



# The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 92 February 2022

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## Utah's Flag

By Ted Kaye

Recent U.S. state flag change has been driven by purely negative reasons: removing symbolism offensive to a growing portion of the public. Mississippi's 2001 & 2020 efforts, like Georgia's in 2001 and 2003, responded to calls to remove the Confederate Battle Flag. Massachusetts established a commission in 2021 to update the state seal, which appears on the state flag and depicts an American Indian below a crooked arm brandishing a sword.

[I discount as unsubstantial any updates to specifications (such as Nevada's in 1991, led by Jim Ferrigan, or Utah's in 2011, led by John Hartvigsen) or minor alterations (such as reflecting New York state's motto's change in 2020).]

But in January, Utah launched its state flag redesign effort for a different reason: a growing sense that the symbolism is outdated. While for many the flag channels deep historical meaning and represents strong ties to the state's origins and culture, for others

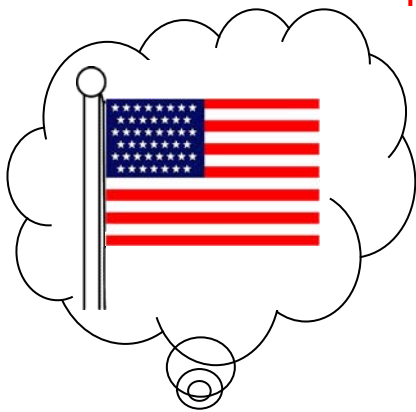


Utah (adopted 1913 with the 1896 seal).

the flag no longer represents them. In November, the Utah legislature passed and the governor signed [SB2003](#), setting out the process for “revising or creating a new state flag”. Sen. McCay and Rep. Handy sponsored the legislation.

Now, in the “More Than A Flag” campaign, Utahns can provide input into themes, colors, and symbols for consideration by professional designers, or submit their own flag designs (up to 3).

The pitch: “Designing a new state flag offers Utahns the chance to talk about who we are now. It's a chance to talk about the symbols and colors that represent our shared identity. Together, we can design a 21st-century flag to represent a 21st-century state.”



*When the day comes in which the Kingdom of God will bear rule, the flag of the United States will proudly flutter unsullied on the flag staff of liberty and equal rights...*

—Brigham Young

[portlandflag.org](http://portlandflag.org) | [facebook.com/portlandflag](https://facebook.com/portlandflag) | [instagram.com/portlandflag](https://instagram.com/portlandflag)

If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or [editor@portlandflag.org](mailto:editor@portlandflag.org). If you wish to complain, call your mother.

## January 2022 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our January meeting, held entirely via Zoom (due to the Omicron variant surge), 14 PFA members and out-of-town (and -country!) guests enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation. Ted Kaye moderated the meeting.

Michael Orelove performed a pair of magic tricks, turning three handkerchiefs into a U.S. flag and turning an Indonesian flag into a Polish flag.

Ted Kaye recognized the day as the 224th anniversary of the second U.S. Flag Act, flying the 15-star/15-stripe flag at his home. He shared some new city flags he'd acquired recently, mentioned a *Washington Post* article of that day in which he was quoted, and showed designs proposed by an Australian correspondent (see p. 6).

Larry Snyder described the coat of arms and heraldic banner he'd designed for and presented to Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, manufactured by Buzz Banners (see p. 5).



Michael Orelove performs vexi-magic, turning Indonesia into Poland.



Ted Kaye joins in from his flag- and book-lined study.

Alex Zimmerman reported on the Wild collection disposition (nearly complete, see p. 10) and described flags of U.S. territories—including Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands—with a discussion of the 2010–11 *NAVA News*

series on minor U.S. possessions by Roman Klimeš [nava.org/nava-news](http://nava.org/nava-news).

Max Liberman analyzed the flag of Togo, commenting on how it's the only national flag with proportions specified as the “golden ratio”. (1:1.68159...).



Alex Zimmerman discusses flags of U.S. territories.



Larry Snyder presents the arms he designed for Grace Memorial Church.



