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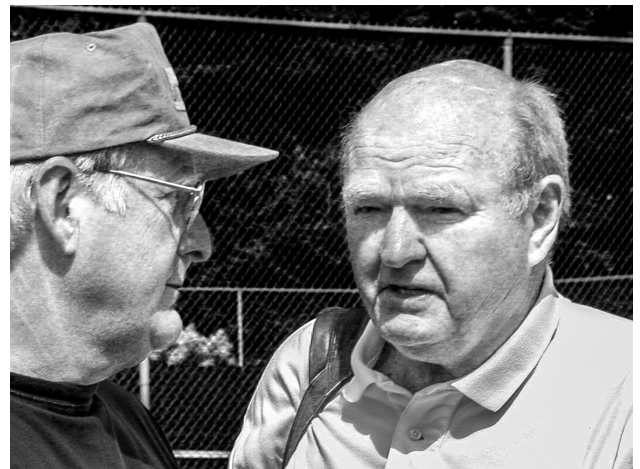


The Chairman of the Bored of Island Hardware has left the store. On Wednesday, January 24th, Island Hardware and I (and a good portion of the world) lost a great man, at least physically. Warren Miller, one of my greatest friends, died peacefully at his home. His sports movies, his books on life's humor, and his life story will preserve the history of his accomplishments and maybe pass on to others his amazing story-telling art.

Less than an hour ago, I was informed of the passing of my adopted big brother. Strangely, my instant grief is being tempered by my overwhelming memories of my times with him. It was and still is my great fortune to have been able to experience our 25-year friendship. Simply describing Warren as a great friend seems so shallow. He is my mentor—he still speaks to me. He's the one guy I can always trust to be there any time, anywhere.

I saw Warren happiest when he was improving other people's lives. He

needed no credit for this—just his own satisfaction from seeing the positive results. By example, he has shown many people the personal satisfaction derived by anonymously helping others. The plaque on the Orcas Island Skate Park describes his simple philosophy: "There is no limit to the amount of good a person can do if they don't care who gets the credit." Warren so believed this that he created and anonymously paid for that bronze plaque. This may be the first and only time this gift will ever be credited to Warren and that's the way he would have liked it. Most of the

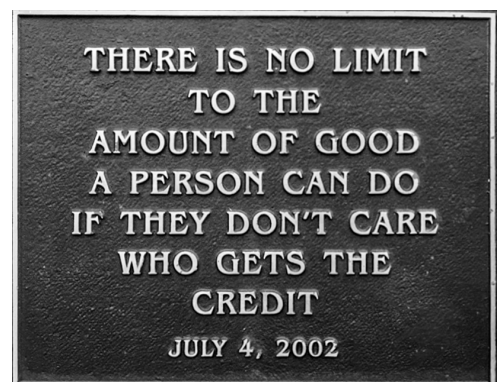


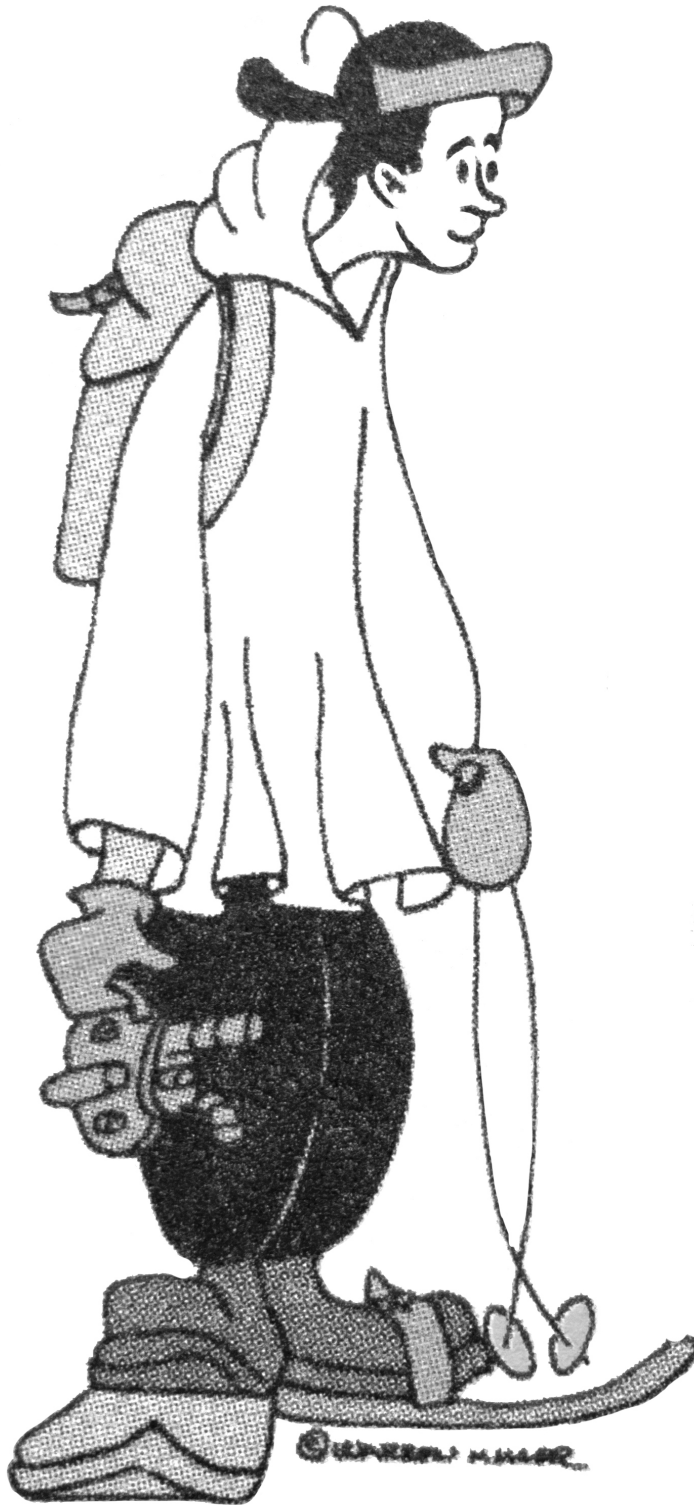
money to build and maintain the Skate Park was raised by Warren, though he would never admit to it.

It was almost impossible to be around Warren without wanting to emulate him. Warren, old buddy, I hope you realize how many people's lives you have influenced by your deeds. We are all better souls for having known you.

Boy, how did one of the world's worst snow skiers (me) get to know and spend so much time with such a kind, gentle soul who happened to be a pretty good skier?

I love you, Warren!





See you
when you
get there!

In its 20-some year history, only one other Hardware Herald edition has been dedicated completely to one individual. Warren and Allen Minnis are both in pretty good company.