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escorted myself and a cameraman into the back stage area and gave us passes that said "Speaker." He explained that that would get us in anywhere, but looking me straight in the eye said, "But please, Billy, don't go on stage." I wouldn't have dreamed of wrenching the microphone away from Lloyd Marbet and yelling, "Free Leonard Peltier!" or "A National Bottle Bill, Now!!" and besides, Winona LaDuke was standing right there, so I talked to her for a moment, and asked if I could see her after her speech.

I don't like to sit down in huge crowds, so I wandered around, using my magic pass to the limits. I talked to Security folks. One woman standing by the edge of the main floor, keeping traffic flowing and the entrances clear, said, "This sure isn't like a Hockey game, where we deal with drunken fans all night, these folk are nice." The crowd was huge, but polite as well as enthusiastic. Winona generated cheers and laughter, but everyone was waiting for Nader.

I was backstage when he came through, in his trade mark blue suit, and gangling walk, proceeded by a few security guys who looked like they used the same tailor as John Gotti; weird. But, Ralph, typically, stopped to get his picture taken with a kid who was truly excited and totally unafraid; his Mom had told him this was a nice man, period.

If you have never heard Ralph Nader speak, you must know that he mostly speaks in lists. He will talk about a problem and give you a list of reasons for that problem and a list of solutions to that problem. He will give you a list of problems. He is concise, and has done his homework, but he's usually not as passionate as he was in the coliseum in front of the biggest crowd he has ever faced. When I say passionate and Ralph Nader in the same sentence, some folks might laugh, but it's true. Nader's passion is not the hot backseat kind you get with some politicians, his is a permanent passion for fair play, justice, and the people's rights, more like a marriage than an affair. George Will has called him "the national scold" because of his years of trying to find solutions to our national problems. And it's true he does scold corporations and politicians for their behavior. Someone has to. At one point in his speech, he launched into a list of what was needed to make this country better, and way up in the nosebleed sections there began a stomping of feet, matching the cadence of his list, soon it spread until the whole arena was stomping and clapping and as he looked up and realized he was at the end of his list, he stopped and looked out at the crowd, a little amazed by them. A huge wave of cheers and applause echoed around the place as he stood there, I think, truly humbled by the energy of the people.

I wandered backstage and got Last Standing Woman autographed by Winona LaDuke, and it was getting toward ten, when we'd all agreed to meet back at the bus. She agreed about Leonard, and thought that a National Bottle Bill was a good idea. I didn't mention that former Oregon Republican Senator Mark Hatfield had introduced a National Bottle Bill in the Senate every year for his last few years in the "greatest debating society on earth" and well...

We all made it back to the bus, and after a stop at a 'convenience' store for treats, where Sarah, a K-moonie, almost got carded while buying chocolate milk, we came home to our ocean, tired but with renewed hope.

There can be no daily democracy without daily citizenship.
Ralph Nader

I listened to my friend Dick Wiesman sing a song that he wrote about Karen Silkwood. Do you remember her name? She was an employee of Kerr McGee, a nuclear power company. She was murdered while on her way to present evidence of her employer's crimes. Kerr McGee's crimes were that they killed people. They killed people they employed. They killed Karen. They killed others and there are more, yet to be killed by them. Their weapon was radiation, but that doesn't matter. What matters is that this corporation killed people, to make money.

Folks, we are at a crossroads these days, we must decide if we want to keep on this road we are on or take another path. If you ask any 'expert' who will be the next leader of the 'free world' one of two words will be spoken. You can certainly guess those words. They are both four letter words. They are both dirty words. Dirty, not just in the sense that one is slang for a woman's pubic area and the other used to describe offal, but in the sense that



Nader Notes

The vilest deeds like poison weeds Bloom well in prison air; It is only what is good in Man That wastes and withers there.
Oscar Wilde

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, Copies & Fax, Haystack Video, Martiner Market, Espresso Bean, Ecola Square & Cleanline Surf
Manzanita: Mother Nature's Juice Bar, Cassandra's, Manzanita News & Espresso, & Nehalem Bay Video
Rockaway: Neptune's Used Books
Tillamook: Rainy Day Books & Tillamook Library
Bay City: Art Space
Yachats: 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, 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: The Environmental Center, OSU Salem, Heliotrope, Salem Library, & The Peace Store
Astoria: KMUN, Columbian Café, The Community Store, The Wet Dog Cafe, Astoria Coffee Company, Café Uniontown, & The River
Seaside: Buck's Book Barn, Universal Video, & Café Espresso
Portland: Artichoke Music, Laughing Horse Bookstore, Act III, Barnes & Noble, Belmonts Inn, Bibeot 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 Pattasserie, 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, Multnomah Central Library, and most branches of the YWCA
Ashland: Caron's Java House, The Black Sheep, Blue Mt. Café, & 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."

One man with courage makes a majority.
Andrew Jackson

they have been corrupted by lust for power. Not that power is a bad thing, but the lust for it is. It's like money isn't the root of all evil, the lust for money is. There is another person seeking power, seeking to lead the 'free world', and his name, a five letter word, and sounds like another word. That word means "that which is opposite, or opposed". But what is in a name?

At the Shadow Convention, Ben Cohen of Ben & Jerry's ice cream gave the whole convention a new ice cream bar called "Totally Nuts" after speaking about how the richest twenty men in the world (yes, they are all men) have more wealth than the 480 poorest nations, combined. Totally nuts!!!! An earlier speaker explained that though the United States has only 5% of the world's population, we house 25% of the world's prisoners. Mostly for drugs, but a lot because of mental illness and some, like Leonard Peltier, because they fought back when the system oppressed them and their families.

