

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

At present, your local library is in possession of eight of the *New York Times* 10 best sellers in the fiction category, as well as four of the 10 best sellers of mystery. Additionally, several of the top nonfiction books and most of last week's best selling paperbacks are available for your reading pleasure. Don't you think it's great that the readers of Vernonia have the very newest reading material right at their fingertips?

In *The Lottery Winner*, ranked seventh on the list, Mary Higgins Clark has compiled a collection of interrelated stories involving the lovable detecting team of Alvirah and Willy Meehan. This book is unlike her others in that each of the six short mysteries is complete in itself. It also reflects more of Clark's wit than usual. These beguiling characters and their escapades keep the reader superbly entertained and no Mary Higgins Clark fan should miss it.

The Celestine Prophecy, *Debt of Honor*, *Insomnia*, *Wings*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Dark Rivers of the Heart*, and *The Chamber* are other best sellers to be found in the local library.

In the mystery category, Patricia Cornwell has three books that are currently best sellers. Her protagonist, forensic sleuth Kay Scarpetta, can be found in all of her books, including *All That Remains*, *Cruel and Unusual*, and *Body of Evidence*. Cornwell states, "If I want a character to do or know something, I try to do

or know the same thing." To that end, she worked for six years in the office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Richmond, Virginia, witnessing hundreds of autopsies. She continues to train and study at the FBI Academy in Quantico. Cornwell also continues to bring her gritty realism to the public with her latest release, *The Body Farm*, which is available in the library.

Jonathan Kellerman, is another author whose own background allows him to delve deeply into the background of his characters and the situations they find themselves in. Kellerman was a distinguished child psychologist who now writes fiction full-time. He has merged the science of psychology and the art of fiction to create situations full of gripping suspense to which his character, psychologist-detective Alex Delaware, must find answers and resolutions. When a recurring nightmare of a juror in the agonizing murder trial of a serial killer causes the juror to seek Delaware's help, a strong possibility develops that she has repressed a childhood memory of something very real—something like a murder. *Self Defense*, Kellerman's newest novel of psychological suspense is second on the mystery best seller list and can also be found in your local library.

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:** every Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m.

Letters to the Editor

Enjoys reading The INDEPENDENT

To the Editor:

Just a note to let you know how much I enjoy reading your paper.

I think Vernonia is the most beautiful of all cities in Columbia County.

I like how you include all school and community events in your paper.

Thank you for such a wonderful newspaper!

Sincerely,
Marion Klecker
Scappoose

Use science, not name-calling

To the Editor:

Apparently, Dennis Nelson's fame is growing. His latest critic is from Corvallis.

Mr. Christiansen's credentials as a forester are very impressive and extensive. He would seem to be in a good position to refute Nelson from the standpoint of forest science, but instead all he did was engage in name-calling and denigration. If Mr. Christiansen has superior knowledge, why does he not share that with us?

This approach is a text book example of what is technically termed *ad hominem*. This is the case where one attacks the messenger rather than the message. A good high school debater could quickly dispose of Mr. Chris-

tiansen as a person more interested in obfuscation than the truth, whatever that may be.

Bob Ragsdale
Vernonia

Christiansen letter warrants response

To the Editor:

In response to Mr. Christiansen's letter (*The INDEPENDENT* 1/11/95), I would like to say that he has mastered the politically correct clichés used by all timber industry propagandists. They are designed to confirm prejudice, inspire anger, close minds and identify scapegoats.

Mr. Christiansen's disregard for, and lack of curiosity about, the biological foundation of forestry is characteristic of a mindset which is focused on the production of logs. His "long view" of the current debate is typically short-sighted when applied to a forest that normally operates in 500 year to 1,000 year cycles.

My grandfather also worked in the Tillamook burn. This tragedy was a direct result of unwise industrial activity. More than 99 percent of the old growth in Columbia County is gone. The native second growth is rapidly being liquidated. Genetically altered, single specie plantations that can only be maintained by the use of pesticides, herbicides and chemi-

Please see page 11

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Ike Says

By David Michael Jones, member
Isaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter

I have a confession to make. I love chocolate with my coffee. Not just a little chocolate, like in the chocolate chip cookies that I asked by wife to quit making for my own good, but a good bar of dark chocolate per cup. I've tried to quit, but it seems I'm addicted.

When I driftboat fish, I often mix instant coffee and instant chocolate for a coffee-mocha type drink that fulfills my "need" and runs the oars for a while. In an attempt to cut down on the amount of caffeine and chocolate, I went back on my property on Rock Creek and dipped a pot in the coffee-colored stream, figuring that'd have the color and I could adjust the taste. Didn't work quite the way I planned it. It seems the coffee or chocolate colored water in Rock Creek was all gritty and silted up. Tasted terrible. I didn't like it at all. But that's okay, I don't have to live in it.

I don't have to live in it. But who or what does? Fish, crayfish, insects and other living things too small to see. Fish eat insects in order to live and grow, especially little fish.

Now there have been occasions when I've talked to fish. You know how it is when one breaks your line and swims away with an impudent tail flip. Well, you kinda talk to them, admittedly not in a Sunday-church-going-voice, but you do talk to them. This really seems to be a day for confessions: I've talked to insects. One time I reached around a snag to grab my choker and came up with an arm full of yellowjackets and I talked to those bugs. Boy, did I talk to those bugs! Other bugs I have talked to are the large salmonflies or stoneflies that fly into me as I'm riding my bike on Rock Creek Road. In an attempt to balance my angry conversations with bugs, I have tried

to seek out the slender winter stonefly that is common in Western rivers and has an emergence date of January 1st. I have been unable to find this oxygen-loving [common?] stonefly, but then, perhaps I can't see it since it is a brown color. Or could it be that the nymphal stage of this insect, which lives in stream leaf debris, is suffocated by the silt?

Maybe the fish know. Further streamside conversations with fish have revealed that the silt stresses the fish by getting in their gills and making it harder for them to breathe, so they speculate that the silt and mud probably kill the stoneflies. Many fish never even get born because the silt suffocates the eggs, which must breathe in order for the fish to hatch out of the gravel where the eggs are laid. For those that hatch, the quest for food is complicated by restricted visibility and, when a fingerling fish seeks the side eddies to rest, they find the eddies silted in, as are a lot of small side channels and creeks that are needed for resting and living places.

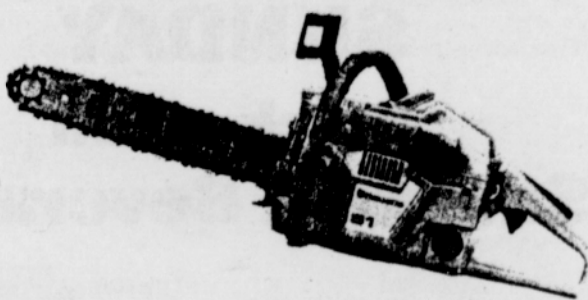
"Well, hey, why don't you just get up and move to another drainage? You mean you can't get up and walk like the walking catfish I've read about? So you're stuck here, Mr. Salmon and Mrs. Steelhead, and there is nothing you can do about your living conditions except try to clean the mud out of your nests when you lay your eggs.

"Well, I'd really like to help, but I've got troubles of my own. Baby needs a new pair of shoes; the truck's darn near on empty; I gotta throw another log on the fire to heat some water for coffee.

"Say, could you use a cup of coffee-mocha? I can at least do that much for you. Oh, you say you have enough chocolate in your water. Well, don't say I didn't offer. I'll see ya around.

"Really? You don't think so, why is that?"

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