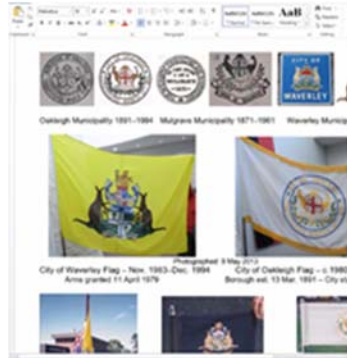
Max Liberman explains the unusual proportions of Togo's flag.



Bard Cosman again dips into religious art and vexillology.



Alden Jencks shows the Saami flag.



Ralph Bartlett explains the history of the symbols of his home area.

That prompted Alden Jencks to describe his experience in Togo during a brief putsch in 1969 (he served in the Peace Corps in West Africa).

Bard Cosman (from La Jolla) gave a preliminary view of his work on “God’s flag”—Medieval and Renaissance depictions of Jesus (or of the Lamb) bearing a flag.

Scott Mainwaring delivered a contrarian argument regarding the value of text on flags, which spurred eager debate.

Ralph Bartlett (from Melbourne, Vic., Australia) gave a presentation on the evolution of seals and flags for his ever-changing home area, with the evolution of municipal symbols for Oakleigh, Mulgrave, Waverley, and Monash.

David Koski agreed with some of Scott’s pro-text craziness.

Jessie Spillers hoped all could attend the postponed meeting at his place in two months.



David Koski comments on text on flags.



Jesse Spillers invites all attendees to the meeting in March.



Scott Mainwaring challenges the no-text flag-design orthodoxy.

*Continued on next page*



Al Cavallari lauds NAVA's AmRev AIM.

Al Cavallari (from New Windsor, New York) commended NAVA's ongoing Interest Area Meeting series on American Revolutionary War flags—he lives near George Washington's army's 1782–83 encampment during the final year of the war.



Graham Houser shares flags that could celebrate holidays throughout the year.

Graham Houser, backed by the flag of Friesland, Netherlands, explored the world of “holiday-ish flags”, running through a year of holidays with flags that might evoke or represent them (see p. 6).

Matt Bray joined briefly.

## Holiday-ish Flags



Our next meeting, on March 10, 2022, will be hosted at the home of Jessie Spillers. Ted Kaye will deliver the PFA flag to him.

We also expect to stream the meeting via Zoom again, to welcome our local members and far-flung friends.

## Distress Flag



In a recent Massachusetts visit, Ted Kaye encountered this print depicting a rare example of signaling distress with an inverted flag. In this detail of “Abandonment of the Whalers in the Arctic Ocean Sept. 1871”, the ice-bound *Concordia* flies an upside-down U.S. ensign. The owners, the Howland brothers (Matthew and George, Jr., of New Bedford, Massachusetts) were reportedly uninsured.

## Upcoming Meetings



NAVA 56 in St. Augustine, Florida  
17–19 June 2022 at Flagler College.  
**Registration is open!**

[nava56.com](http://nava56.com)



ICV 29 in Ljubljana, Slovenia  
11–15 July 2022 at Best Western  
Premier Hotel Slon.  
**Registration opens in February.**

[icv29ljubljana.com/en](http://icv29ljubljana.com/en)

## Church Gonfalon

By Larry Snyder

In 2009 I designed a coat of arms for my church, Grace Memorial Church, on N.E. 17th Avenue in Portland. These were registered with the American College of Arms.

As a gift to the church last Christmas, I designed a gonfalon (hanging banner) of the church's arms in the format of an U.S. Episcopal flag and had it made by Buzz Banners.

The gonfalon cost \$41, including shipping. It is heavy weight knitted polyester, fully hemmed, printed both sides, and with eight brass grommets. I am very pleased with the print quality. The church immediately put the gonfalon on display in the sanctuary.



The new gonfalon hangs in Grace Memorial Episcopal Church.

## A Canadian Flag Reminiscence

By Carl Gurtman

Reading an item in a Vexi-News e-blast—that the Yorkshireman who designed the Saskatchewan flag recently met a man from the committee who selected it in 1969—led me to reminisce.

I started work at the Portsmouth (N.H.) Naval Shipyard in Nov. 1965. In the summer of 1966 I took my first vacation, traveling with my friend Fred in my new Austin-Healy Sprite Mark III.

