

# Bull by Bull

By Judy Bull  
Columnist

• The late Pulitzer Prize-winning author Russell Baker wrote, “The worst thing about being a tourist is having other tourists recognize you as a tourist.” To that end, while I was waiting for a train in Germany long years ago, an American acting badly asked me if I spoke English, to which I replied, “Nein” all the while with an English edition of *Time Magazine* opened in my lap.

• During this same pilgrimage across the pond, The Eagles had a popular song whose line, “Every form of refuge has its price,” spoke directly to my heart. Looking back, at that point in my life I had taken refuge traipsing around the UK, Scandinavia and Europe for months on end in a ’62 VW Bus. The price of my refuge was one of the best investments I

have ever made in my life.

• Judy Gage, my friend of 50 years, is a Santa Rosa fire survivor, a caregiver to her husband, a loving daughter to her 94-year-old mother, and a horse-lover through and through. When I sent her photos of icicles hanging off my horse Riddle, she sent me a photo of her washing her horse’s feet before stabling her for the night. Two very different ways to live the good life.

• One of the saddest sounds I know is hearing the whine of a winch doing its job: pulling. Whether it’s a tow truck at the scene of an accident up on the pass or the winch on a large-animal disposal truck, like as not, something has gone terribly wrong. I’ve heard winches on both rigs. That sad, whining sound and the empty space left behind is forever etched on my heart.

• When he wasn’t

wearing a cowboy hat, Vernon most always had on a snap-down-flat cap which I’m given to don on all cold mornings, while the warming fire heats the house we built together. Though we didn’t literally pound the nails on my log home, we poured over the architectural drawings for hours on end, Vernon having majored in architecture at UC Berkeley before going off to World War II. Making those design decisions together was one of the most rewarding parts of having my home built. Thirty years later, I wouldn’t change a thing.

• When I heard a man on Art Wolfe’s *Travels to the Edge* say, “You gotta wanna be where you are,” I so agreed. He was talking about the rewards for the effort of kayaking the coves of Lake Powell and I thought about the rewards for kayaking the coves of life.

# A push to drop nonunanimous jury verdicts

By Andrew Selsky  
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — After a jury convicted an Oregon man of having sex with a passed-out partygoer, one of the jurors left the courthouse and wept.

Cash Spencer and three other jurors believed the defendant was innocent, but after a lunch break, one changed her mind. Hours later, another changed her vote to guilty, saying she had to take care of her children and didn’t want to return the next day, according to Spencer.

That put the number of guilty votes at 10 — enough to convict Olan Williams of felony sodomy, condemning him to a mandatory minimum eight years in prison. The vote of Spencer, the only African American on the jury in which the defendant was also black, meant nothing.

Oregon is the only state

in America that allows nonunanimous jury convictions. Voters in Louisiana, the only other state that had adopted it, scrapped it in 2018.

Now, momentum is building for the same in Oregon, with several lawmakers sponsoring a ballot measure to eliminate an amendment to the state constitution that allows nonunanimous verdicts. In addition, a Louisiana case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court could have far-reaching effects in Oregon.

“We have evolved, and it’s time for our criminal justice system to reform and to move ahead,” state Sen. James Manning Jr., co-sponsor of a resolution that would put the issue on the ballot in the 2020 election, told *The Associated Press*.

The amendment allowing split-jury verdicts has roots in white nationalism.

In 1933, Jacob Silverman, a Portland hotel proprietor

with a sketchy past, was on trial for the murder of a small-time crook. Eleven jurors believed he was guilty, but one voted for acquittal. They settled on convicting Silverman, a Jew, of a lesser manslaughter charge.

He was sentenced to three years, which caused a stir.

Anti-minority sentiment was prevalent in Oregon. The Ku Klux Klan even helped elect a governor a few years earlier. In an editorial, the *Morning Oregonian* newspaper, which covered Silverman’s trial, said the “vast immigration into America from southern and eastern Europe, of people untrained in the jury system, have combined to make the jury of twelve increasingly unwieldy and unsatisfactory.”

The Legislature put the issue on the ballot, and voters passed it in 1934, allowing 10-2 verdicts for crimes except first-degree murder convictions.

# EDCO lists region’s largest employers

Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) has released the 2019 list of largest Central Oregon employers, complete with breakouts of the top employers in each Central Oregon community. This data, collected by EDCO annually for the past 20 years, is the most comprehensive major employer list in Central Oregon.

This year, the top 50 private companies collectively employ more than 21,000 Central Oregonians, or roughly 21.5 percent of the region’s current total employment of 99,400 as of Q1 2019. St. Charles Health System tops the list again, employing over 4,400 people region-wide.

According to Damon Runberg, regional economist at the Oregon Employment Department, 78 percent of Oregon establishments had nine or fewer employees and the average private establishment employed 11 people in 2018.

“This data shows that although Central Oregon attracts many large employers, we are still a region dominated by smaller businesses,” said Elise Rossman, director of marketing and communications for EDCO.

*Note: Data for the lists is self-reported and not audited, so are only to be used as an informational guideline. Some businesses chose not to participate in these lists and are therefore excluded.*

2019 Sisters Largest 10 Employers (Private & Public)

Rank			Employees	
2019	2018		2019	2018
1	1	Black Butte Ranch	375	360
2	2	Sisters School District	133	131
3	9	Laird Superfood	69	41
4	6	Ray’s Food Place	50	51
5	5	Three Creeks Brewing	51	50
6	3	Sisters Coffee Company	45	70
7	7	FivePine Lodge & Conference Center	44	45
8	8	Sisters Athletic Club	43	43
T-9	NL	McDonalds	41	53
T-9	10	Metabolic Maintenance	41	39

NL = not listed  
T = tie

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