

Rev.
Hults

Editorial Now & Then



Uncle Mike has taken to calling him Boy George. The latest CEO of America Incorporated.com has taken his appointment by the Board of Directors (the not-so Supreme Court) to heart and has set about his task with great purpose and speed. His first week in office he managed to cause howls of outrage every single evening at vespers. Giving comfort and counseling to the flock has been perilous of late. E-mails are flying, web sites are flashing, teeth a-gnashing, and trash is being talked. Well, he promised to be a 'uniter' and the country seems to be uniting against him. There are stories on the internet that the former occupants of the 'people's house' removed the "W" keys from all the computer keyboards, switched phone lines, glued file cases shut, and pretty much wrote off the hope of getting back their cleaning deposit. We have ourselves some cranky campers, folks. The CEO says he's just carrying out the platform from his campaign that lost by half a million votes. There is little apathy in America these days. Ah, spring is coming and revolution is in the air. People are busy. There is talk locally of all sorts of actions and events. There is not enough room in this poor little paper to inform you of them all, and some, well maybe it is better if you don't know. If you are determined to do something locally you might want to get in touch with the Cascadia Forest Alliance at www.cascadiaforestalliance.org or you can call them at 503-241-4879. They are getting ready to help some local folks save part of our neighborhood. Ask them about "God's Valley".

Our front page story, photo, and headline all deal with an old bookstore in Paris. Your beloved editor has read many stories about this store, and when the opportunity arose to send the Upper Left Edge to the store, it was done in a heartbeat. My point being, I think it is time for a walkabout. I'm nearing three score and I've never seen Paris. Nor New Orleans, Cuba, New York, the Atlantic Ocean, nor Amsterdam. So, the plan is that I pack up the washboard, a change of clothes, a passport if they will give me one, a borrowed laptop, and someone's credit card. Then by cars and trains and boats to wander about playing music, scouting bookstores, and writing. This means that someone will have to keep the paper going and I will need someone to sub-let the hideout for three to six months, or so. To that end, I am now taking resumes for publisher/editor and sub-letter. Oh, and that credit card, platinum preferred. Yes, I am dead serious about this and if you want to help I will say thank you. There is no date certain for this plan, but October might be something to aim at, though the spring of 2002 seems more likely. I plan to write almost every day and have some wild scheme about sending e-mails to a list of folks who will help me find places to stay, play music, find books, or have a quiet beer in a friendly tavern. That is my plan; I know it is crazy, but it is the only one I have. I will see Paris before I die.

We were listening to Women's Music on KMUN one Wednesday night and between the powerful songs by women with something to say, the programmer read some statements by women and then shared her own feelings on a range of subjects. She consented to share them with the readers of the Edge.

"We are witnessing a sweeping effort to eliminate taxes for the rich, to deregulate business, to privatize public lands and services, to eliminate the separation of church and state, to demolish the Bill of Rights for the sake of "law and order," to eliminate civil rights and civil liberties, to increase numbers of police, border patrols, and prisons, and to eradicate programs that attempt to equalize access to opportunity and to provide a safety net for basic human needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, (medical care), and safety. And all of this is being done by a group of people representing the interests of those who have power, wealth, and privilege."
Suzanne Pharr, "In the Time of the Right: Reflections on Liberation"

Over the past decade or so, I have heard an urgency in the cries of many people demanding less governmental presence in our lives. "We want our precious freedom," they shout, "We have a right to privacy!" and "We want the government to have less control over our lives." And yet, the most personal of all our freedoms is now being threatened, about to be blotted out as an afterthought to democratic autonomy. We are holding on by a weak legislative thread, our right to self-determination, and the ability to choose who will touch our bodies, who will make decisions about what we can and cannot do with our bodies. If we want the government out of our lives, we've got to keep them out of our wombs.

It's important to think critically about this. The issue of choice is not really about abortion. That's the political wedge used by the Right to divide, confuse, and undermine our common human connections. Let's face it, those in political power and social privilege do not care about the welfare of the fetus. If they did, there would be excellent pre-natal care across the social/economic board, and strong social service support for children at birth, throughout their childhood, and all during adolescence. There would be financially stable day-care facilities, pre-schools, and fully supported school systems for every child, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity or economic status.

