

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Benjamin Franklin on freedom of the press

Benjamin Franklin was a printer, publisher, philosopher, businessman, scientist, inventor, politician, statesman and humorist. With less than two years of formal schooling, he became the master of his age and one of its greatest men. He was a patriot with a sense of balance and a sense of humor. He was a publisher with a temper and a sense of humor. He defended all freedoms, but here is part of what he said about freedom of the press.

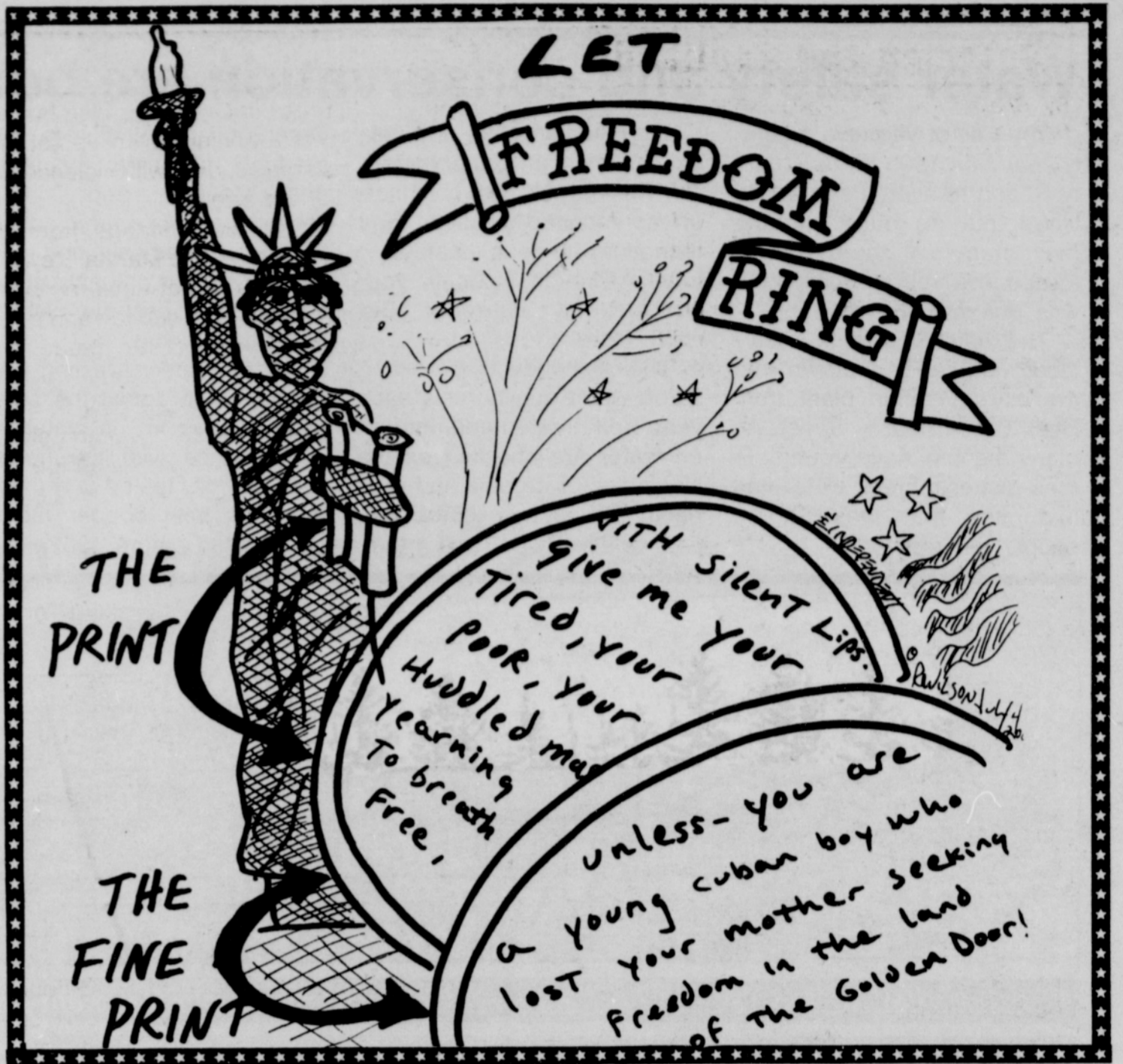
"Being frequently censured and condemned by different persons for printing things which they say ought not to be printed, I have sometimes thought it might be necessary to make a standing apology for myself and publish it once a year, to be read upon all occasions of that nature. Much business has hitherto hindered the execution of this design; but having very lately given extraordinary offense, I find an apology more particularly requisite at this juncture, though it happens when I have not yet leisure to write such a thing in the proper form and can only in a loose manner throw those considerations together which should have been the substance of it.