We started in Maine (where else?) and spent the first night in Québec City. From there, we travelled west on the Trans-Canada Highway, the TCH. We travelled all the way to Mile 0, in Victoria, British Columbia. We have many stories from that trip. (After my wife Linda and I married in 1970, we travelled the TCH from Québec City all the way east to the other Mile 0, in St. Johns, Newfoundland.)

But here's the story, from a vexillological viewpoint... Fred and I were travelling in 1966, as Canada prepared to celebrate its 100 years of Confederation the next year.

There were two races going on. The first was to complete the TCH. In some locations it was a two-lane road (and may still be!); in others, it hadn't yet been paved. And second, not every province had a flag yet (or it might have been selected, but wasn't in common use).



Saskatchewan's provincial flag—selected from among 4,000 submissions in a 1969 competition.



Saskatchewan's 60th anniversary flag—adopted in 1965.

Many variants were being flown. I love flags, but 55 years ago, with all the driving and sightseeing, there just was not enough time for me to document, and/or buy, or try to buy, a copy of each variant.

I seem to remember a flag for Saskatchewan with three sheaves of wheat in the fly. It was a time of great vexillological turmoil, and I was right in the middle of it. That trip stands out as a great personal memory, and one of rueful vexillological regret. I'm sure many of the variants were never documented.

Oh, well. There'll probably be a big celebration of Canada's 200th in 2067, and I won't miss that.

*Carl Gurtman (of York, Maine) is a mainstay of our sister organization—NEVA, the New England Vexillological Association.*

## Flag Proposals in Australia

A retiree in Australia has designed new flags for his city and state. Ted Davis is now promoting his unsolicited concepts for flags for the Gold Coast and Queensland.

Mr. Davis sent us the coverage he's received from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, describing how he has submitted his designs to the mayor and the state's premier. He formerly worked in the defense department and now lives in the suburb of Burleigh Heads.



A proposal for the city of Gold Coast, “depicting the sun in the sky, above the Gold Coast’s beaches, and the lush Gold Coast hinterland”.

The mayor’s response: “...if we ever needed a city flag, I expect the [existing] crest would be sufficient given it is well recognised.”



A proposal for Queensland (famous for pineapples) in which “the two pineapple slices represent North and South Queensland... The blue represents the link with the past [Australian and Queensland flags] and the maroon is the color most people associate with today’s Queensland.”

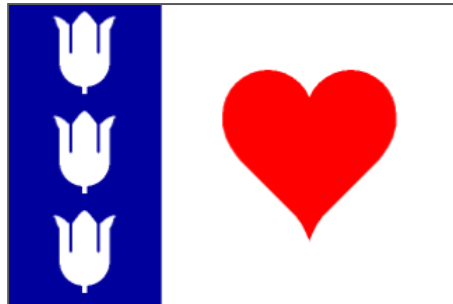
## Holiday-ish Flags

PFA member Graham Houser has begun collecting images of flags whose symbolism bears some association with holidays throughout the year—intentional or otherwise. So far he’s found over 60 images of flags representing holidays or incorporating their symbolism.

The group shown at right (sourced from FOTW) constitutes obvious examples for holidays in February, March, & April and October, November, & December. However, many images Graham has collected have more esoteric connections to the holidays and symbols.

He’s also interested in holidays worldwide and across cultures and religions.

If readers know of flags to add, please let Graham know at [artemastheprovincial@gmail.com](mailto:artemastheprovincial@gmail.com).



Liptál (Czech Republic)



NAVA 13 (Salem, Massachusetts)



Irish Ferries



Magaramkentsky District  
(Dagestan, Russia)



Chantha Buri Province (Thailand)



Norfolk Island (Australia)

## Returning Mexican States' Flags

By Michael Orelove

In 2013, I wrote to all 32 states of Mexico requesting the donation of a flag for educational purposes.

I soon learned that most Mexican states do not have an official flag. Rather, most often the state's coat of arms on a white field is used as a *de facto* flag.

I received such full-sized flags with coats of arms from three Mexican states: Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, and Sonora.

Over the years I used those flags in a few presentations but mostly I kept them stored in a box. Eventually I decided to donate them to an organization that would enjoy them.

