

## READING RIGHT NOW

Steve Walters

I feel like the fairy tale story where the boy's water bucket filled up as soon as he emptied it and everything flooded. I thoughtlessly subscribe to several magazines which come weekly. They mostly deal with current events in one way or another and I try to devour them. Well, no luck, for I cannot keep up with the flow. They fill up all the flat spaces in my small apartment and just keep coming.

*The New Yorker* that I have subscribed to since 1950 is weekly and it is still mostly great. Then there is *The Atlantic* and *Harpers*, both monthly, thank goodness. *Bloomberg Business Week*, another weekly, for gosh sakes, now comes with *The Denver Post*. And then there are some pure independent investigative magazines: *Mother Jones*, *The Nation* and *The Hightower Lowdown* – another independent monthly progressive letter. *The Pacific Standard* is a recent name change from a California current events magazine, showing up monthly, with excerpts printed on the internet. Doggone it, they all have articles of interest, so how can I drop one or two?

Our wonderful library is so handy downstairs where I can pursue *Science Magazine*, *Nature Magazine* and others thoughtfully left there by residents that I just cannot resist scanning every now and then.

Someone recently asked me what novels I am reading at this time. Novels – fiction, you are kidding. I absolutely have no time to read fiction when the real world is out there with more facts than I can ever absorb, all very fascinating. My old mother used to say that truth is stranger than fiction. It must be because I read of almost all kinds of facts, many of which are about as strange as fiction writers can dream up in their imaginations. Guess what. Much of the internet and printed stuff I see as

facts cannot begin to pass the truth test. Writers cannot resist printing sensational stuff that is later found to be wrong, but they only reluctantly print corrections, if any, hidden in back pages. They print much we should never see, due to the eyes of deranged copycats. For example, we are treated over and over with the “news” that bombs can be made with current drugstore stuff on their shelves. Wow! Isn’t it wonderful to be told that? Why do we have to know it? Would-be bombers now know how to get their stuff very easily.

Look for me if I disappear without warning someday. Just shovel my magazines out the door and you will find me buried under them, with a smile on my face, still trying to keep up with the facts in today’s media world.