

# Fear and Loathing in the Cascades

*Advice for young politicians, journos and other one-time humans*



Hunter S. Thompson  
is alive and well in  
the Pacific Northwest.

If I'd written all the truth I knew for the past 10 years, about all of the elected officials in office in Oregon, I would be rotting in prison cells from Coffee Creek to the Eastern Oregon Correctional Facility. Absolute truth is a very rare and dangerous commodity in the context of professional journalism. A word to the wise is infuriating.

We all know that in Portland, when the going gets weird, the weird turn professional. Look at Bud Clark, Randy Leonard and Steve Novick. If you're going to be crazy, you have to get paid for it or else you're going to be locked up.

I have a theory that the truth is never told during the 9-to-5 hours. So do half of the bureaucrats in this town. For every moment of triumph, for every instance of beauty, many souls must be trampled. Sane is rich and powerful. Insane is wrong and poor and weak. The rich are free, the poor are put in cages. Res Ipsa Loquitur, amen. Mahalo."

Journalism, like politics, is not a profession or a trade. It is a cheap catch-all

for fuckoffs and misfits — a false doorway to the backside of life, a filthy piss-ridden little hole nailed off by the building inspector, but just deep enough for a wino to curl up from the sidewalk and masturbate like a chimp in a zoo-cage.

The business that makes this whole thing work is uglier than most things. It is normally perceived as some kind of cruel and shallow money trench through the heart of the industry, a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free and good men die like dogs, for no good reason.

There are times, however, and this is one of them, when even being right feels wrong. What do you say, for instance, about a generation that has been taught that rain is poison and sex is death? If making love might be fatal and if a cool Oregon breeze on any summer afternoon can turn Crater Lake into a puddle of black poison right in front of your eyes, there is not much left except TV and relentless masturbation. It's a strange world. Some people get rich and others eat shit and die.

Every now and then when your life gets complicated and the weasels start closing in, the only cure is to load up on heinous chemicals and then drive like a bastard from Portland to Bend with the music blasting. Faster, faster, until the thrill of speed overcomes the fear of death. After all, yesterday's weirdness is tomorrow's reason why. Pray to God, but row away from the Castle Rock. Remember friends morality is temporary; wisdom is permanent.

The greatest mania of all is passion, and I am a natural slave to passion. The balance between my brain and my soul and my body is as wild and delicate as the skin of a Ming vase. Remember folks, this is the fast lane. Some of us like it here.

My advice to readers is to walk tall, kick ass, learn to speak Arabic, love music and never forget you come from a long line of truth seekers, lovers and warriors. Buy the ticket, take the ride for God's sake. At the top of the mountain we are all snow leopards. All I can say in ending is, "Keep Portland Weird."

