

Rev.  
Hults

# Editorial Now & Then



In June your beloved editor is reminded that another year is completed in his own cycle. Change is occurring here at The Edge; the humble Ms. Sally is off to the high mountains of eastern Oregon to help Smoky watch over the remaining forests. Fear not, she will continue to send her renderings for these pages, though perhaps not her regular column, regularly. We will miss her grandly. Especially at paste-up and proof-reading time. So be forewarned. If July's Edge looks like your old high school paper it will be because the Beloved Reverend and a bunch of beer-drinking loonies lacked the quiet strength and clear eyes of Ms. Sally.

Yes, this is a cry for help; it will take a whole village to put out a paper.

Well, let's look at politics, shall we? Now, stop that giggling, these people are serious. Bob "you can call me Bob Dole" Dole has quit the highest office in the land held by a Republican, to run full time for the highest office in the land held by a Democrat, leaving Trent Lott (R-Fla.) in charge of the Senate. He claims to be doing it for his country. Perhaps Mr. Clinton should turn things over to Al Gore so that he can focus on the campaign, and won't have to waste all that time doing the job he was elected to do. It would perhaps be better to elect two people for each office, one to campaign and one to do the job. Yes, we have all read extensively about the need for campaign reform, and no, it's not a very "sexy" issue, but when you consider the lobbies and PACs, the millions spent on even statewide races, it becomes clear that "we the people" are not getting what we vote and pay for, i.e. functional government. The gifted Texan talker Molly Ivins is fond of regularly quoting the Constitution; she writes, "It says right at the top of the Constitution what government is supposed to do": "Form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity."

How did we get to: "Spin control to avoid the ripple effect"? How did we get to Packwood, Rostenkowski, and, of course, Wes Cooley? What is with that guy? Is he a wimp? Is he a nut? Is he a fool? Is he history? All of the above?

In Plutarch's Lives, Pittacus, one of the Seven Sages of Greece, says, "The best state is that in which bad men are not allowed to hold office, and good men are not allowed to refuse office." If we have really gotten to the level of a beauty contest, why not just put the ballots in People magazine, USA Today, and the Wall Street Journal, and leave the names blank; fill in your dream team. Silly? Perhaps, but sillier than what we seriously do each election? It would completely eliminate campaigns and the need for their reform. Everyone would run on their record and we would all be up for grabs, like the draft. You would have term limits in a heartbeat. Lobbying, stealth campaigns, and advertising would still be there but they would be focused on the voters, not the politicians; we would be electing ourselves. Yes, there would be some dumb choices, people like, oh, Sonny Bono, would be in Congress, but we could survive that. More likely, we would have "Cher" D-Cal., or Charles Barkley R-Penn., and that could be refreshing. Just a thought.

## UPPER LEFT EDGE

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## A Simple Question ?

The question is; will we be able to work out the solutions to our most pressing problems as a nation at the ballot box?

Will we get a rational environmental policy that quits subsidizing polluting companies, that quits giving our resources away to mining companies at 1800's prices; building taxpayer financed roads into our forests so that they can be clear-cut by corporations that make billions in profit each year, and refuse to consider alternatives to pesticides, herbicide, and the standard clear-cutting of industrial forestry?

Will we be able to work with the energy corporations, oil; will the double hull be mandatory on tankers, nuclear; will clean-ups get co-ordinated instead of the current random crisis management mode, hydro; will it ever be the right time to talk about dismantling certain dams, solar; oh, sorry, they regretfully come under "small business", ever wonder why?

Will our environmental policies ever be solution based, rather than regulation based? Can we keep the small farmer, rancher, logger, out of the problem? They are part of the solution. It is industrial farming, ranching and logging, and yes, fishing, that need our attention. And other, simpler things like resource recovery, re-cycling. We, the people, will work our butts off to save resources, but the packaging industry will spend millions to fight bottle bills and standards to simplify resource recovery for the consumer.

Will the budget be balanced in favor of the people of this country or the corporations? Will the work environment be healthy, a living minimum wage? Health care for those who can't afford their own, that is portable? Tax breaks for small business? A simpler and fairer income tax system?

Will our personal liberties be protected? Our privacy in our homes, and our bodies defended or threatened?

Will this billion dollar black hole called the war on drugs ever be over? The Cali cartell makes a reported 3 billion a year; we spend 7 billion failing to even slow the flow. On the other hand we have reduced the rate of nicotine use in this country from 50% of the population to 25% in twenty years by education alone. Our alcohol problems, though overwhelming, are being dealt with best with education, coupled with a demand for personal responsibility.

These and other questions will be debated this year, by not just by the politicians but by the people and the corporations. The point is the people get to vote. A corporation may try to buy a politician, a politician may try to fool the people, but the people decide the future of the politicians and the corporations in a capitalist democracy. Fun, huh?



