

‘Rising Out of Hatred’ expands the boundaries of nonfiction prose

Fifty years ago, Eli Saslow’s “Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist” might have been viewed as controversial “New Journalism.” Tom Wolfe’s designation for his own writings and those of a growing number of magazine journalists in the 1960s. They were experimenting with use of fictional techniques in nonfictional prose.

Wolfe employed bizarre punctuation, peculiar spellings and endless paragraphs to approximate the antics of Ken Kesey and his merry band of acid trippers in “The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test.” Even more controversial was Truman Capote’s extended quotation of his sources in “In Cold Blood.” Traditional journalists questioned whether Wolfe or Capote had witnessed, committed to memory or taken notes on the experiences or conversations in their works.

And then there were deranged fantasies that Hunter Thompson captured in “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas,” events and experiences Thompson described as

occurring while he was under the influence of alcohol mixed with other uppers and downers. This may have been “gonzo journalism” but few traditional newspaper editors accepted Thompson’s reality.

Fifty years later, Saslow writes “Rising Out of Hatred,” a nonfictional account of Derek Black’s slow escape from his white nationalist family and the racist, far-right views he shared with family, high profile Klan leaders, far-right activists and millions of fellow travelers guided by Derek’s and his father Don Black’s Stormfront.com online radio station.

Saslow, a Washington Post staff writer who resides in Portland, introduces himself in an opening chapter as the omniscient narrator throughout this account, explaining how he obtained the cooperation of Derek, Don and KKK Grand Wizard David Duke. In the final chapter, he acknowledges the cooperation of Allison, Derek’s liberal girlfriend, and others close to Derek at Florida’s liberal New College.

In the 300 pages intervening

AT THE LIBRARY

JOE BERTN



between Saslow’s beginning and ending authorial intrusions, he maintains his omniscient narrative voice that allows readers to sympathize with the earnest, sweet, kind, intelligent, racist and xenophobic Derek Black as he struggles to remain a model student while being attacked, threatened and berated by liberal students hostile to his presence at this small college.

Whether traditional newspapers still exist today has become arguable in the past 20 years. Certainly magazine-style feature articles have replaced much of the objective content wire services and staff reporters once provided. Now, articles lure readers with complex descriptive, narrative and scene-setting introductions. Eli Saslow has mastered the lan-

guage of fiction and convincingly applied it to this linkage of white nationalism to the 2016 presidential election.

Saslow won a Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism in 2014 and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Feature Writing in 2013, 2016 and 2017. In “Rising Out of Hatred” Saslow is blessed with a great plotline that he thoroughly exploits in the most moving and frightening piece of non-fiction I have read since “In Cold Blood.” Allison, the sensitive daughter of a liberal mother from all-white (96.3%) Mentor, Ohio, meets Derek, whose white-nationalist father started the largest racist internet community and whose godfather is Klan leader David Duke, making a powerful story of love and redemption.

Now a couple of reminders about Library events.

The library’s annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon takes place Wednesday, April 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Hall, 207 N. Spruce St. If planning to attend this luncheon, please RVSP

the library office at 503-436-1391 or info@cannonbeachlibrary by March 27.

Peter Lindsey—author of “Comin’ in Over the Rock: A Storyteller’s History of Cannon Beach” and “Just Movin’ the Water Around: Commercial Trolling with the Cannon Beach Dory Fleet”—will read from and sign his books from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Apr. 5, at the library, 131 N. Hemlock St., as part of this year’s “Get Lit at the Beach” sponsored by the Tolovana Arts Colony.

Finally, spring has arrived, along with spring-cleaning rituals. Volunteers, who sort donated used books to include in the library collection or price for resale, now are preparing for the Memorial Day Rare and Used Book Sale and the July Fourth Weekend Book Sale.

While clearing shelves and closets this spring, why not let your nonprofit library find new homes for unwanted books? Volunteers encourage visitors and residents, preparing their houses for the vacation season, to donate unwanted books to the library.

When ‘Peyton Place’ scandalized America

A book came out in the mid-’50s that changed America. The hottest, most vilified, most irresistible book of its time, a best seller in 1956 that everyone was reading but no one would admit it.

Caught with a copy of Peyton Place in your possession was the mark of the devil, or at least a sign of bad taste. So we read it in the bathroom with the door locked, in the privacy of the automobile or a phone booth or under he covers late at night with a flashlight or inside the stall of a public restroom.