## PUZZLES

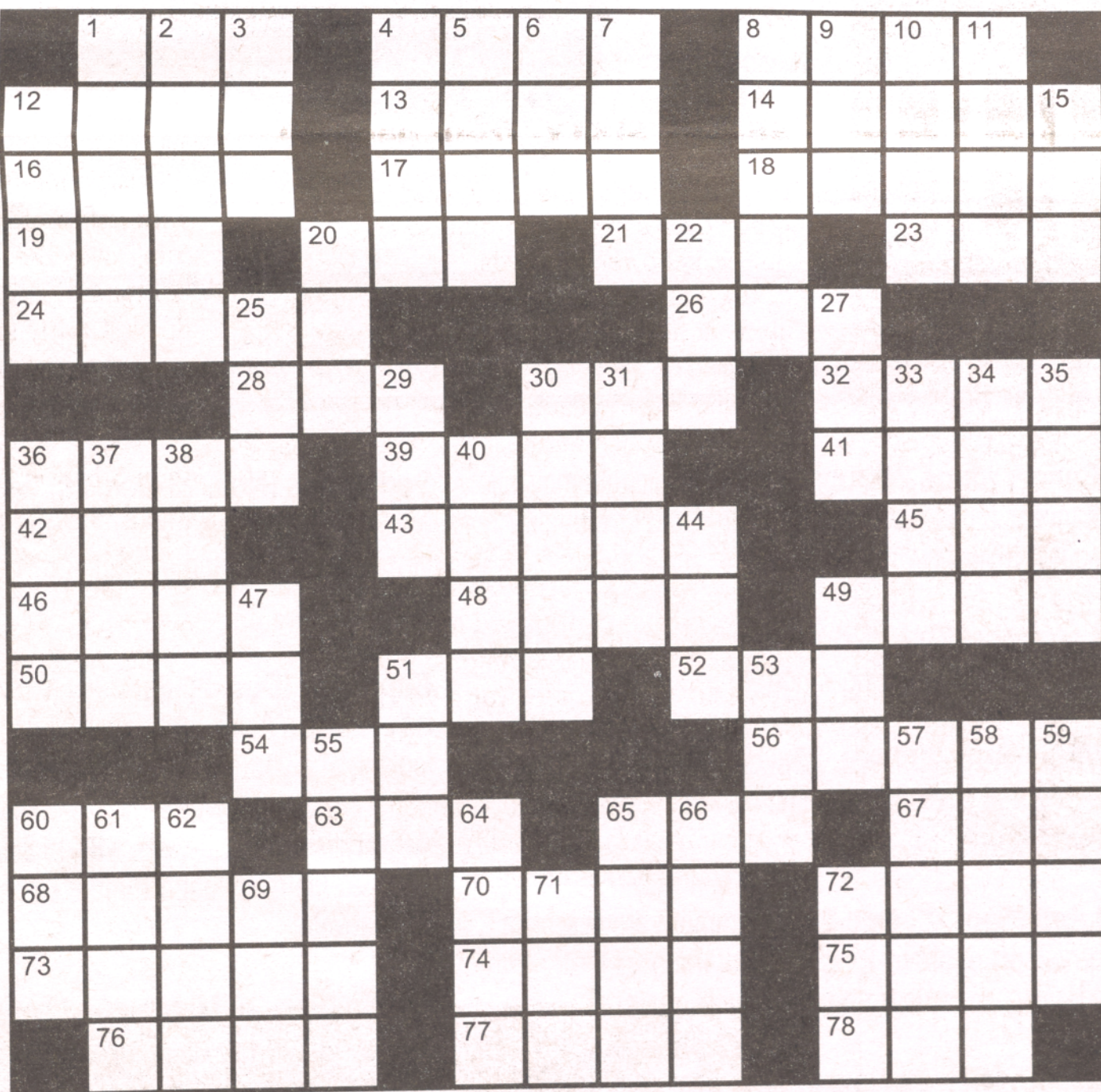
By Kara Dimitruk

Answers on page 6

### Crossword

#### Across

1. Lighthearted family film (2004)
4. Tortoise racer
8. Jets or Sharks, e.g.
12. Peace film (1970)
13. Still-life piece
14. Construction piece
16. Chichi
17. Sitar music
18. Bit of Gothic architecture
19. Ed.'s request
20. Tofu base
21. Note after fa
23. Darn
24. Mike Meyers' award-winning franchise\*
26. First \_\_\_\_
28. Lungful
30. Be in a cast
32. Muslim holy man
36. Tete-e-tete
39. Pond dweller
41. Comic Carvey
42. \_\_\_\_ and cheese
43. As opposed to ours
45. "\_\_\_\_ magic!"
46. Hamburg's river
48. Mexican money
49. Give off, as light
50. PBS show "by kids, for kids"
51. "Indubitably"
52. Famous
54. Roswell sighting
56. Partner of buggy
60. Amaze
63. Protrude
65. Nice hot drink?
67. Sis's sib
68. Coen bro's romantic comedy (1996)
70. Burn soother
72. "Get lost!"
73. Detroit athlete
74. Prefix with graph
75. Goose sound



