

Rev.
Hults

Editorial Now & Then



It's better to vote for what you want and not get it than to vote for what you don't want and get it. Eugene Debs

Our constant readers are aware that your beloved rev. does not drive cars any more. Goin' on 20 years now. Taint easy, but it's worth it. So, in this little village, that means that public transportation is the means of getting from point 'A' to someplace else. Public transportation being the Cannon Beach Shuttle, in this case.

The Shuttle is a curious thing. It began years ago as a project of the Energy Committee during the "oil crisis" in the late Seventies, early Eighties, whatever.

It runs on natural gas, and is supported by a voluntary tax that local business placed upon themselves. It is also supported by advertising revenue from some of those same businesses, and various grants for public transportation from the federal government, etc.

Riding the shuttle is always interesting. In the winter, locals who don't drive, or don't want to, take the shuttle into town to check the mail or pick up some supplies. In the summer they ride it so they won't have to spend an hour looking for a parking place. The tourists ride it to get a free tour of the area, or so they don't have to drive their mobile homes into town to pick up a loaf of bread. It runs from Les Shirley Park to the last exit in Tolovana every half hour between nine in the morning until seven at night in the summer, and ten to six in the winter.

But this story isn't only about the shuttle.

This story is also about dogs.

Regular readers are also aware that this paper has a fondness for dogs, and cats, for that matter. They have been featured prominently through the years. Recently we ran an obituary for our beloved Obo on the front page.

But, that being said, your beloved editor is not what you call 'a dog person'. Your beloved editor doesn't believe in 'owning' living things. The only other living thing is his house, if you don't count the shower mold, is an aloe vera plant that lives in the bathroom on a widow sill, and pretty much feeds for itself.

Dogs, like other animals that are 'owned', as opposed to 'free,' tend to reflect their 'owner's' attitudes and behavior. This can be good or bad, and since not everyone is a good person, every dog is not a good dog. Stepping on un-scooped dog droppings is never a pleasant experience, nor is being charged by a pair of hundred pound rottweilers while taking a stroll on the beach. While your adrenaline reaches critical mass, you can hear the faint voice of the 'owner' of the beasts, hundreds of feet down the beach, assuring you that the dogs just want to 'play' and suggests you try not to show fear. Right.

But those are exceptions, and most visitors obey the 'pooper-scooper' and leash laws that we have here in the village. Our leash law is interesting in that it has an exception. It states that all dogs must be on a leash, or 'under voice command'. Voice command doesn't mean yelling 'bad dog' at Satan the pit bull as he tears off the leg of a small child. Voice command means when you call, the dog comes to you. Immediately.

Okay, so now we get to the heart of the story. This village has always had a number of 'town dogs'. Free roaming, friendly, for the most part gentle mutts who make the rounds of various restaurants and stores looking for hand-outs and a scratch behind the ears every once in a while. But as the town becomes more crowded, the town dog population has been reduced to a precious few. One of the last true town dogs is Barkley. Barkley lives with Maggie, a local woman of sterling qualities and talents. We hesitate to say Maggie

'owns' Barkley; the opposite might be more correct. Barkley is a smallish varied-grey dog, long in body and short of leg, often with a fashionable hair cut in the summer months, and an always polite well mannered air about him. Often when making his rounds for handouts he will wait at a shuttle stop and hop aboard for a ride to his next stop. The drivers have always been accommodating and Barkley has become a source of amusement for the tourists. Recently another dog has been riding the shuttle as well. A small black pomeranian-mix named 'Lucky'. Lucky, until one tragic day, had previously belonged to what we now call a 'transient,' but used to call a hobo.

While hitchhiking with his 'owner' Lucky was hit by a car and two of his legs were broken. By the time the vet had patched him up the hobo was long gone and he was adopted by one of the shuttle drivers, and spent his convalescence on a small bed in the front of the shuttle. His bones healed and he now greets riders while his owner is driving her shifts.

"Isn't that nice," some folks say when they are told the story. And we agree.