Grace Metalious, a 30-something discontented housewife, with three kids and a big brain wrote it. Every morning dressed her customary blue jeans, checkered shirt and tennis shoes, she would scoot up to the kitchen table, lift off the cover of her Royal typewriter and let rip.

Objective? To tell the whole truth about some small towns

OUT OF MY HEAD

BOB DIETSCH



including her own. She tore off the sparkling peaceful exterior of these Pleasantvilles and exposed the political corruption, the racism, debauchery and religious hypocrisy. In raw back alley language, she addressed abortion, incest, justifiable homicide, rape, and maybe more importantly, the discontent that some women felt living in a world controlled by men.

When a reporter asked her if she thought her book would be selling in 30 years, she replied, “Heavens no.” In the 60-plus years since it was first published, it has sold millions. In that time, Peyton Place has undergone a dramatic transformation, from pornographic to prophetic, required

reading in women’s studies classes in some Colleges and universities.

Metalious has become a feminist heroine, one of the first to talk about a women’s role in America. She never got used to her celebrity status. It confused her. When she went to New York to meet her publisher and sign a contract, she startled everyone in the boardroom by appearing in denim and sneakers, thus earning the nickname “Pandora in Blue Jeans.”

She wrote other books including a sequel called “Return to Peyton Place,” but none ever came anywhere close to the popularity of Peyton Place which has become a generic term for a small town with big problems.

The beginning is still one of my favorites. “Indian summer is like a woman — ripe, hotly passionate, but fickle. She comes and goes as she pleases so that no one is ever sure whether she will come at all or how long she will stay.” Can this woman write or what?

IN BRIEF

Community grants available

The city of Cannon Beach invites nonprofit organizations providing arts, educational, recreational, environmental, community or social services to apply for grant funding.

File an application with the Parks and Community Services Committee. P.O. Box 368, Cannon Beach, OR 97110.

Applications must be received by 2 p.m., April 17.

Cannon Beach Academy matching grant program

Tim and Rhonda Snider, new members of the community, donated \$20,000 to the Cannon Beach Academy, and have offered to put up a potential of a further matching grant of \$20,000.

Between March 1 and June 1 donations up to \$20,000 will be matched by the Sniders.

Driving classes through AARP

AARP offers “Smart Driver” classes prior to summer Thursday, April 18, at Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington, Astoria; and Wednesday, May 8, at Bob Chisholm Community Center in Seaside, 1225 Avenue A.

All classes will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a lunch break. Those attending are encouraged to arrive early to get paperwork completed.

Register through Clatsop Community College at 503-338-2411 to assure that space is available.

For questions or information call John Benson at 503-738-5925, bensonsbend@gmail.com

MUNICIPAL MEMO

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION
MAYOR: Sam Steidle
COUNCILORS: Mike Benefield, Nancy McCarthy, Brandon Ogilvie and Robin Risley
CITY MANAGER: Bruce St. Denis

MEETINGS APRIL 2019

2	City Council Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
9	City Council Work Session	5:30 p.m.
18	Design Review Board	6:00 p.m.
25	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, March 5, 2019

- Adopted Ordinance 19-02, Amending Chapter 13.18 Billing and Collection of Utility Charges;
- Approved the issuance of a Request for Proposals for a City Engineer of Record;
- Approved using funds from the Recycle Reserve to repair the Recycle building;
- Approved amending the scope of contract with D.A. Anderson for municipal financial services;
- Approved an agreement with the Oregon Environmental Council for Fund Raising Services for an art project commemorating the Beach Bill.

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING March 6, 2019

- Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce presented an update to the Council;
- Escape Lodging presented an update regarding the management of the RV Park to the Council;
- Council discussed their ratings of several sites being considered for placement of a new City Hall/Police Station.

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION, March 12, 2019

- Haystack Rock Awareness Program Director, Melissa Keyser presented the 2018 annual report;
- Discussed the Warren Way Intersection;
- Discussed options to assist the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum should they purchase the old elementary school property;
- Discussed street standards;
- Discussed the Park Code and the Animal Code; to come back to another meeting;
- Discussed dust options for city streets.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

The Design Review Board met February 21st, 2019 and discussed:

- DRB 18-08 SR Lodging, modifications to the exterior of an existing building at 532 S. Hemlock. Approved
- DRB 18-09 Vito Cerelli, modifications to the exterior of an existing commercial building at 3115 S. Hemlock Denied
- The Design Review Board is scheduled to meet February 21st, 2019.
- PLANNING COMMISSION - The Planning Commission met January 28th and discussed:
- ZO 19-01, City of Cannon Beach request for Zoning Ordinance text amendments to Chapter 17.77 Short Term Rentals. Continued

WORK SESSION

Events/Outdoor Merchandising -postponed

Of Interest...