I request all who are angry with me on the account of printing things they don't like calmly to consider these following particulars:

1. That the opinions of men are almost as various as their faces; an observation general enough to become a common proverb, "So many men, so many minds."
2. That the business of printing has chiefly to do with men's opinions, most things that are printed tending to promote some, or oppose others.
3. That hence arises the peculiar unhappiness of that business, which other callings are no way liable to; they who follow printing being scarce able to do anything in their way of getting a living, which shall not probably give offence to some, and perhaps to many.
4. That it is unreasonable in any one man or set of men to expect to be pleased with everything that is printed as to think that nobody ought to be pleased but themselves.
5. That it is unreasonable to imagine printers approve of everything they print, and to censure them on any particular thing accordingly; since in the way of their business they print such great variety of things opposite and contradictory.
8. That if all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed.
9. That notwithstanding what might be urged in behalf of a man's being allowed to print whatever he is paid for, yet printers do continually discourage the printing of great numbers of bad things.

I consider the variety of humors among men and despair of pleasing everybody; yet I shall not therefore leave off printing. I shall continue my business. I shall not burn my press and melt my letters."

— Benjamin Franklin



Ike Says . . .

By Dale Webb, member
Izaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter

In my last column, I talked extensively about the duckweed that was being released from the Vernonia sewage treatment ponds. This discharge was stopped just as the paper was hitting the street. By order from the Department of Environmental Quality, the discharge of duckweed was terminated. Upon follow up contacts with personnel from D.E.Q., it became readily apparent that this condition was not a gray area, but was clearly defined in the rules and that the City of Vernonia was in clear violation. The effect of the duckweed on the Nehalem River will most likely be minor, thanks in a big part to the abnormal rainfall event that followed this discharge. The high water spread the duckweed downstream and upon the banks of the Nehalem. Duckweed was observed as far downstream as Birkenfeld and most likely traveled even further. It is unfortunate that this event occurred because now people are questioning the operation and effectiveness of the sewage treatment plant. People are now wondering what is really going into our river, and is it environmentally benign?

A special friend and I biked the Banks-Vernonia trail from the Beaver Creek Trailhead to the Buxton trailhead a few weeks ago. The ride was very enjoyable and the trail is in good condition. I will have to admit though, that my legs were burning at the end of our 22 mile trip. We had to walk our bikes at the High trestle crossing due to the steep grade and loose rock. The Buxton trailhead is very nice and will soon have an outdoor shelter constructed on the site. The wash-out on the Vernonia side of the Beaver Creek Trailhead has been fixed so the entire trail is once again open. So get on your bike and explore this wonderful asset that we have right here in our backyard.

My son, Michael, and I recently completed an all day float trip down the John Day river from the small town of Spray to Service Creek. It took approximately ten hours to complete the journey down 13 river miles as we fished our way downstream. We rented two CataRafts (basically a seat supported by two pontoons) from Spray Raft Rentals and Shuttle Services (541-468-2229). The CataRafts are maneuvered two ways, one is with oars; the second is with fins on your feet which are very helpful while you are fishing. The day of our trip was very hot, but having your feet in the water helped temper the heat. The CataRafts were very stable while go-

ing through rapids, which were plentiful and cooling when the water slopped up your front. The fishing for smallmouth bass was fair, but the fish were small. I have read that the fishing in the John Day river can be red hot with upwards of two hundred fish a day not being uncommon. We kept six fish for dinner and they were very good. Fishing the John Day's smallmouth bass is exciting since the fish are visible as they chase your crank baits or smash your lure just after it hits the surface. We used mainly Ripalas, both diving and floating. Gold and silver and blue and silver seemed to be the colors of the day on our trip. By the time you read this article, it may be too late to float the John Day river due to low water levels, at least in the upper reaches. Call Spray Raft Rentals for conditions.

Mike and I camped both the night before and the night of our trip at Shelton Wayside, which is a State Park. We stayed at this location because it is situated at a higher elevation and in the big timber, and was a lot cooler than down on the river about eight miles away. While getting a few last minute groceries at the store before the trip, Mike said a watermelon sure sounded good. So we bought one and enjoyed a couple slices our first night. A problem on the second day was that the watermelon would not fit in our cooler, so we decided to cover the exposed end with a plastic bag and stick the watermelon back in the small creek by our campsite. When we came back from our trip that night, we were sure looking forward to that nice cold watermelon. There was another camper in our spot when we pulled into the park, so we camped in the spot next to them and I went down to collect our watermelon. The man and wife in our old campsite said they thought someone had eaten our watermelon, when I started explaining what I was up to. They had seen our rinds from the previous night in the garbage can. I walked over to the creek and looked in dismay when I saw the plastic bag had been pulled off the top of the watermelon. Upon closer examination, I found that birds had eaten all the meat out of the watermelon's rind. So much for watermelon that night! Mike and I will have some good laughs in the future when we remember the hollowed out watermelon, eating our food off of plastic signs since dad forgot paper plates and having Pepsi for breakfast since dad forgot to bring the hot chocolate. I've got to make that checklist!

My kayaking buddy, Troy Horton, and I have continued our exploration down the Nehalem River and have now made it down to the mouth

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