

Between the Bookends

By Cecelia Sadtler, Volunteer
Banks Public Library

The month of May casts her magic spell as spring's promise is fulfilled at last. Budding trees create a lacy pattern against the sky. Ordinary bushes burst into brilliant floral tones. Newborn animals on wobbly legs follow their mothers around bright green pastures. Birds are out very early collecting worms to drop into the throats of hungry chicks chirping loudly in the newly built nest. There's something fresh and new in every corner of the garden. Symbols of awakening and renewal are everywhere.

There's something new in every corner of the Banks Library too. Freshness, awakening and renewal are just some of the themes you'll discover when you browse through the new book section.

"Original Self: Living With Paradox and Authenticity" will appeal to anyone who has ever wondered why humans chronically try to be someone other than themselves. Here is a renewed approach. Fifty meditations in this collection by Thomas Moore offer fresh interpretations about originality, conformity, creativity and authenticity. In addition to the inspirational text, Joan Hanley has provided beautiful woodcut illustrations to accompany each meditation.

Deepak Chopra, a nationally known physician, distinguished for his ability to combine ancient wisdom with modern science in a straightforward style, treats us to an example of his remarkable philosophy in his latest book "How to Know God." Chopra guides us through a score of insights that he claims are shared by all religions. At the root of his prophetic work is a belief that the human brain is hardwired to know God, and Chopra cleverly shows us how.

A new novel by E.L. Doctorow also features God in the title. "City of God" is an exciting tale that is filled with the sights and sounds of New York and is daringly poised at the juncture of the sacred and the profane. The plot involves an eccentric novelist whose personal workbook is a repository of prominent ideas and historical disasters of the age. When he stumbles across a story about a large brass cross that is stolen from a run-down Episcopal church in lower Manhattan and reappears on the roof of the Synagogue for Evolutionary Judaism, the novelist follows the developments with fervor. Joining the clerics who are trying to learn who committed this strange double desecration, he records each turning of the emerging mystery in his workbook, dazzling the reader with what proves to be a quest for authentic spirituality.

Mysteries and thrillers are another theme popular in the Library right now and there are several good choices. One of these is "Prime Cut" by Diane Mott Davidson. Here is a whodunit with a new twist. Davidson writes murder mysteries with the same precision she'd give to executing a complex gourmet recipe, literally giving readers something to sink their teeth into. "Prime Cut" is a tale that involves a dead contractor's unwholesome past, a food saboteur, the theft of some historical cookbooks and an

overzealous D.A. who suspects that the caterer's husband is connected to the strange murders. The author's ease in the kitchen comes through as her main character moves through food prep routines while matching wits with slick criminals and eccentric characters. Davidson has indeed found the recipe for a bestseller.

John LeCarre's latest book can also be found on the shelves at Banks. "Single and Single" is a story of corrupt liaisons between criminal syndicates in the new Russian states and the legitimate world of Western finance. This compelling story also intimately portrays two families, contrasting their East-West values and destinies in this enthralling multi-layered tale. LeCarre is a great story teller at the height of his creative powers with this, his finest novel in years.

Non-fiction works are popular too. "Grrr!" is a delightfully titled resource for training your dog in a method based on love, praise and affection.

For those who want to turn spring cleaning into a creative process, there are books on decorating and gardening. "The New Wallpaper Book," by Liz Manning is a beautifully illustrated guide showing hundreds of ways to enhance and enrich your interior environment. "Water Features for Small Gardens," by Ethne Clarke is a perfect companion for all of your new plants.

And finally, in the non-fiction section, you'll find a wonderfully informal narrative written by Cokie Roberts and her political analyst husband, Steve. "From This Day Forward," is the story of their journey together as they deal with all the issues of modern marriage. They use personal stories and memories as a springboard for discussing larger issues of love and marriage, work and family, parents and children. They deal with topics such as balancing demanding careers and confronting an empty nest. Their different backgrounds...she's Catholic, he's Jewish... make their tale even more interesting, and they offer distinct perspectives and opinion. They also tell stories of other American marriages and of broken, contemporary and step-parenting relationships. Their account is full of insight, humor and time-honored values. Cokie Roberts' first book, "We are Our Mother's Daughters," was on the bestseller list for twenty-six weeks. "From This Day Forward" is certain to be another smashing hit.

Remember that new books arrive almost daily in Banks, so be sure to come in for a great selection. You'll also find a rack with local and community information, including copies of *The INDEPENDENT*.

Recycle Saturday, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, and staffed by loyal volunteers will be held this month on May 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the SWATCO Service Yard on Sellers Road.

Banks Public Library: 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Preschool Story Time, Weds., 10:15 a.m.
Phone: (503) 324-1382
Internet: www.WILnet.wccls.lib.or.us.

Ike Says . . .