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**No woman can call herself free who does not own control of her body. No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother.**  
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## PROJECT VOTE SMART

### Congressional Snapshot

#### Abortion Policy:

**Where Do They Stand?**

**ABORTION VOTES**

**SENATE**

- 1. Abortion Procedure Ban: HR 1833, bill passage**  
 Ban late-term abortions involving partial delivery of the fetus before completing the abortion, except where such an abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother. *Passed 54 - 44, 12/7/95*
- 2. Abortion Training: HR 3019, amendment vote**  
 Make federal financial assistance available to hospitals that lose medical accreditation because they refused to provide abortions or provide training in abortion services. *Adopted 65 - 37, 3/18/96*
- 3. Federal Health Policy Abortions: HR 2020, amendment vote**  
 Prohibit federal employees or their families from receiving abortion services through their federal health insurance policies except when the life of the woman would be endangered, or in cases of rape or incest. *Rejected 48 - 49, 8/5/95*

SENATORS	Procedure Ban	Training	Fed. Health Policy
Hatfield, Mark (OR-R), <i>Sr. Senator</i>	Yes	Yes	No
Wyden, Ron (OR-D), <i>Jr. Senator</i>	I	No	I

**ABORTION VOTES**

**HOUSE**

- 1. Abortion Procedure Ban: HR 1833, bill passage**  
 Ban late-term abortions involving partial delivery of the fetus before completing the abortion, except where such an abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother. *Passed 286 - 129, 3/28/96*
- 2. Abortion Training: HR 2127, amendment vote**  
 Remove language that would prohibit federal programs or states from withholding funds or accreditation from medical training programs that do not offer training in abortion procedures. *Rejected 189 - 235, 8/2/95*
- 3. Federal Health Policy Abortions: HR 2020, amendment vote**  
 Remove language that would prohibit federal employees or their families from receiving abortion services through their federal health insurance policies except when the life of the woman would be endangered. *Rejected 188 - 235, 7/18/95*

REPRESENTATIVES	Procedure Ban	Training	Fed. Health Policy
Furse, Elizabeth (OR-D), <i>District 1</i>	No	Yes	Yes
Cooley, Wes (OR-R), <i>District 2</i>	Yes	No	No
Seat Vacant, <i>District 3</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
DeFazio, Peter (OR-D), <i>District 4</i>	No	Yes	Yes
Bunn, Jim (OR-R), <i>District 5</i>	Yes	No	No

VOTE CATEGORIES:  
 I: Ineligible; special case. N/A: Not applicable; special case  
 Source: Project Vote Smart, a nonpartisan service with information on issue positions, biographies, campaign finance data, special interest groups' performance evaluations and votes on other issues.  
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**Woodrow Wilson**

**WHERE TO GET AN EDGE**

**Cannon Beach:** Jupiter's Rare and Used Books, Osburn's Grocery, The Cookie Co., Coffee Cabaña, Bill's Tavern, Cannon Beach Book Co., Hane's Bakerie, The Bistro, Midtown Café, Once Upon a Breeze, Knoodlz, Copies & Fax, Heather's, The Homegrown Cafe, Haystack Video, Mariner Market, & Cleanline Surf

**Manzanita:** Manzanita News & Espresso, Bayside Gardens, Cassandra's, Pacific Coast Books & Coffee, & Nehalem Bay Video

**Rockaway:** Sharkey's

**Tillamook:** Rainy Day Books

**Pacific City:** The River House

**Oceanside:** Ocean Side Espresso

**Lincoln City:** Trillium Natural Foods, Driftwood Library, & Eats 'n' Stuff

**Newport:** Oceana Natural Foods, Don Petrie's Italian Food Co., Café DIVA, Cosmo Café, Bookmark Café, Newport Bay Coffee Co., Cuppatunes, Bay Latté, Ocean Pulse Surf Shop, Coastal Coffee Co., & Canyon Way

**Eugene:** Book Mark, Café Navarra, Eugene Public Library, Friendly St. Market, Happy Trails, Keystone Café, Kiva Foods, Lane C.C., Light For Music, New Frontier Market, Nineteenth Street Brew Pub, Oasis Market, Perry's, Red Barn Grocery, Sundance Natural Foods, U of O, & WOW Hall

**Corvallis:** Not Necessarily the News, & The Environmental Center

**Salem:** Heliotrope, Salem Library, & The Peace Store

**Astoria:** KMUN, Columbian Café, The Community Store, & Café Uniontown

**Seaside:** Buck's Book Barn, Universal Video, & Cafe Espresso

**Portland:** Act III, Barnes & Noble, Belmonts Inn, Bibelot Art Gallery, Bijou Café, Borders, Bridgeport Brew Pub, Capt'n Beans (two locations), Center for the Healing Light, Coffee People (three locations), Common Grounds Coffee, East Avenue Tavern, Food Front, Goose Hollow Inn, Hot Lips Pizza, Java Bay Café, Key Largo, La Patisserie, Lewis & Clark College, Locals Only, Marco's Pizza, Marylhurst College, Mt. Hood CC, Music Millennium, Nature's (two locations), NW Natural Gas, OHSU Medical School, Old Wives Tales, Ozone Records, Papa Haydn, PCC (four locations), PSU (two locations), Reed College, Third Eye, TransCentral Library, & YWCA

**The Dalles:** Klindts Bookseller

**Hood River:** Purple Rocks Art Bar & Cafe

**Ashland:** Garo's Java House, The Black Sheep, & Blue Mt. Cafe

**(Out of Oregon)**

**Long Beach, WA:** Pacific Picnics

**Nahcotta, WA:** Moby Dick Hotel

**Duval, WA:** Duvall Books

**Seattle, WA:** Elliot Bay Book Co., Honey Bear Bakery, New Orleans Restaurant, Still Life in Fremont, Allegro Coffeehouse, The Last Exit Coffee House, & Bulldog News

**Bainbridge Island, WA:** Eagle Harbor Book Co.

**Washington, D.C.:** Hotel Tabard Inn