

Station: Traffic signal system to help end departure delays

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Andy Vabora, service planning and marketing manager for LTD. "We have about 10,000 riders per day with ridership expected to double."

LTD bus operator Dick Ellis said he thinks the new station is beautiful. "I think it enhances the downtown area so much, aesthetically and economically. I have driven armored trucks in cities in the Midwest and in Minneapolis-St. Paul. I have not seen another city with something like this."

Eugene resident Kevin Clark was satisfied with the amount of money LTD spent and how they spent it. "It's hard to get us

out of our cars, but this is one way to do it. I'd rather see public money spent here than spent on building freeways."

However, ridership was not the only concern in building the station. "We want to create an environment where people feel comfortable," Vabora said. "Architects worked with the Eugene police to create a safe environment. In addition to bright illumination and a clear view from the police substation, there are also 17 video surveillance cameras located throughout the station."

Strict rules are also part of LTD's plan to make riders more comfortable at the station: No skateboards, no swearing, no lit-

tering, no spitting, no soliciting and no smoking except in designated bus bays.

"The biggest factor is just the efficiency," Vabora said. "One of the features of the station is a signal priority system." The system will prolong green lights at traffic signals around the station so that buses will be able to leave the station without much delay.

"It'll take a couple of months for [bus operators] to get used to the changes, but I like what I see so far," Ellis said.

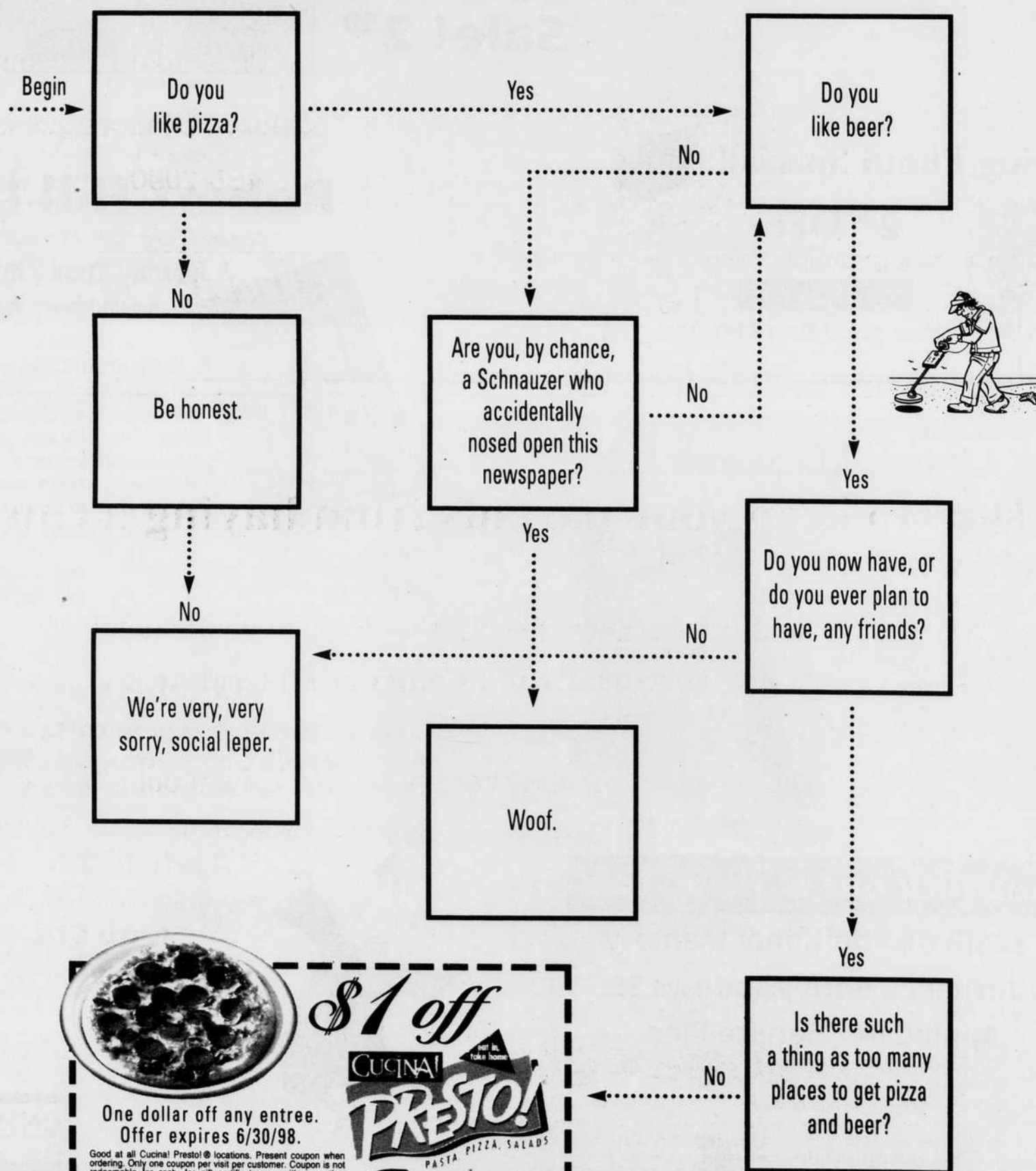
LTD is providing free bus service until Tuesday as an incentive to would-be bus riders.



LAURA GOSS/Emerald

The festivities at the grand opening included free bus rides, food and clowns.

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