76. Snitched
77. Fast-moving card game
78. 'Fore

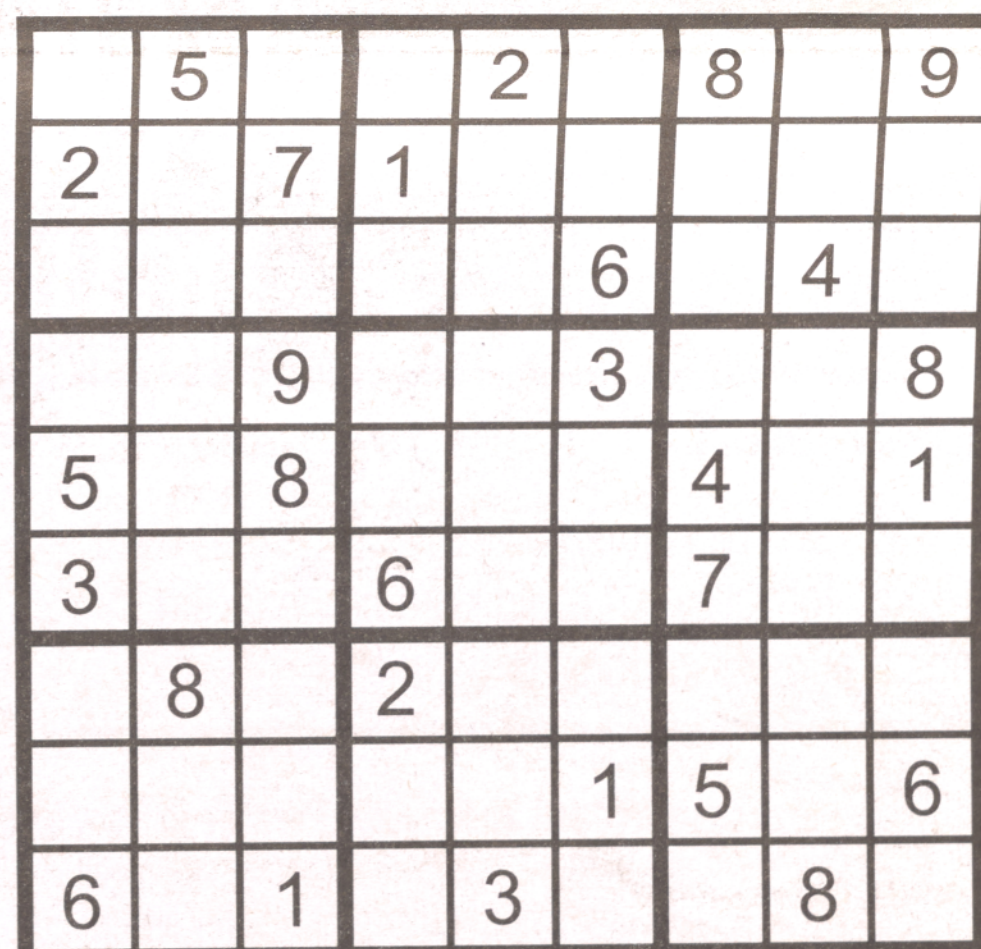
#### Down

1. Vaughan of jazz
2. Frostflower
3. "\_\_\_\_ not?!"
4. Achilles, e.g.
5. Not home
6. Gas station abbr.
7. Paleozoic and Mesozoic
8. Ben's Academy Award winner (2003)\*
9. Dr. J's first pro league
10. Bills
11. Big blow
12. Physics calculation
15. Copy cats?
20. Hit the slopes

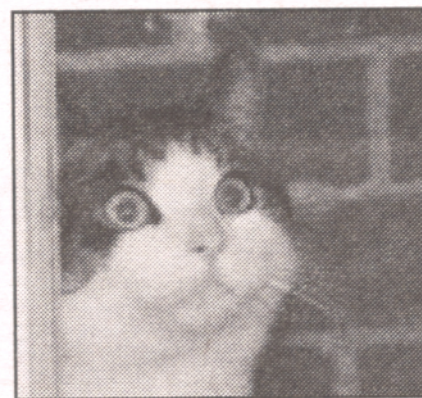
22. Kind of bran
25. "Mangia!"
27. Completed
29. Biography of a beam of light (2004)
30. Fits
31. Sequel to Motorcycles (2006)\*
33. Hurt badly
34. Voting "no"
35. Schooner part
36. \_\_\_\_ nous, home (Fr.)
37. Sainly glow
38. Early pulpit
40. Easy gait
44. Cry loudly
47. Outback runner
49. "I" problem
51. "\_\_\_\_ rang?"
53. Rocks, to a bartender
55. Greenland sight
57. Dislike, and then

- some
58. Grimalkin
59. Spielberg true-life drama (1991)
60. Rearward
61. "Hold on!"
62. Descartes's "therefore"
64. Last call?
65. Actress Spelling
66. Michael Mann's basketball team film (1995)
69. Hair goo
71. Cat's drink
72. "Thar \_\_\_\_ blows!"

### Sudoku



The objective of Sudoku is to fill in all the blank squares with the correct numbers, from 1 to 9. Every row, column and square must include all digits, 1 through 9, in any order.



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Thank you!

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