



OREGON BUS PROJECT FORMS LOCAL CHAPTER

The Oregon Bus Project (OBP) is fueling up for the 2004 general elections, and planning to motor around Oregon pumping up voters for progressive candidates and issues. The organization targets swing districts and legislative races that are expected to be close.

In 2002, more than 4,000 people took turns riding a 1978 charter bus around the state to mostly rural communities, knocking on 70,000 doors in support of 14 progressive candidates for the House and Senate. Seven of the 14 were elected, some by very close margins.

Now a Eugene chapter has formed, and 20 members of the Eugene OBP held an organizational meeting Dec. 5. Rachel Pilliod of the group says a small bus has been donated by a member of the Eugene group. The bus will be painted and ready to roll in January or February. Anyone interested in the OBP is welcome at the next meeting at 6:30 pm Jan. 9, location to be determined. Contact Pilliod at r_pilliod@hotmail.com.

The OBP started in 2001 "as the result of motivated youth deliberations over some of the most pressing needs in Oregon and the U.S.: the need for meaningful dialogue between urban and rural parts of the state; the need to connect young people with experienced political leaders; and the need for a grassroots progressive movement," according to the group's website (www.secret-plan.org). "In 2004, the Oregon Bus Project will strive again to engage and educate new people, and work our tails off to elect great progressive leaders to the Oregon Legislature."

Over the next few weeks the statewide group is parking the bus and mounting an e-mail campaign to educate voters about Measure 30, the initiative intended to derail the Legislature's three-year income tax surcharge. — *Ted Taylor*

FREE LUNCH SERVED AT BUY NOTHING DAY

If you'd gone to Morning Glory Café on Nov. 28, you would have been told that lunch was not for sale.

It was free.

Buy Nothing Day is the Friday after Thanksgiving, traditionally the biggest shopping day of the year. The Media Foundation, which publishes *Adbusters* magazine, declared it a national holiday in 1991 to raise awareness of consumerism. The staff at Morning Glory and its sister café, Out of the Fog, have recognized Buy Nothing Day since 1998 by offering their customers free food. This year, the menu included "Squash the State Soup" and "Not Yo' Mama's Apple Crisp." Some of the food was donated by local businesses, and the kitchen staff volunteered.

Todd Richard, a Morning Glory cook known to his friends as "Ratt," took a break from cooking vegan pizzas to watch the drizzling rain. Wearing glasses rimmed in thick black plastic and dreadlocks piled high on his head, Richard described Buy Nothing Day as a spiritual event. "You feel like some kind of ritual happened," says Richard. "Some kind of secret Pagan ritual that alters the fabric of the time-space continuum as we know it. You know what I mean, right?"

In years past, Buy Nothing Day brought so many customers to Morning Glory that the staff nearly ran out of food. This year, only a few dozen people showed up. Richard attributed the low turnout to a lack of advertising. "This year, we didn't want it to be a consumer frenzy," he said. "We're trying to make a statement against rampant consumerism."

Despite the lack of publicity this year, Dennis Soper and Jeanine Malito came by for a free lunch. For them, Buy Nothing Day at Morning Glory is a tradition.

"I don't support capitalism," said Soper, a middle-aged man in a T-shirt that read, "Stop



Todd Richard (left) and Kooki Thunderberry dressed up for Buy Nothing Day at Morning Glory.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Global Piracy with Global Solidarity." "I have to live in this society; I don't like it."

Malito's T-shirt showed George Bush's face with a strike through it, below the words "Scrub the Shrub in 2004." She says her 15-year-old daughter forbade her from breaking the Buy Nothing Day mandate to buy a turkey that morning. "It's very Catholic," says Malito, laughing. "You can't have it even if you want it."

But Richard has a different take on the meaning of anti-consumerism. "Money takes you out of the moment," he says. "Buy Nothing Day brings people into the moment. It feels good to give stuff away."

