

STRAITS AREA BROADSIDE

(Infusing ideas,-- hopefully of substance)

Volume 1, No. 1, Spring, 2008

Our Mission:

To provide information that is RELEVANT, that is INTERESTING and above all, that is TRUTHFUL and we will cite sources as much as possible.

To stimulate your THINKING, to stir your INQUIRY, and to encourage you to take ACTION.

This is the first issue of the Straits Area Broadside, a new semi-newspaper in the greater Straits Area. Like any new enterprise, we will have our own share of problems, ranging from distribution, cost, and editorial comment. We will have a point of view: roughly it will be concern for openness and integrity in government and quasi-government, and business. We will be concerned with the health of our citizens our economy, and our nation. And we will be bringing up matters of global concerns as well.

Straits Area Concerned Citizens for Peace and Justice, Publisher
www.straitspeace.org
Robert O. Pritchard, Editor

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What is a Broadside? (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, on the Web)

A **broadside** is a large sheet of paper, generally printed on one side and folded into a smaller size, often used as a direct-mail piece or for door-to-door distribution. Traditionally, printed works were printed on broadside sheets, then folded and cut to produce books of a smaller page size than the original sheet. In the United Kingdom the only national daily newspaper still printed in a broadsheet format is the Daily Telegraph. There, Broadsidings have been (used) by many small presses and publishers as a fine art offshoot of their work. Most often featuring a letterpress poem and accompanying art of some sort, these are frame-worthy pieces. . . (As to the fine art and frame-worthy pieces in the future ? Who knows? --ed)

Patriotism: What is it?

Love is blind, or so we've been hearing for oh so many years, and it probably is true, to a degree. Parent to child, child to parent and siblings, especially between lovers-- until a lovers' quarrel! But what about citizen to country? Is it still blind? (If this comment doesn't satisfy you, read on)

further to the Editor's Musings.)

Facts

From the Washington Spectator, March 1, 2008, --Attributed to Everett Dirksen, U S Senator from Illinois, circa 1950-69: " A billion here and a billion there and pretty soon you're talking about real money!" . . Lou Dubose, Editor . . "The United States currently spends more on defense than the combined defense expenditures of all the other countries in the world."

From The New York Times, March 2, 2008:

By Charles DuHigg: Tapping Into Homes Can Be Pitfall for the Elderly. (*Referring to Reverse Mortgages -- ed*)

The Hightower Lowdown, Vol. 9, No.12, December, 2008:

THE E.coli LOOPHOLE --. . . our U.S. Agriculture Dept. is allowing meat companies to market beef that has been found to contain E.coli bacteria in it ? Yes again.

It's known as the "E.coli loophole," and it works like this: giant processing outfits like Tyson and Cargill conduct their own meat safety tests, and when they find a batch with E.coli toxins, you'd assume they have to throw it out. Nooooo. Instead they're allowed by USDA to toss it in a "cook only" bin -- to make pre-cooked hamburger patties, meat loaf, pizza toppings, taco meat and such. Thus, contaminated meat is turned into a profit center for the industry, so processors are under no pressure to clean up their sloppy, low cost, rush procedures.

Not to worry, say the industry and the government, for the cooking kills the deadly bacteria. In fact, USDA doesn't even track the amount of beef that goes into the "cook only" category, much less whether it's cooked properly or whether it's sickening consumers.

The E.coli loophole stinks. As one disgusted federal inspector put it,"Nobody would buy it if they knew."

Opinions from other sources

From U S A Today, 2/28/08 Editorial:,"When Congress judges itself, ethics fall by the wayside." Their view: "Proposal to create an outside panel offers independence, transparency."

From Detroit Free Press, 2/23/08 editorial page: "Great state for lucrative lobbying. Lobbyists spent a stunning \$32 million in Michigan in 2007.

From Forbes Publisher, Rich Karlgaard, March 10, 2008:

"What dampens spirits today? The subprime mortgage mess. How big a problem is that? No one really knows, but so far banks have written off about \$150 billion in bad loans. Now, \$150 billion sounds huge. But it is only 1% of America's annual GDP. It is also less than 1% of the market capitalization of U.S. stocks. In any typical volatile trading day U.S. stocks gain or lose \$150 billion every hour. How often does one hear that?