Last October I contacted the Consulate of Mexico in Portland—one of 50 in the United States—and asked the staff there if they would like the flags. They said “yes”. So, Kathleen and I made arrangements to present them.

We visited the consulate (at 1305 SW 12th Ave.) and met with the consul and other staff members; they were very happy to see and receive the flags.

They said this was a nice gift to receive in 2021, marking the 200th anniversary of Mexican independence from Spain (1821) and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Consulate of Mexico in Portland (1996).

I'm pleased the flags went “home”!



Left to right: Daniel Ricardo Saa Zaniefski, Consulate Community Affairs Coordinator, with the flag of Chihuahua; Michael Orelove with the flag of Sonora; Carlos Quesnel Melendez, Consul of Mexico, with the flag of Baja California Sur.

## Chinese Flag Industry Prepares for ICV 30



Leaders of China's flag industry convene for the first time, under the auspices of the VRCC in Zhuji.

As the Vexillology Research Center of China (VRCC) prepares to host the 30th International Congress of Vexillology in Beijing in 2024, it held its first council along with a national flag industry summit.

Meeting in Zhuji in December 2021, leaders of 30 large and medium-sized key enterprises in China's flag industry convened to hear about FIAV and advance

“studying and promoting flag culture...and enhancing the international influence of Chinese flag suppliers”. FIAV's president, Željko Heimer, spoke via video.

The group established a special committee of the flag industry (akin to the establishment in the U.S. of NIFDA in 1987 and FMAA in 2003) with a goal of establishing standards for various categories of foreign trade flags.

One speaker said the mission of Chinese flag manufacturers must

be to make the national flag admired by millions of people.

Surrounded by FIAV and VRCC flags, VRCC chair and ICV 30 organizer Zhao Xinfeng concluded the meeting by summarizing the academic research about the Chinese flag, recognizing the leaders of China's flag industry, hailing the quality improvement of Chinese flag manufacturing, and noting the development of the industry along four aspects: internationalization, academics, professionalism, and sanctity.



Zhao Xinfeng chairs the VRCC.



Delegates to the meeting pose below their nation's flag.



# Utah Launches Flag Re-Design Effort



Sponsors of Utah’s flag-change legislation (flanked by tribal flags) call on youth to show flags that represent them.

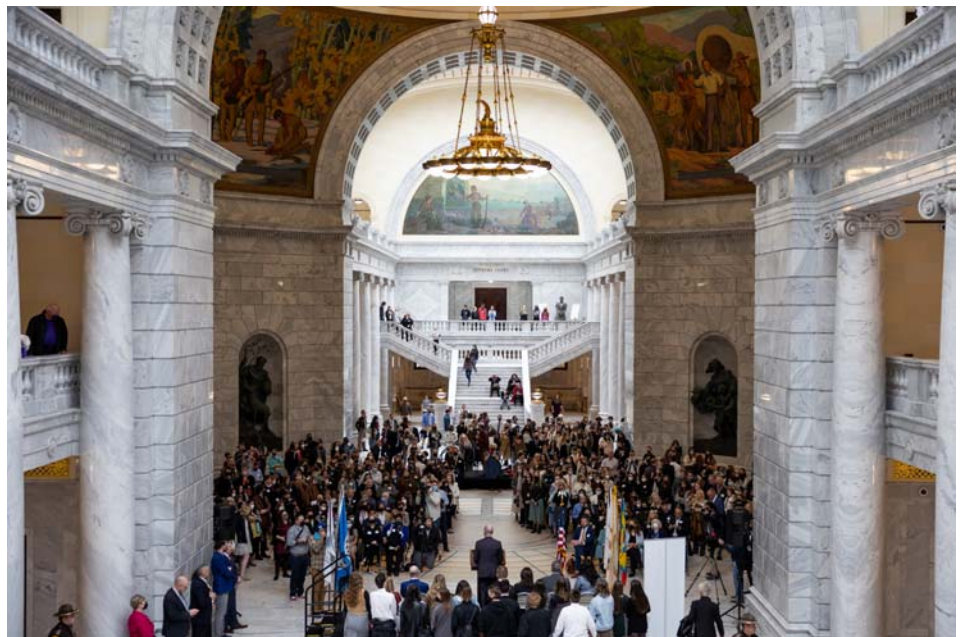
On January 19th, Utah formally initiated an effort to update the design of the state flag. In a press conference in the capitol rotunda, the governor called on Utahns to participate by sharing ideas and submitting designs by the end of April 2022. Visit [flag.utah.gov](http://flag.utah.gov) for full information.