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ourselves why we would want to pass even more unenforced laws. Only law abiding citizens will obey and, unfortunately, more and more of us would become unlaw abiding citizens in defense of our freedoms.

In all of these issues we must remember one thing, that law abiding gun owners are not

the problem. In all the firearm fatalities in the U.S., over 96 percent were caused by intentional misuse. Fatalities from firearm accidents are at the lowest level since the National Safety Council began keeping records in 1903—dropping 40 percent in just the last decade. In fact, my son is far safer participating in a shooting sport than playing football or riding a bicycle, let alone being a passenger in a car. Is anyone in favor of banning cars since they kill more children by far than

guns per year?

After many of these school shootings, I often debate in my head what it is going to take to solve this problem. I have even entertained the thought that if the government could guarantee that there would be no more crime if we gave up our guns, this would not be too much of a price to pay for a crime-free world, yet this is a dream, because as long as there are people walking this earth, there will be crime, so don't ask me to be a victim!

Izaak Walton League Nehalem Valley Chapter meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
For meeting location, call (503) 429-7193.

**Democracy can't
work without the
participation of
the people.
Have you voted?**

Letters to the Editor

"Prettiest yard" may be result of thievery

To the Editor:

Someone in our area is certainly going to win the "Prettiest Yard Award" with eight stolen flower baskets and two beautiful, pink flowering cherry trees. They should also get the "Gut-tiest Award," as the trees were stolen from behind the new police station. One woman disgusted by the thefts, was quoted as saying, "I'm not a violent person, but if I had a gun and caught those thieves, I'd make them dance all the way to Hillsboro." I hope for your sake, you don't encounter a violent one.

Fortunately, for every one of your kind, there are ten (or more) good people in this town who keep on giving and giving of their time and money to support the many projects that go on in our city.

Every year, I see the same names that donate to Toy & Joy, the 4th of July Fireworks, and the Scout Cabin; these are just the ones I know about. Last Christmas, a woman drove up to the Fire Hall and handed one of the firemen an envelope for Toy and Joy with \$500 inside and never gave her name. Hats off to Gwin and Sons who have donated their equipment and volunteers for two years to work on Spencer Park. Also to Bill Sword who is clearing around Vernonia Lake to make improved camp sites. Bill also worked on cleaning brush at the south entrance to town last year.

So don't get discouraged; the "Good Guys" far outweigh the "Bad Guys."

Deloris Webb
Vernonia

Good Sams will help improve county park

To the Editor:

The Good Sams' Club, a recreational vehicle club, has adopted Hudson-Parcher Park this season to make some much needed improvements to the park. Approximately 20-25 members of the Good Sams' Club have volunteered their time to re-roof the lower restrooms, as well as general clean-up, gardening, minor repairs and painting of posts and guardrails. They are scheduled to be in the park late Friday afternoon, May 5, through Sunday, making these repairs. We sincerely appreciate the assistance they are providing to Columbia County Forests, Parks and Recreation, in particular, Hudson-Parcher Park.

We are sending this notice as a way to keep the public in-

formed of our park upgrades and to obtain some much needed publicity acknowledging the efforts of the Good Sams' Club. While I am sure the Club would appreciate your stopping by any time during the above-mentioned dates, probably the best time would be Saturday, as that is when most of the construction will take place.

I hope you will be able to come to Hudson-Parcher Park and see the work in progress. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my secretary at (503) 397-2353.

Sincerely,
David A. Hill, Director
Columbia County
Public Works and Parks

City appreciates the volunteers who care

To the Editor:

The City of Vernonia wants to express its appreciation to all of the citizens who made the annual SOLV clean up day a SUCCESS! It was reported that approximately 200 residents volunteered their time to make Vernonia a better place to live.

Vernonia Pride and SOLV have proved to be wonderful assets to our City.

On behalf of the City Council, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your efforts.

Mayor Art Parrow
City of Vernonia

Protect our right to jury trial, vote no on 81

Dear Editor:

Anne and Annette Kirkwood of Madras are courageous. These two women used the civil justice system to hold General Motors accountable for the exploding side-saddle gas tanks installed on GM pickup trucks. If you do not recall this accident, Anne Kirkwood was seriously burned in the accident and shows her courage every day, just fighting to stay alive.

Unfortunately, the [Oregon] Legislature put Constitutional Amendment 81 on the May 16 Ballot to make it more difficult to hold big corporations responsible for dangerous products. When you get your voter pamphlet, please read the explanation of Amendment 81. If it passes, Oregonians lose a basic right, the right to a trial by jury.

Let's protect our constitutional rights and vote "No" on Measure 81.

Very truly yours,
Geraldine Holmgren
Astoria

POLICY ON LETTERS

The INDEPENDENT welcomes readers' letters and will publish as many as possible. All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address and telephone number, although the address and phone number will not be printed except at the writer's request. The INDEPENDENT reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity or clarity.