

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

The first editorial of the year is very important and is given considerable thought. This year seemed like a good time to explain the process used by good writers. So, here is a brief lesson in writing.

How To Write Good

(and avoid using adjectives as adverbs)

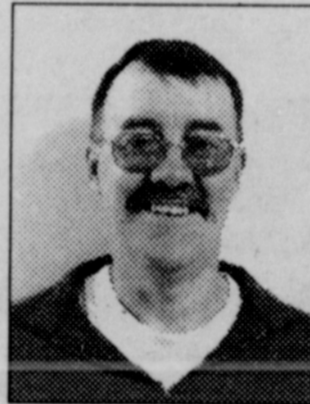
Here are several very important but often forgotten rules of English:

1. Always avoid alliteration.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid clichés like the plague. (They're old hat.)
4. Utilize the vernacular.
5. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
6. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
7. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
8. Contractions aren't necessary.
9. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos, though they do add a certain je ne sais quoi.
10. One should never generalize.
11. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
12. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
13. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. Be more or less specific.
15. Understatement might help.
16. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
17. One-word sentences! Eliminate.
18. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
19. The passive voice is to be avoided.
20. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
21. Even if a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
22. Who needs rhetorical questions?
23. While a transcendent vocabulary is laudable, one must nevertheless keep incessant surveillance against such loquacious, effusive, voluble verbosity that the calculated objective of communication becomes ensconced in obscurity.
24. In a sentence, the nouns has to agree with the verbs.
25. Don't use no double negatives.
26. In writing, few things are, so to speak, more infuriating, than, say, commas, at least when there are too many of them, or when they should be, say, semicolons.
27. Proofread your work, so you don't leave some out or forget to finish
28. Run-on sentences are really bad because the reader saturates and what you really should be doing is using commas and semicolons and even periods to break the sentence up into more digestible chunks.
29. To have been using excessively complex verb constructions, is to have been bopping the literary baloney.
30. A friend I spoken with recently told me he been forgetting his helping verbs.
31. Finally, all at once, I suddenly remembered – avoid tautology.



Ike Says...

By Dale Webb, member
Nehalem Valley Chapter Izaak
Walton League



Happy New Year! Well, we survived another one. I was home for the wind-storm that blew in after Christmas; it was fun to watch. Isn't it interesting how dependent we are on electricity? I kept flipping the light switches when I walked into a dark room. It sure makes you think about having emergency supplies, just in case things got really bad and we didn't have service for a week, month or longer.

In the last column, I talked about the West Nile virus and I have since learned a little bit more information. I talked to an official with the National Wildlife Health Center (I didn't even know this critter existed). While they did not have all the answers I was looking for, they did have some good and bad news. The good news is that, while migratory fowl can be in-

fectured with West Nile virus, they have a very high resistance to it and probably a very low mortality if any. The bad news is that America's raptor populations may be in trouble from this disease. While the evidence is not totally in and this official would not give a mortality rate, he stated that the Midwest suffered a high raptor loss last year. What is not known, at this time, is if birds infected, but not killed by the West Nile virus will build immunity and if this immunity will carry to their offspring. I recently read in the Capitol Press that mortality in crows was running as high as 90 percent of infected birds. It would be a shame to watch as our Bald Eagles, Osprey and Hawks of all kinds disappear from the sky. Let's hope it is not as bad as it appears it may be. If the raptors decline, the vermin on the ground will increase rapidly and may cause whole new problems that we have not seen in years. We may very well get a front row seat for a look at an ecosystem totally out of balance.

We finally got our rain and, boy, did the Coho Salmon take advantage of it. I happened to

be off work and was able to catch the salmon jumping the falls at Anderson Park and swimming over the concrete apron at the City swimming pool. I made a twenty-minute count at the swimming pool and got a rate of 70 fish-per-hour. All of these fish were dark and, I would bet, have been hung up in the river for quite some time. Dennis Nelson and I had kayaked down the Nehalem from Anderson Park to the Green Steel Bridge the week before and had seen both dead and live fish. It appeared that a lot of Coho had spawned in the main stem of the Nehalem. Dennis said he had watched fish spawning behind his house, which he noted was a rarity.

I added up my kayak mileage the other day and came up with 135 miles of river running. I definitely hope to surpass that this year. My son, Michael, and I made a trip down Rock Creek from the Flack Road bridge to Hawkins Park. This is a pretty mellow run for me now but, since Mike has been out of his boat for six months, we wanted a safe and dry trip. There is still one port-

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