Regrettably we are not in charge. The driver was recently told that there is a 'no dogs' policy on the shuttle. Funny we'd never heard of it before. She asked if that included Barkley, or was it just aimed at Lucky? And why is that a policy anyway? Are we afraid the aforementioned pit bull will be let loose in the back seats? Or perhaps an un-house-broken puppy will do his business in the aisle? She was given the option of keeping her job or keeping her dog with her.

As we stated before, our treatment of animals often reflects our attitudes and behaviors. When people say things like, "I'm sorry, but rules are rules," it always makes me a little cranky. Rules and laws are made by human beings, who are by definition imperfect. A casual reading of the laws made by any government body will reveal a host of exceptions to each one. Congress routinely makes laws designed for one person only. (Usually some person who donates large amounts of money to Congressional candidates.)

So, we suggest that an amendment be made to our leash and shuttle laws that states, "Well behaved 'town dogs' shall be treated with respect and given the same privileges granted to other citizens of the village."

All in favor bark twice.

August is upon us. And election year politics are once again with us. Last month when we wrote about Ralph Nader being our choice for President, we received a letter from a woman in Astoria, suggesting that 'to be fair' we should also give 'equal space' to the Libertarian candidate Harry Browne. She obviously confused us with 'journalists'. We explained that the space we give to any subject is equal to the amount of interest we have in that subject. We don't write about the latest release from Disney, or the new Fox season, or the local high school football team, nor do we have a list of singles seeking sex, or pages and pages of ads for real estate and used cars. Someone once said the Edge was a 'personal paper', suggesting that your beloved editor's opinion is law, tee hee, we giggle. Last month's front page is a fine example. The story by David Horowitz is exactly the kind of thing that the Edge rarely prints. The story included a graphic description of a tragic event during the Viet Nam war. At first reading your beloved editor decided not to print it. While making up the paper the (formerly) humble Ms. Sally read the story and asked why we weren't printing it. Wasn't this the patriotic July issue? Wasn't this an important reminder, which included stories about and by local people? She argued. She then decided that it belonged on the front page. But that was an exception.

WHERE TO GET AN EDGE

Cannon Beach: Jupiter's Rare and Used Books, Oxborn's Grocery, The Cookie Co., Coffee Cabana, Bill's Tavern, Cannon Beach Book Co., Hanc's Bakerie, The Bistro, Midtown Cafe, Once Upon a Breeze, Copies & Fax, Haystack Video, Mariner Market, Espresso Bean, Ecole Square & Cleanline Surf
Manzanita: Mother Nature's Juice Bar, Casandra's, Manzanita News & Espresso, & Nehalem Bay Video
Rockaway: Neptune's Used Books
Tillamook: Rainy Day Books & Tillamook Library
Bay City: Art Space
Tillamook: By-the-Sea Books
Pacific City: The River House
Oceanside: Ocean Side Espresso
Lincoln City: Trillium Natural Foods, Driftwood Library, & Lighthouse Brewpub
Newport: Oceana Natural Foods, Ocean Pulse Surf Shop, Sylvia Beach Hotel, & Canyon Way Books
Eugene: Book Mark, Cafe Navarra, Eugene Public Library, Friendly St. Market, Happy Trails, Keystone Cafe, 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! Hill
Corvallis: The Environmental Center, OSU
Salem: Heliotrope, Salem Library, & The Peace Store
Astoria: KMUN, Columbian Cafe, The Community Store, The Wet Dog Cafe, Astoria Coffee Company, Cafe Untonkown, & The River
Beaside: Buck's Book Barn, Universal Video, & Cafe Espresso
Portland: Artichoke Music, Laughing Horse Bookstore, Act III, Barnes & Noble, Belmonts Inn, Bibelet Art Gallery, Bijou Cafe, Borders, Bridgeport Brew Pub, Cap'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 Cafe, Key Largo, La Patisserie, Lewis & Clark College, Locals Only, Marco's Pizza, Marylhurst College, Mt. Hood CC, Muske 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, Multnomah Central Library, and most branches & the YWCA
Ashland: Goro's Java House, The Black Sheep, Blue Mt. Cafe, & Rogue River Brewery
Cave Junction: Coffee Heaven & Kerby Community Market
Grants Pass: The Book Shop (Out of Oregon)
Vancouver, WA: The Den
Longview, WA: The Broadway Gallery
Naselle, WA: Rainy Day Artistry
Nahcotta, WA: Moby Dick Hotel
Duvall, WA: Duvall Books
Bainbridge Island, WA: Eagle Harbor Book Co.
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
San Francisco, CA: City Lights Bookstore
Denver, Co: Denver Folklore Center
Washington, D.C.: Hotel Tabard Inn (Out of U.S.A.)
Paris, France: Shakespeare & Cie
Brighton, England: The Public House Bookstore
"A small paper for a small planet."