Diane Fienstien, D- California, spoke about campaign finance reform, and explained that it is illegal for American corporations to do in foreign campaigns what they do here. Which is bribery. It corrupts the system. If Bill Gates gives Bush a million dollars and I give Bush \$1, guess who Bush is going to invite over to talk about how the country could be improved. So Bush is bought.

Under Clinton we've had a Democratic President but we haven't had a democratic country. The disparity in wealth, the destruction of the environment, the war on drugs, the exploitation of workers, the lack of health care; hell, one third of the children in Los Angeles County live in poverty. And Clinton collected \$10 million for his library just by sitting down to lunch with the pretty people. Now don't get me wrong, I like actors and musicians, and I love libraries, but I like children too. When I think about politics I'm always

Fast Asleep in Apartment 6 After the Ralph Nader Rally

I dreamed Ralph was in my apartment, talking on the phone, important, heated conversations, raising Hell right here in my own kitchen! He carried on his campaigning while I did my usual house chores but how much more exciting, him in the next room, sticking it to the corporations... For once I didn't mind washing the dishes, folding laundry, sitting at my desk with the sound of him, smart and determined, inspiring me and tearing up corruption single-handedly.

The next thing I know I'm naked and nearly asleep when it occurs to me "Ralph has no car, no way home," so I ask him, "Do you wanna crash here?" He says, "ok" so I rise up to get the extra sheets and a pillow. He is smiling a most appreciative smile when I approach him with his bedding. Ralph makes up a bed on the floor. Ralph is the kind of man who doesn't mind sleeping on the floor in a pinch.

There's something to be said for a political rally that evokes dreams of being naked in the same room as the presidential candidate, where nothing goes wrong and trust carries through, into the waking day.

by Michelle Frost

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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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.



By AJ Coyne

I was at the arcade recently with my five year old nephew, we were in the middle of a great round of skeeball when he grabbed my hand and suddenly pulled me away. I just assumed it was a child's mind wandering to a different game but when I turned to grab our tickets I saw what had scared him. There were two teenagers almost completely horizontal on a pinball game, from the small part of their faces that wasn't covered by each other I gathered that they were old enough to know better but too young to be moving in the rhythm they were. It could have been humorous if I wasn't seeing it through my nephew's huge brown eyes.

Since then it seems like everywhere I turn I see not only kids but also grown adults taking public displays of affection to the extreme. I don't know why I never noticed it before, maybe there are just more people in town to see; the one thing I do know is it is making me sick. I am sure we all have seen the couple who instead of holding hands are holding butt cheeks, is this really necessary? A goodbye kiss is one thing but to see people on street corners with their partner's tongue down to their esophagus is a bit much, isn't it? So the question remains how much is too much

I had to take a closer look at myself after the arcade situation. I always felt my displays were tasteful while in the presence of others, but as I am thinking of what is appropriate I have found I might be guilty of crossing the line on occasion. Just last week I patted my boyfriend's bum while walking on the beach with my brother and got the "give me a break" stare and a slight roll of the eyes. Maybe it is time we all take a closer look at what we cause innocent bystanders to endure in the name of love and affection.

I have come up with a few ideas of what I believe to be appropriate and distasteful. Let's start at the beginning with the hug, it of course is an accepted form of showing someone you care as long as the pelvic area does not move and hands stay above the belt. The kiss is a bit harder to define. I have always found the quick peck hello or goodbye to be sweet. I still love to see my parents give each other a look only they understand followed by a small kiss. I think first of all it is the length of the kiss that crosses the line -- if you have to come up for air you have gone too far. Secondly there is the tongue involvement, my conclusion is there should never be tongue in public unless it is at your wedding and even then try to remember that others are in the room. Now for the hard part, this is where I may cross the line from time to time, where can your partner's hands touch without causing nausea in others? A hand simply placed on the knee seems harmless enough but if it starts to move does it change the intent? What about touching the upper thigh or even the calf, should these areas be out of bounds? In my relationship it is an innocent gesture of affection that in no way could be misconstrued as a sexual act, or so I thought. Maybe the young couple at the arcade thought their gyrating was a sweet loving gesture also.

To me it comes down to one simple solution, don't do anything you wouldn't do in front of your five-year old nephew, or in the case of the slobbering teenagers, just keep your hands on the pinball flippers.

It is a blessed thing that in every age someone has had the individuality enough and the courage enough to stand by his own convictions.

Robert G. Ingersoll

Abstract ideas are the patterns two or more memories have in common. They are born whenever someone realizes that similarity... Creative things may mean simply the realization that there's no particular virtue in doing things the way they always have been done.

Rudolf Flesch

reminded of Lily Tomlin's line; "Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat." Molly Ivins says "Ya gotta dance with them what bring ya." (Yes, Thanatopsis boys, Stacey says the same thing.) And the leading candidates for leader of the 'free world' was brought to the dance by the rich. But the funny thing is for all his money and power, Bill Gates only gets to vote once. And your vote counts just as much as his does. He got to help choose one of the candidates, because of his money, and he chose Bush. I guess Steve Jobs chose Gore, judging by the number of iMac's on the convention floor in LA. So, Microsoft votes for Bush, Apple votes for Gore, and the Upper Left Edge votes for Nader. Works for me.

Okay, so I watched Gore's speech, and yep, he pulled it off. And, yep, I hope he will be the next President of these United States. But I want him to work his ass off for every vote. Talk about Nader taking his votes? Gore has to take Nader's votes, because they aren't his, they aren't any body's. My hope is that Gore will barely win, and Nader will get 20 to 30% of the vote. And that the Reform Party and the Green Party and the rest of us will figure out that we could have a choice of the best of three. Win, Place, and Show. I mean, really, if it is going to be portrayed as a 'horse race' why don't we score it that way?