

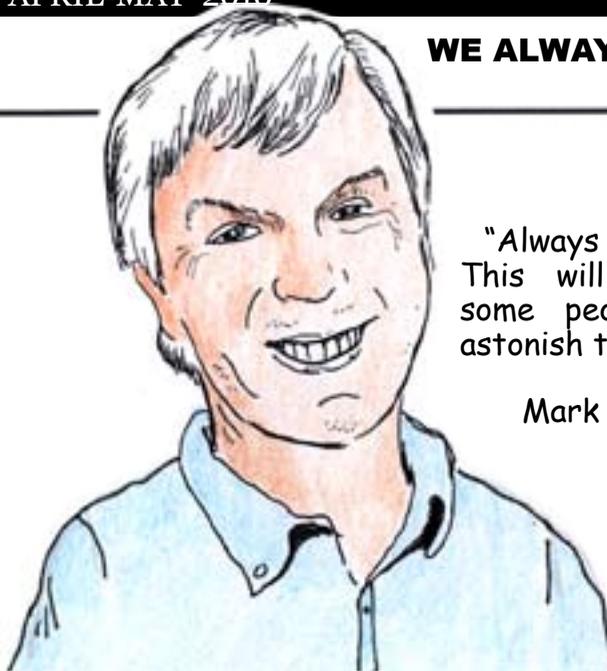
WE ALWAYS TRY TO "DO RIGHT."



PRINTS

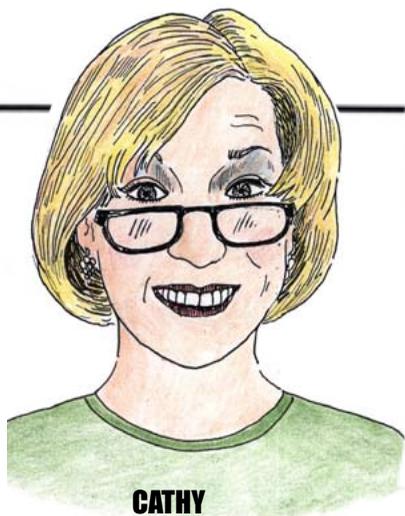
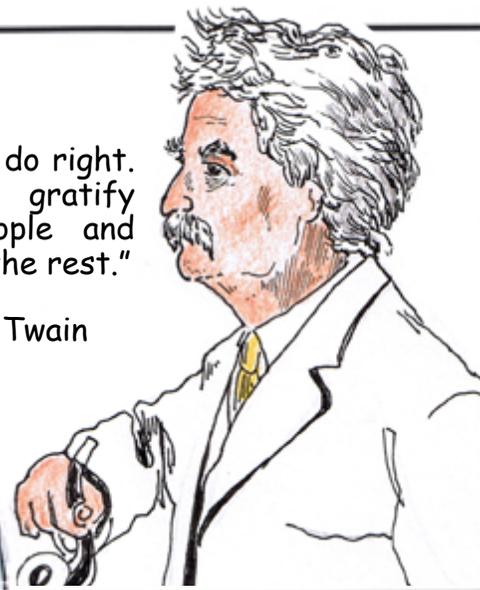
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"Always do right.
This will gratify
some people and
astonish the rest."

