (assumed) facts. The husbandryman uses his skills to enrich the future; the historian uses his to enrich the past. Both are usually up to their ankles in bullshit. Tom Robbins



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Readings & Interviews  
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I'd probably be famous now if I wasn't such a good waitress.

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DC: 202-224-3753, Fax: 202-228-3997;  
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#### Oregon@gsmith.senate.gov

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DC: 202-225-0855, Fax: 202-225-9497; Portland: 503-326-2901, Fax: 503-326-5066; e-mail:

#### david.wu@mail.house.gov

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#### peter.defazio@mail.house.gov

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DC: 202-225-5711, Fax: 202-225-5699;  
Salem: 503-588-9100, 1-888-446-6539  
Fax: 503-588-5517.

#### darlene@mail.house.gov

#### Oregon Contacts

**Oregon Legislature:**  
800-332-2313 (outside Salem)  
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H.L. Mencken