WHERE TO GET AN EDGE

Cannon Beach: Jupiter's Rare and Used Books, Osburn's Grocery, The Cookie Co., Coffee Cabana, Bill's Tavern, Cannon Beach Book Co., Hane's Bakery, The Bistro, Midtown Cafe, Once Upon a Breeze, Copies & Fax, Haystack Video, Mariner Market, Espresso Bean, Ecola Square & Cleanline Surf
Manzanita: Mother Nature's Juice Bar, Cassandra's, Manzanita News & Espresso, & Nehalem Bay Video
Rockaway: Neptune's Used Books
Tillamook: Rainy Day Books & Tillamook Library
Bay City: Art Space
Yachats: By-the-Sea Books
Pacific City: The River House, OceanSide, Ocean Side Espresso
Lincoln City: Trillium Natural Foods, Driftwood Library, & Lighthouse Brewpub
Newport: Oceana Natural Foods, Ocean Pulse Surf Shop, Sylvia Beach Hotel, & Canyon Way Books
Eugene: Book Mark, Cafe Navarra, Eugene Public Library, Friendly St. Market, Happy Trails, Keystone Cafe, Riva 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: The Environmental Center, OSU
Salem: Heliotrope, Salem Library, & The Peace Store
Astoria: KMUN, Columbian Cafe, The Community Store, The Wet Dog Cafe, Astoria Coffee Company, Cafe Uniontown, & The River
Seaside: Buck's Book Barn, Universal Video, & Cafe Espresso
Portland: Artchoke Music, Laughing Horse Bookstore, Act III, Barnes & Noble, Belmonts Inn, Bibelot Art Gallery, Bijou Cafe, 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 Cafe, Key Largo, La Patisserie, Lewis & Clark College, Locals Only, Marco's Pizza, Marylhurst College, Mt. Hood CC, Music Millennium, Nature's (two locations), NW Natural Gas, OHSU Medical School, Old Whies Takes, Ozone Records, Papa Haydn, PCC (four locations), PSU (two locations), Reed College, Third Eye, Multnomah Central Library, and most branches of the YWCA.
Ashland: Garo's Java House, The Black Sheep, Blue Mt. Cafe, & Rogue River Brewery
Cave Junction: Coffee Heaven & Kerby Community Market
Grants Pass: The Book Shop (Out of Oregon)
Vancouver, WA: The Den
Longview, WA: The Broadway Gallery
Nestle, WA: Rainy Day Artistry
Nahcotta, WA: Moty Dick Hotel
Duvall, WA: Duvall 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
Washington, D.C.: Hotel Tabard Inn (Out of U.S.A.)
Paris, France: Shakespeare & Cie
Brighton, England: The Public House Bookstore

"A small paper for a small planet."

UPPER LEFT EDGE

5000 to 6000 copies are printed and distributed monthly in Oregon and to points around the world.

Advertising Rates

Business Card size	\$40
1/16th approx. 3x5	\$50
1/8th approx. 4x7	\$60
1/4 approx. 6 1/2x9	\$110
1/2 page	\$160
Full page	\$350
Back page	\$450

...per month. Payment is due the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which the ad is to appear. All ads must be "camera ready". We are usually on the streets by the first week-end of the month.

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The Beloved Reverend Billy Lloyd Hults
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The issue is not about abortion. It's about maintaining a power base that pre-empts most of us. In his first few days as president (and on the 28th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade), the sort-of-elected Bush issued a global "gag" rule that undermines a woman's right to reproductive freedom, and paves the way for imposing further restrictions on a woman's right to privacy over her own body (Roe vs. Wade was really about the right to privacy). Two bills were introduced this week in Oregon restricting fair and equal rights to women to make decisions about their bodies. If we were talking guns, here, the government would be gone. Zip. Absent. A government that stands ready to defend our right to bear arms, but not our right to self-determination, is a government growing roots in oppressive tactics, ultimately serving very few of us. Our ability to choose what is right for us, for each one of us, is a fundamental foundation of democracy. It's not about whether abortion is right or wrong. It's not about whether abortion is murder. Those are emotionally laden divisive techniques. In truth, you can be vehemently against abortion, yet stand firmly in favor of self-determination and choice. That is the thinking that will disarm the fallacies of the Right. And shed light on the liberating principles of social and economic justice, autonomy, choice, wholeness, responsibility, accountability and shared power for all. And leaving governmental business at a healthy distance.

Margaret Frimoth
Astoria

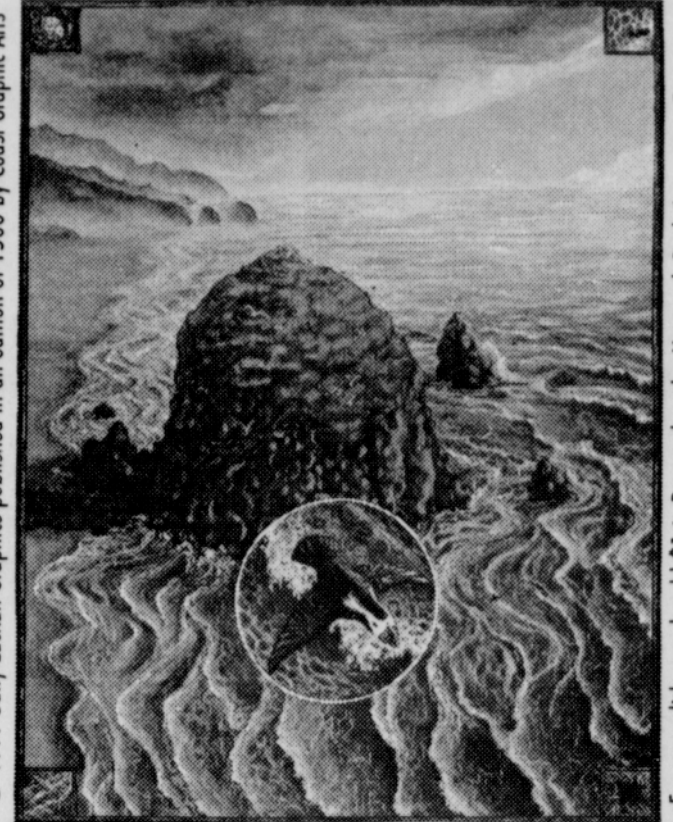
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A Very Unique Cannon Beach Memento!

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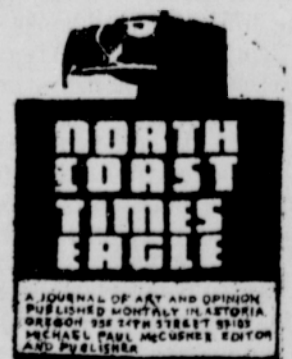
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Our major obligation is not to mistake slogans for solutions. Edward R. Murrow