NOTICE

INVITATION FOR COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS FUNDING REQUESTS

Non-profit organizations providing programs/projects in arts, educational, recreational, environmental, community, or social services in Cannon Beach are invited to apply for funding from the City of Cannon Beach by filing an application with:

*City of Cannon Beach
Parks and Community Services Committee
P.O. Box 368
Cannon Beach, OR 97110
Attention: Jennifer Barrett*

Applications must be received by 2:00 pm, April 17, 2019

*Applications are available at
Cannon Beach City Hall
163 East Gower Street/PO Box 368
Cannon Beach, OR 97110
or at www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us*

NOTICE

ANNUAL INVITATION FOR TOURISM AND ARTS FUND (TAF) APPLICATIONS/REQUESTS

Non-profit organizations providing programs/projects that further the ARTS while promoting tourism in Cannon Beach are invited to apply for TAF funding from the Tourism and Arts Commission of the City of Cannon Beach by filing an application with:

*City of Cannon Beach
Tourism & Arts Commission
P.O. Box 368
Cannon Beach, OR 97110
Attention: Colleen Riggs*

Applications must be postmarked or hand delivered to City Hall by 5:00 pm, May 1, 2019

*Applications are available at
Cannon Beach City Hall
163 East Gower Street/PO Box 368
Cannon Beach, OR 97110
or at www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us*

Of Interest...

NOTICE OF VACANCIES CITY COMMISSIONS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

The City of Cannon Beach is seeking applications for the following vacancies: DESIGN REVIEW BOARD: ONE (1) vacancy to fill a 4-year term starting immediately. The Design Review Board reviews development proposals that are subject to the design review provisions of the City’s zoning ordinance. There are five members on the Design Review Board. The Design Review Board holds its regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and may also schedule work sessions as needed.

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE: ONE (1) vacancy to fill a 4-year term starting May 1, 2019. The Parks & Community Services Committee recommends strategies and policies that protect natural and scenic resources, provides for the recreational needs of residents and visitors, promotes certain educational and cultural activities, and supports efforts in the public and provide sector to provide needed social services. The Parks & Community Services Committee holds its regular meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. and may schedule work sessions as needed.

TOURISM & ARTS COMMISSION: TWO (2) vacancies to fill four-year terms beginning in May 2019. The seven-member Tourism and Arts Commission develops grant guidelines and procedures, and distributes and accounts for the monies in the “Tourism and Arts Fund” which are to be used by local non-profit groups to promote tourism and the arts in Cannon Beach. Each member shall have experience in one or more of the following areas: public relations, marketing, advertising, tourism, lodging, promotions, events promotion, art and/or publicity. The Tourism and Arts Commission holds its meetings as needed.

Note: Tourism and Arts Commission applicants are not required to reside in Cannon Beach and are eligible if he or she has worked, at least part-time, within the City of Cannon Beach for at least one year, immediately preceding appointment.

To be eligible to serve on a City committee, applicants must have resided within the city or its urban growth boundary during the one year immediately preceding appointment; or at the time of appointment, shall have owned real property located within the city or its urban growth boundary for at least one year immediately preceding appointment. (See ‘Note’ re: TAC).

Applications with questionnaires are available at City Hall, 163 E. Gower Street, Cannon Beach, by email addressed to riggs@ci.cannon-beach.or.us, or on-line at www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us. For consideration at the April 2, 2019 City Council meeting, applications and questionnaires must be returned to Colleen Riggs, Assistant City Manager, Cannon Beach City Hall, at P.O. Box 368, Cannon Beach, OR 97110 by March 22nd. Late applications will be considered at the next scheduled City Council meeting if not already filled. For more information, please contact Colleen Riggs by email or phone at (503) 436-8052.

Beach Volunteers Wanted!

Do you enjoy being outside and sharing your love of Haystack Rock? No experience necessary - we train! Families welcome.

Please contact:

Lisa Habecker
Education & Volunteer Coordinator
503.436.8064
habecker@ci.cannon-beach.or.us