(Continued from page 1.)

KAAAABOOM!

Friends, we are losing our democratic control over our country. We may have already lost it. I hope not. But in the last 20 years of the Reagan administration, Corporate America has merged and morphed itself to such an extent that just a handful of companies now call all the shots. They own Congress. They own us. In order to work for them, we have to take urine tests and lie detectors and wear bar codes on chains around our necks. In order to keep our jobs we have had to give up decent health care, the 8-hour day (and time with our kids), the security that we'll even have a job next year, and any unwillingness we may have to compete with a 14-year old Indonesian girl who gets a dollar a day.

And how frightening (and great) is it that the last place we can freely try to inform and communicate with each other is on this very Web? Six companies run by six men control the majority of the news we now get from newspapers, television, radio and the Internet. One out of every two books is bought at a bookstore owned by one of only two companies. Is it safe in a "free society" to have the sources of our information and mass communication in the hands of just a few wealthy men who have a VESTED interest in keeping us as stupid as possible - or at least in keeping us thinking like them so that we vote for THEIR candidates?

I fear the cement on this new oligarchy of power is quickly drying, and when it is finished hardening, we are finished. The democracy, the one that's supposed to be of, by, and for the people, will cease to exist.

We must not let this happen, no matter how cynical and disgusted we've become at the whole electoral process.

Ralph Nader, to me, represents a chance for us to at least temporarily stop the cement from drying. We need him in there kicking things up, stirring the pot and forcing a real debate about the issues. Whether it's Ralph as Candidate or Ralph as President, he may represent our last hope to get our country back from the clutches of the powerful few.

I am not writing these words lightly. I am hoping to sound a siren and rally the majority who, for good reason, have given up - but might just have it in them to find the will for one last fight against the bastards.

Can Ralph win? Well, stranger things have happened in the past decade. C'mon, think about it, not a single one of us ever thought we'd see the Berlin Wall come down or Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa. After those two things happened, I joined a new school of thought that said ANYTHING was possible. Jesse Ventura started with 3% in the polls and won. Ross Perot in '92 started with 6% and, after proving to everyone that he was certifiably insane, still got nearly 20% of the vote.

Ralph already has between 7% and 10% in the polls - before he's done any serious campaigning. He's gone from 3% to 8% in my home state of Michigan. These are amazing numbers and the pundits and lobbyists and Republicrats are running scared. Hey, you like to watch scared Republicrats running? Tell a pollster you're voting for Ralph.

Now, look, before you all send me a lot of mail about how weird Ralph is 'cause he doesn't own a car or is a "sell-out" 'cause he's got a few million dollars, let me say this: I used to work out of his office, and Ralph is definitely one of a kind. In a future letter I will write of those experiences but, for now, let's just agree that Ralph is at least half as crazy as Jesse Ventura - and about a hundred times as smart. I'd say he's also saved about a million or so lives, thanks to the consumer and environmental legislation he has devoted his life to.

And between Gore, Bush, and himself, he's the only person running who would guarantee universal health care for all, the only candidate who would raise the minimum wage to a decent level, the only one who would get up each morning asking himself the question, "What can I do today to serve all the people of this country?"

The list goes on and on. You can read more about what Ralph stands for by

going to his web site (<http://www.votener.org>). You'll agree, I'm sure, there's lots of common sense there, regardless of what political stripe you are.

But remember. If you are even THINKING of voting for Al Gore, vote for Al Gore. Ralph Nader does not need a single Gore vote. There are a hundred million of us out there who are uncommitted and currently not voting. Right now, Gore and Bush are each hoping to win by getting only 40 million votes.