From Barron's (financial newspaper) March 17, 2008:

Ian Wyatt, in the Growth Report by the Big Investor, March 12, 2008: Oil prices hit [a record,] gasoline prices are in record territory. You and I both know. . . Saudi princes and oil executives are getting rich as we get fleeced. Well its time to get even and maybe even rich. Every time oil prices spike, alternative energy stock prices ramp up, too. Wind, solar, hydrogen, ethanol, geothermal -- it doesn't matter. We have to find new, cheaper, and cleaner ways to power our cars, heat our homes and run our factories.

From Benjamin Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)

Diligence is the mother of good luck * * Would you persuade, speak of Interest, not of Reason.**
The noblest question in the world is, "What good may I do in it?" ** When the well's dry we know
the worth of water.

From U S A Today, Oliver "Buzz" Thomas, March 3, 2008: The U S economy has moved from its
base of manufacturing and agriculture to one of information and technology. The majority of our
citizens are now paid for what they know rather than what they do. When knowledge becomes a
commodity that drives an economy, education is the only ticket in. In fact, a high quality education
is the only long term solution . . . in the highly competitive economy of the twenty-first century.
(*And developing an attitude of adapting, coping, and problem solving by action. -ed*)

War in Iraq

We will have more to say on the war in Iraq in a future issue. Suffice to say, the sacrifices of the
American people in this war are being borne by the dedicated service men and women and their
families, and we all should support them. Whereas in all the previous wars, the sacrifices
consisted of higher taxes, rationing, recycling of aluminum and other metals to help the war effort
and to supply needed materials for the building of guns, tanks, ships and airplanes. This past
five years this war has been paid for by the U S Government borrowing money by floating bonds
bought, in large measure, by foreign interests in China, Europe and Arabia. This war, in other
words, is not being paid for by us the citizens, but it is being foisted off onto our children and our
grandchildren to pay for it !

Joke Corner

Will Rogers often said, " My ancestors didn't come over on the Mayflower, but they met the boat."
* * *

A hippopotamus walks into a bar and asks the bartender for a beer. "That'll be \$7.50, please,"
says the bartender. Hippo pays and starts to sip his beer. Bartender sidles over and says to the
hippo, "You know, we don't get very many hippos in here." Hippo replies rather indignantly, "At
these prices it's no wonder!"

Recycling

Cheboygan County Recycling is in full swing. Not in all townships, to be sure, but in many of
them. Investigate if you don't know where your drop off site is located. We, this old world, the
U.S., and Cheboygan County NEED to clean up our act. Recycling lowers our dependence on
foreign metals. Recycling decreases our need to cut down our forests for paper and paper
products. Recycling reduces the nation's need of foreign oil-- the base of so much of the plastic
that would otherwise wind up in land fills. At present you can conserve and drop off these:
Plastic, 1 and 2 bottles jugs and jars; newspapers, catalogs, books and phone books;
cardboard plus box board and brown paper bags; office paper plus junk mail; cans, foil and
aluminum (No aerosol cans or propane tanks;) glass-- clear, green and brown bottles. For
further information on how you can help, contact your own County Commissioner, or Dan
O'Henly, County Recycling Coordinator.

Earth Day Conference at the Cheboygan Library, Saturday, April 19, 2008

The second Cheboygan Area Earth Day Conference will be held at the Cheboygan Public Library,
100 S. Bailey St., 10 A.M to 4 P.M. (A modest lunch is provided.) The theme this year is: Making
the Earth a friendlier place for all -- There will be several speakers and workshops to choose
from. Topics will include Our Water; Organic Gardening/Protecting the Food Supply; Alternative
Energy; Forestry; Air Quality; Global Warming; Eco-Friendly Living; and Recycling. Do put this

date on your calendar and participate!

Poetry Corner

Haiku No. 3

Hidden in shadows,
Deep winter snows slowly fade:
Wild flowers rebirth.

Editor's Musings

Do you remember an old expression, "Tis better to be silent and thought a fool-- than to open your mouth and remove all doubt?" I was musing about that as I was writing this first issue and of a long felt need for something like this in our area. There is a danger in being afraid to speak out. Just as there is the possibility --very real -- of being laughed at, criticized, or even worse, being targeted by extremists of whatever element that uses violence in word or deed to stifle dissent. Few people today even recognize the name of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., "The Great Dissenter." A Supreme Court Justice of the United States, yet he was often criticized by many of the populace at that time. One of the great things that make up this Country of ours is, in addition to the strong love of country (patriotism,) to remind each of us that serious, considered dissent is NOT unpatriotic, but healthy for the continued free society we have so long enjoyed.

Bob Pritchard

Well, there you have it, our inaugural issue of the Straits Area Broadside.

To comment to the editor, write,

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