During the League of Utah Cities and Towns’ annual legislature day, members of youth city councils participated in flag workshops.

Ted Kaye gave presentations on the opportunity for city flag (re-) design in Utah and gave several media interviews on the state flag.



Ted joins Dallin Millington, instigator of the flag of Elk Ridge, Utah.



Governor Spencer J. Cox announces Utah’s state flag re-design initiative.



Members of youth city councils from across Utah participate in Ted Kaye’s workshops on city flag design.

## John Wild Collection Update

By Alex Zimmerman

Everyone has a special set of somethings somewhere. Many of us are collectors and find enjoyment in our personal collections. Such is the case with PFA member John Wild, whose sudden passing found his family faced with a collection of over 500 flags. John's interest in flags over the years had led him to amass many historic and desirable versions of vexillological treasure. At his family's request, the PFA has already distributed over 80% of the collection to teachers free for use in the classroom.

We coordinated with NAVA's newly-established program helping members' families get flag collections into the right hands after a member's death. The PFA contacted teachers across the continent through NAVA, soliciting interest in "sending the Wild flags to school".

PFA volunteers (Graham Houser, Ted Kaye, Larry Snyder, and I) catalogued the entire collection and provided the full list to NAVA member educators for their selection. Their requests showed very little duplication, and most were fulfilled.

Then with large boxes of flags arriving before the holidays, educators from grade schools to community college used the break to plan how to use the flags in their classrooms.

Teacher Eric Davis (Cincinnati, Ohio) uses the flags in both the Deer Park and North College Hill schools. History professor Mabon Finch (Florence, Alabama) uses the flags at Northwest-Shoals Community College, sometimes related to an "on this day" event. PFA member Graham Houser (Portland, Oregon) teaches with the flags at Access Academy's middle school. Steve Lowery (Vancouver, Washington) uses tactile-distinguishable flags at Washington State School for the Blind (see VT 89). Clay Moss (Pearl, Mississippi) teaches at high school at Park Place Christian Academy. John Riley (Midlothian, Virginia) took all the 9/11 commemorative flags bearing victims' names for use in Freedom Foundation programs.



John Gregory Wild (1969–2021)

Many flags remain available for educators and several very desirable flags—especially a group of authentic Soviet republic flags—will be offered for sale to fund shipping costs.

Contact me: [azim07@comcast.net](mailto:azim07@comcast.net) for more information.



Prof. Mabon Finch unfurls a Belgian state ensign in a Northern European art class.

## What's that Flag?

By Mike Thomas

Identify these flags, and work out where they are currently flying for a few months, along with 192 national flags, the U.N. flag, and two others? Answers in the next issue...

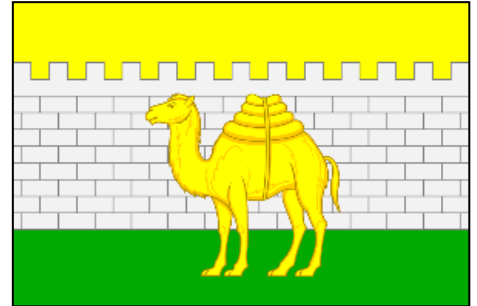


## What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

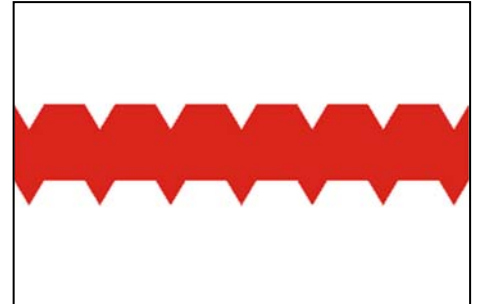
By Tony Burton

These are flags of cities on the Trans-Siberian Railway, the “track connecting them”.

Congrats to solvers John Cartledge and Mike Thomas.