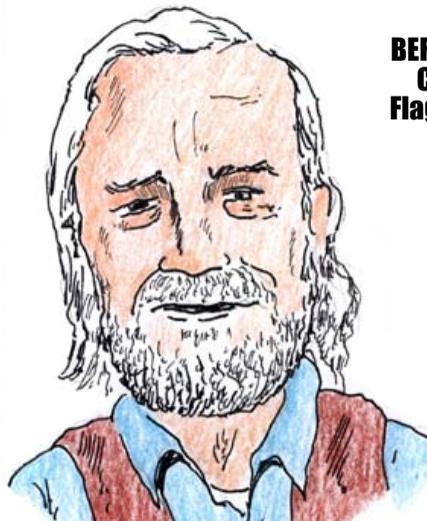
Mark Twain



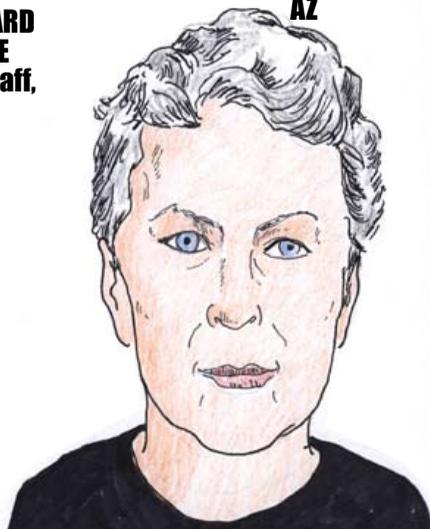
CATHY SEABOLD
Louisville,
KY



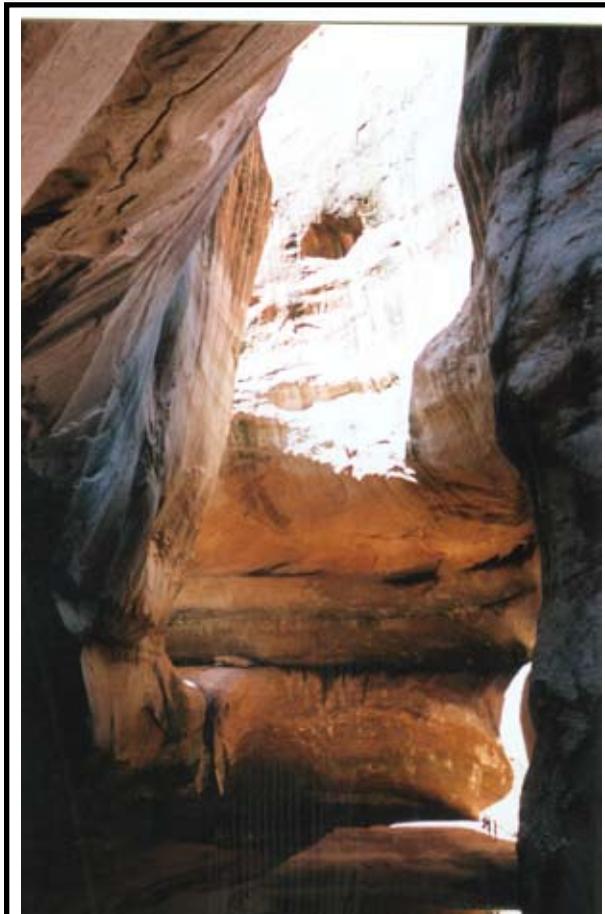
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Salt Lake City, UT

"The holy passion of Friendship
is of so sweet and steady and loyal
and enduring a nature that it will
last through a whole lifetime, if not
asked to lend money."



**THE
BACK
BONE
...#1**

RACHEL WHITE
SLC, UT



But join The Backbone anyway...

FEEDBACK

The Readers Respond...

ON FEBRUARY'S "OBLIGATIONS OF DEATH MUST BE OBSERVED"

Dear Stiles,

I'd like to begin by thanking you for writing this piece. You have once again succeeded in pointing out the elephant in the room. Our culture's fear of (and obsession with) death is certainly worth examining and leaves one to question its implications for the direction our society is heading in.

That being said, I think you are ignoring the bigger picture. You commented, "When advances in medicine can restore health and vitality, it is extraordinary; when it merely extends the date of death, is it still worthy of our praise?" This suggests that advances in medicine can be accomplished without the desire or even the end goal of extending the date of death. Even if it ends up being our downfall, it is this instinctual desire to prolong life that has fueled medical advancement. I'm not implying that the current trend is the only logical outcome but simply suggesting that our own self-importance has, for better or worse, driven our ability to "restore health and vitality".

Additionally, you are framing the issue in terms of natural resource depletion. Are our increasing life spans detrimental to the future of the planet at our current rates of consumption? Absolutely. But... your article suggests you only take issue with those already on their deathbed merely adding a few weeks or months to the expiration date. Do you really believe these are the individuals that are sucking our planet dry? Financially perhaps, but in terms of actual resource consumption I would be more inclined to blame those of us who are reasonably healthy.

Kind regards,
Lauren Drakopoulos
Sarasota, FL

EDITOR'S NOTE: *If The Zephyr had never discussed the issues of overconsumption and overpopulation before, regardless of age, race, color or creed, Ms. Drakopoulos' criticism might carry more weight. But since this has been an ongoing mantra for most of The Zephyr's 21 years, I think the story mentioned by Ms. Drakopoulos (FEB/MAR 2010), is simply one chapter of a much larger story.....JS*

MORE ON "OBLIGATIONS"

Dear Editor Stiles,

Leave it to the Zephyr to bring up a topic as controversial and politically incorrect as your essay in the February/March issue about "the obligations of death." I do remember when Governor Lamm threw himself into the middle of that fray and I hope you fare better. It's a subject that is wrapped in so many shades of grey that it is difficult to say definitively who is right and who is wrong.

My mother fought cancer for a decade. She endured three long bouts with the disease which included disfiguring surgery, painful chemo-therapy that created side-effects that seemed worse than the disease, and after all that, the cancer came back again and killed her in six weeks.

Was it worth it to her or to us? I could give you different answers on different days. Ultimately it should be the choice of the patient. Unfortunately, laws that prevent us from choosing to end our own suffering (not to mention the pain inflicted on friends and families), while we can do the "humane" decision for our pets, has taken that choice away.

So, I don't know, Stiles. But thanks for giving us something to think about.

Sincerely,
Robert Hobel
Denver, CO

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

NEW & RE-NEWED BACKBONERS FOR APRIL

ALSO!

THE BACKBONE

Janet Walther...San Diego, CA

David McCargo...Anchorage, AK

Barry Scholl...SLC, UT

THE FINGER

Kathryn Kemp...

Cottage Grove, OR

Greg Gnesios...

Grand Jct, CO

"NATALIE" friend of

MARCIA MARSHALL

Minneapolis, MN

TIM STECKLINE

Spearfish, SD



ALAN JOSLYN
Highlands Ranch, CO



TED HELM
Brentwood, TN



TOM THORNE...SLC, UT

M. JOHN
FAYHEE
Silver
City, NM



JIM CAHALAN
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RICK LARSEN
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SHANK
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PAUL VLACHOS
New York, NY