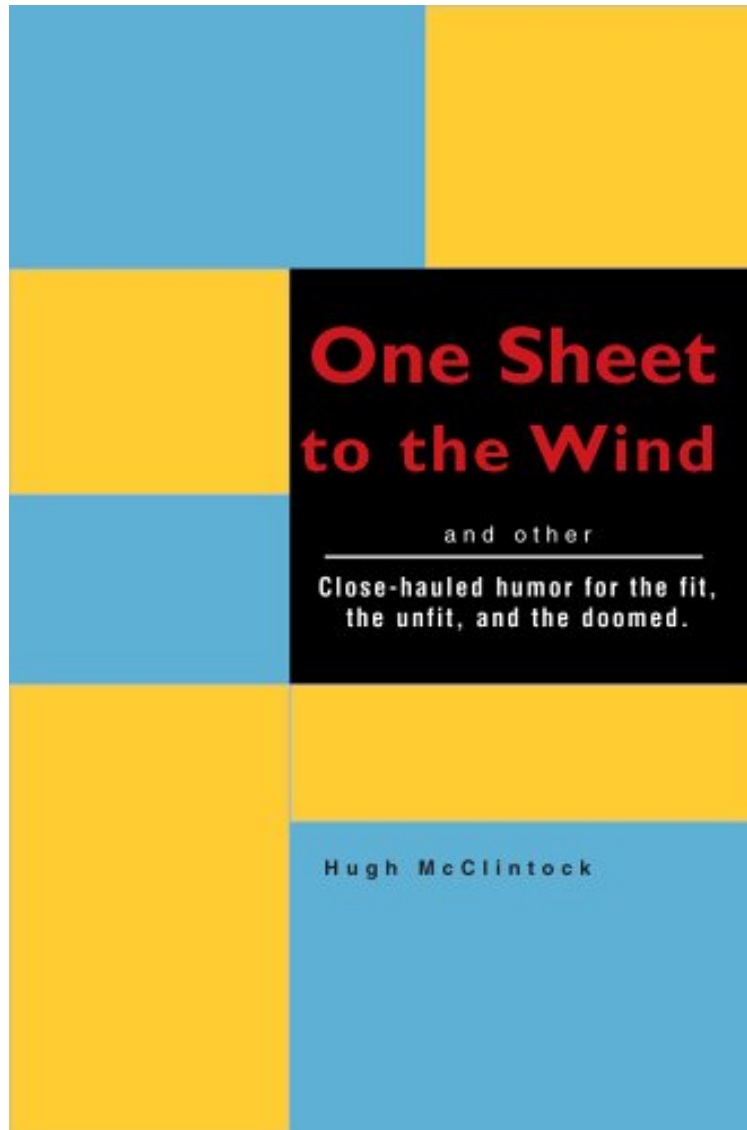


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## One Sheet to the Wind: Close-hauled humor for the fit, the unfit, and the doomed.

*Hugh McClintock*

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A collection of the author's humorous newspaper columns. For a good chuckle, open to any page... "Don't change horses in midstream." Of course not. Would you change a baby in midstream? Personally, I wouldn't change a horse in the warmth and comfort of a draft-free stall. Equine husbandry is hardly a fit subject for a proverb in the first place.—Not all proverbs age gracefully. (Dear Abbe's male-audience counterpart, Dr. Abe, answers a fan's question.) Special to Baffled in Costa Mesa, California: You bumpkin! No wonder your hemorrhoids swell when you have sex. Viagra is ingested, not supposed!—Cheerless in Pottstown, PA. "Ah yes, Rene Descartes," the professor mused dreamily. "The age of rationalism. 'I think therefore I am.'" "Yep, the French guy," I replied, my confidence restored. "Only, I believe, Sir, his signature remark was, 'I am therefore I think.'" I smiled understandingly. "I, uh, believe you said it backward. Accidentally, I'm sure." Dr. Spirale, clearly troubled by my gentle rebuke, didn't speak for several seconds. I quietly respected his obvious embarrassment.—Potholes on the road to wisdom. The Ten Commandments of the Old Testament? There were originally fifteen. That's right, five additional core commandments. And I don't mean that dinky follow-up stuff of the latter-day prophets. I hate being the one to point a finger, but most likely it was Moses who blew it.—Ten? Only ten Moses? Are you sure? Plovers, a type of shore bird, can't sing a lick. They compensate for this incapacity, however, by prattling endlessly. Granted, many a spouse is no less annoying, but this column is about the etymology of oddball words, not the proclivities of our mates.—Beyond buzz, cuckoo, and splat.

About the Author Hugh McClintock is a newspaper humor columnist and former paperboy, soda jerk, baker, machinist, Air Force sergeant, butcher, engineer, merchant, and ineffectual rake.