— *Kera Abraham*

JACOBSON DEPARTING POST AT ESSN

Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network (ESSN) organizer Sarah Jacobson is moving on in January, to be replaced by Hope Marston. Jacobson says she plans to continue doing organizing in the labor movement, but first will spend six months in Central America working on her Spanish and volunteering with community and labor groups in Guatemala and southern Mexico.

Jacobson spent the past three and a half years working with ESSN on a living wage campaign, tax justice and economic development. She recently outlined the problems with Oregon's tax system at a City Club meeting.

Marston says Jacobson has "set a standard for organizing that all of us in the activist community look to with admiration."

Marston has been working part-time at the UO and volunteering full-time for the Bill of Rights Defense Committee. Her stint at ESSN will be full-time and she hopes to continue her Bill of Rights work.

She's looking forward to her new job, she says, because "ESSN forges alliances between community groups, and empowers the ordinary people in those groups to make an extraordinary difference together. I hope to continue

that work of mobilizing, so that one day everyone will have enough food to eat, enough wages to put that food on the table, enough self-determination to get a job in which they are respected and paid fairly, and enough compassion to demand the same for every other human being on the planet."

— *Aria Seligmann*

EUGENE GETS ITS OWN SLOGAN CONTEST

Portland marketing whiz Dan Wieden, who coined the Nike slogan "Just Do It," recently unveiled his choice for a new state slogan: "Oregon. We love dreamers." The slogan will replace the state's former and equally obtuse tourism pitch, "Oregon. Things Look Different Here."

In response to the announcement, sarcastic folks across the political spectrum have suggested alternative slogans. *Willamette Week* has published several submissions: "Oregon. Brewing better beer for Jesus"; "Come for the protests, stay for the unemployment"; "Where suicide is legal and marijuana is medicine — but don't even think about pumping your own gas!"; "Unlike those bastards in California, we recycle"; and "There's Goldschmidt in them thar hills!" The latter was submitted by Sen. Tony Corcoran.

Conservative talk show host Lars Larson has dozens of alternative slogans on his website (www.larslarson.com) including: "Oregon: As screwed up as California without that bothersome fame and fortune"; "Poverty with a view"; "Will the last business to leave please turn out the lights"; "Where the government gives the people the business"; and "Move here and you'll understand why we have assisted suicide."

Lane County has the slogan "See all of Oregon in Lane County," but does Eugene have a tourism slogan? Cartoonist Jesse Springer's new book *Nobody Messes With My Right to Dye!* might inspire some ("Lily white Eugene: now bigger and blander than ever") but no official slogan could be found on the city's website. So *Eugene Weekly* is sponsoring a Eugene Slogan Contest with prizes.

Send your slogans to editor@eugene-weekly.com (write "Slogan contest" in the subject line) or mail to 1251 Lincoln St., Eugene 97401. The best slogans will be printed in *EW*'s year-end issue Dec. 31. Top prizes will be Bijou movie tickets and *EW*/Ems sweatshirts. — *TJT*

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

PAULETTE ANSARI

In the mid-1970s, while she was studying library science in her home town of Chicago and working at the library, Paulette Ansari saw a performance by noted North Carolina storyteller Jackie Torrance. "I was inspired — I thought, 'I could do that!'" says Ansari, who began telling African folk tales to kids along a bookmobile route. "I found I could hold their attention." With two young children in tow after her graduation, she and her husband, Abbas, fled Chicago's crime and violence in 1981 to follow her cousin Henry Luvert to Eugene. She was the first African-American teacher hired in Springfield when she started at Springfield High in '82. She taught 12 years at Briggs Middle School, and is currently in her seventh year as librarian and teacher at Mt. Vernon Elementary, where she taps her students' artistic talents annually to commemorate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Ansari has built a reputation as a teller of African and African-American stories — she frequently performs in area schools, community centers and parks. Look for performances at the public libraries in Eugene and Springfield during the month of January.