If you are in the Non-Voting majority and want to let 'em all have it, if you want to get our country back in our hands...well, if even half of you show up and vote November 7 then you won't be held responsible for Bush winning the White House.

In fact, you won't be held responsible for putting Gore in the White House, either.

Rather, you will have made history by putting a true American hero at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

And you will have given every company, every boss who's done ya wrong, the worst nightmare of their lives.

November 7. Payback Time.

The revenge of the Non-Voters!

So sayeth their unappointed leader, yours truly,
Michael Moore
mmflint@aol.com
<http://www.theawfultruth.com>
<http://www.michaelmoore.com>

PS. Come to think of it, Democrats should be on their knees thanking Ralph for running. Rather than taking votes from Gore, Ralph's going to be the one responsible for turning the House back over to the Democrats.

When millions of these Non-Voters enter that booth to vote for Ralph, and they come across their local race for Congress, they will find no Green Party candidate in most of the 435 Congressional districts. So who do you think Ralph's army of Non-Voters will plunk down for Congress? The Republican? I don't think so.

The Democrats are only six seats short of regaining control of the House. Ralph Nader will be the reason the Democrats get the House back for the first time since Newt's Contract on America in 1994.

Democrats should send their checks to Nader 2000, P.O. Box 18002, Washington, DC 20035.

(Or, better yet, let's try to elect enough Greens to Congress -- a dozen or so -- and they'll hold the deciding votes because neither the Democrats nor the Republicans will have the majority. It'll be a friggin' Knesset!)

PPS. If you're still worried this letter might convince a weak-kneed Gore voter to flip over to Nader -- and thus lead to President George W. stacking the Supreme Court to make abortion illegal, well, it's all a bunch of hooey. Please read my latest grassroots.com column entitled, "I Ain't Fallin for That One Again" at: <http://www.michaelmoore.com/ain't.html>

PLEASE PASS THIS LETTER ON TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. PERMISSION IS GRANTED TO REPRINT ANYWHERE.

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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And A Cast Of Thousands!

10 Reasons why you should advertise in the Upper Left Edge:

1. The Edge is a free paper, which means that people don't have to spend money to read your ad.
2. The Edge has the lowest ad rates in the area, even after the recent modest raise.
3. The Edge has one of the largest circulations among area papers, printing 6000 copies in the summer months, of which 1000 to 1500 are available locally.
4. The Edge has the widest distribution of any paper based in the area. With 3000 copies going to Portland, Eugene, Salem and elsewhere in the Willamette Valley, and up and down the coast, readers know where to find you before they leave home. Plus we ship to various locations around the country and the world, and our web site must be included when talking about getting the word out about you and your business.
5. The Edge is a monthly paper, and as a result it is kept around for a much longer period of time than a weekly or daily because the information available is still current.
6. The Edge is unique. It doesn't look like any paper out there, and that causes people to pick it up and read it. This is because it is hand-made, one of the last of the non-computer generated papers available. The Edge has a distinctive look because many of its elements are hand drawn, the columns are individually designed, and we don't make pretenses at being a "big-time" newspaper.
7. The Edge appeals to a broad spectrum of people. Our subscribers and regular readers range in ages from 8 to 80. Phd's to school children, the affluent to the working poor. People read the Edge for *Blame it on the Stars*, for *June's Garden*, for the editorials, or just pick it up to have the tide tables handy. We regularly get letters praising our graphics or a story by a new contributor.
8. The Edge tries to have a positive effect on the community. The Edge supports the arts community and the environmental community by helping them get the word out about events.
9. The Edge provides a place for writers and illustrators to hone their skills, and is accessible to beginners as well as pros.
10. The Edge participates in civic debates and tries to find workable solutions to community problems, and attempts to do it in a civil and respectful manner. We are proud to have played a part in a variety positive changes over the years.

Advertising Rates

Business Card size	\$40
1/16th approx. 3x5	\$50
1/8th approx. 4x7	\$60
1/4 approx. 6 1/2x9	\$110
1/2 page	\$160
Full page	\$350
Back page	\$450

...per month. Payment is due the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which the ad is to appear. All ads must be "camera ready". We are usually on the streets by the first week-end of the month.