

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Political satire still passes test of time

Gripes and complaints about politics and politicians are nothing new, and the middle of an election year seems like an appropriate time to acquaint or re-acquaint ourselves with the somewhat iconoclastic opinions of "Mr. Dooley," an early 20th century Irish-American created by Finley Peter Dunne.

On party politics:

"The dimmycratic party ain't on speakin' terms with itself.

"The raypublican party broke ye, but now that ye're down we'll not turn a cold shoulder to ye. Come in an' we'll keep ye—broke."

On elections:

"A vote on the tally-sheet is worth two in the box."

On the Supreme Court:

"No matther whether th' constitution follows th' flag or not, th' supreme coort follows th' iliction returns."

On the Vice-presidency:

"The prisidincy is th' highest office in th' gift iv th' people. The vice-prisidincy is the next high est an' the lowest. It isn't a crime exactly. Ye can't be sint to jail f'r it, but it's a kind iv a disgrace. It's like writin' anonymous letters.....

"It is his jooty to rigorously enforce the rules iv th' Sinit. There ar-re none. Th' Sinit is ruled by courtesy, like th' longshoreman's union."

On reformers:

"A man that'd expict to thrain lobsters to fly in a year is called a loonytic; but a man that thinks men can be tu-rrned into angels be an iliction is called a rayformer an' remains at large.....

"A rayformer thinks he was ilicted because he was a rayformer, whin th' thruth iv th' matther is he was ilicted because no wan knew him. Ye can always ilict a man in this counthry on that platform. If I was runnin' f'r office, I'd change me name, an' have printed on me cards: 'Give him a chanst; he can't be worse.'"

On fanatics:

"A fanatic is a man that does what he thinks th' Lord wud do if He knew th' facts iv th' case."

On Diplomacy & Politics:

"Unforchuntly diplomacy on'y goes as far as the dure. It is onable to give protection to th' customer, so whin he leaves the shop th' sthrong arm men iv the Sinit knocks him down an' takes fr'm him ivrything he got inside an' more too. Di-plomacy has become a philanthropic pursoot like shop-keepin', but politics, me lords, is still th' same ol' spoort iv highway rob-b'ry."

Another, even earlier, political satirist was Charles Farrar Browne ("Artemus Ward"). In *The Crisis*, he noted, "My pollertics, like my religion, [is of] an exceedin' accommodatin' character."

He may have summed up the whole situation in the *Fourth of July Celebration* when Artemus Ward declared, "I am not a politician, and my other habits are good."

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch
City Librarian

On Wednesday, June 17, youthful summer readers "Blasted off to Summer Reading", by making a variety of paper airplanes, origami stars and spinning pinwheels after hearing a story about Alistair, who was whisked off into space by aliens, as he was on his way to return his library books. If that sounds like fun, encourage your children to participate in the library's summer reading program each Wednesday at 1:00, for such activities as creating sidewalk art, taking a nature walk, making outer space attire, taking a trip to OMSI and creating and riding on a float in the Jamboree parade.

With the start of our summer reading program, we are reminded that our local library has been and continues to be the recipient of significant support from so many. Without the mothers, grandmothers, teachers, and friends of the children of the community to help in planning and assisting with this program, it would not be in existence, and this source of encouragement for reading and learning would not be available locally.

Another local supporter, the very first, is the Vernonia Study Club. This group of ladies petitioned the city council in 1925 to appoint the first five-member library board and to establish the library in the city hall. Through the years, this group organized many fundraising projects and established a building fund for a new library. Although no new library was ever built, money raised by the Study Club has been used for remodeling projects and

shelving. This organization continues to support the library by donating books in memory of local citizens, especially former members of the group or their relatives. The library contains books donated by the Study Club in memory of Mathilde Bergerson, Amy Kamholz, Evelyn Heath, Ralph Reynolds, Mildred Tupper Evans and other former residents. The Study Club continues to support library projects, such as the summer reading program.

There have been and continue to be many other local supporters of the library and its programs. Recently, a memorial in Martha Smith's name was established by her friends and family. The Lions' Club has donated a section of books containing information about diabetes. Last summer this organization built and donated two new bookshelves. They have given monetary donations regularly and have just announced that they will be providing the library with a rack to display the growing video collection.

So many people are important to the success of the library and its programs that they cannot all be named individually, but they are all invaluable to providing quality library service to the residents of Vernonia. Thanks to all of you!

Library Hours: Monday and Friday 1-5 p.m., Wednesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Preschool Story Time** is every Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m.

We can save water now, or we can ration water later, the choice is ours

The current hot spell won't last forever; with luck it won't even last through the week, but it appears that an exceedingly dry summer is at hand, which could create some severe problems.

The City of Vernonia relies on surface water from Rock Creek, while most of the rural areas rely on wells. In past years, many rural residents have come in to town for drinking water when their wells dried up in late summer or early fall. This year, even more wells are likely to go dry and the water level in Rock Creek could become critical.

The city water plant is holding its own right now, but it's running continuously in order to keep up with the demand. We can't afford to wait until there is a crisis, now is the time to learn to use water wisely.

Water-wise tips:

- During hot weather, don't water outdoors between sunrise and sunset, especially with a sprinkler, except in areas that will remain shady until the water is absorbed.

- Use a soaker-type hose or a drip irrigation system in vegetable and flower beds. This reduces spray that evaporates quickly and, at the same time, puts the water at the roots of your plants where it's needed.

- When using a sprinkler, be sure it covers only the area that needs water. It's a waste to water sidewalks, streets and driveways.

- Do more watering by hand, especially plants in pots or other contain-

ers. By using a water soluble fertilizer mixed with water in a bucket, you can fertilize your plants at the same time you water them and put both the water and the fertilizer only where you want them.

- Don't water hardy, well-established plants that can handle some stress. They won't look as good, but if drought won't kill them, don't water them.

- Wash only full loads in clothes or dish washers. Even machines that have multiple water-level settings will use less water per item with a full load.

- When washing dishes by hand, don't leave water running.

- Use a water-saver shower head. They are not expensive and they're easy to install.

- Take a shower instead of a bath. Studies show that showers use less water than baths. Put a non-electric timer in operation for water hogs.

- Reduce the amount of water used by your toilet with a water-saving style, by displacing some of the water with a water-filled plastic container, or by bending the float arm enough to turn off the water flow a few inches lower in the tank.

- Don't let faucets drip! If they need new washers install them; if they need to be replaced, do so.

- Last, but not least. . . Perhaps it's time to cultivate a new look in vehicles. This summer, we may decide our cars and trucks look best without a shiny finish. . . without a wash job!

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