Omsk



Chelyabinsk



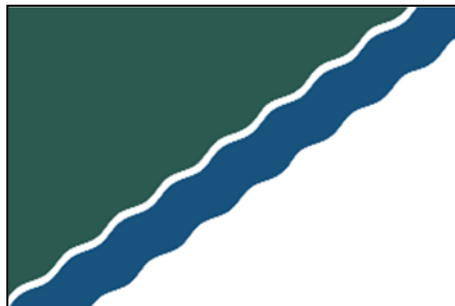
Vladivostok



Chita



Moscow



Novosibirsk



St. Petersburg



## Portland Flag Miscellany



“Portland Oregon Symbol  
City Flag Clean Pillow”  
Price range: \$25 (14”x14”)—  
\$46 (26”x26”).

<https://www.teepublic.com/throw-pillow/23480578-portland-oregon-symbol-city-flag-clean>



This “12” x 18” City of Portland  
Oregon Premium Quality Flag”,  
available on eBay for \$6.73, has the  
heading sewn on the wrong end of the  
flag!

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/133143540976>



Flag of Portland, Oregon Socks!  
\$16.15/pair...  
Note how they combine to make a full  
flag.

<https://www.redbubble.com/i/socks/Flag-of-Portland-Oregon-by-ArgosDesigns/54203918.9HZ1B>

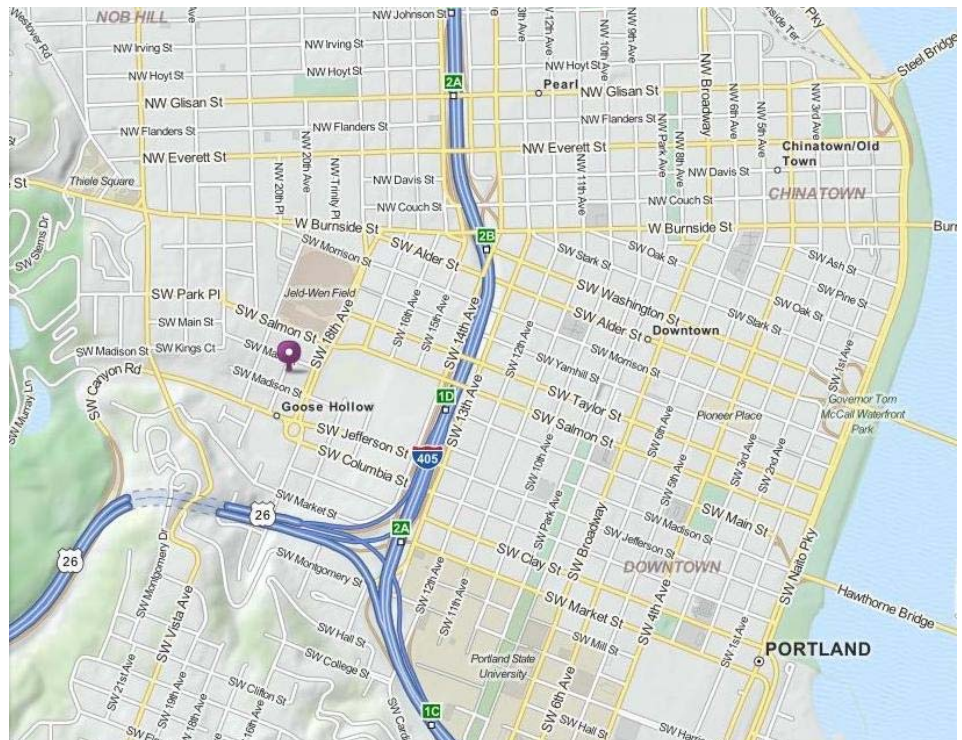
## March Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, March 10, 2022, at the home of Jessie Spillers (Legends), 1132 S.W. 19th Ave., Portland, OR 97205. MAX runs close by.

Those who cannot attend in person should watch for a Zoom invitation.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have missed recent meetings and engaging in provocative flag-related discussion.

Newcomers and friends from around the world are welcome!



The *Vexilloid Tabloid*, founded in 1999 by the late John Hood, is published bi-monthly by and for the Portland Flag Association—Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Find back issues at [www.portlandflag.org](http://www.portlandflag.org).