



Thursday, October 18, 2001

According to the [Mercury](#), Dignity Village is once again about to run out of time. If yet another new site has not been found by November 1, they will be kicked out of their current temporary site out near the Columbia Correctional Institute.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:14:02 PM) +

Thursday, July 26, 2001

We have temporarily ceased publication while various prerequisites to a steady schedule are taken care of first. We regret the inconvenience.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 1:33:51 AM) +

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Finally, there's a trio of pieces about Bart King, a local teacher and author of "An Architectural Guidebook to Portland."

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 4:07:27 PM) +

And then there's this disturbing tidbit from Phil Stanford's "On the Town" column: *Powell's employees are worried that Anne Hughes, who's operated the bookstore's popular cafe for the past 16 years, may be forced out by Starbucks or some other chain operation. Owner Mike Powell has reportedly told her that he plans to look around when her lease expires next year. Anne's not giving up without a fight. "It's where my heart is," she says.*

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 4:05:55 PM) +

A couple items from the [Portland Tribune](#) today. First up, there's an interesting piece on the City's inability to keep up with its commitment to its parks. As the paper quotes City Parks Commissioner Jim Francesconi as saying, "If we're going to ask Portland neighborhoods to absorb more people, we're going to have to provide them with parks and open spaces and natural areas. Otherwise, we're risking a density revolt." Problem is, where's the money going to come from?

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 4:03:39 PM) +

Monday, July 09, 2001

A look at the [possible futures](#) of the Rose Quarter.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 12:38:27 PM) +

Wednesday, July 04, 2001

We have added an [unmoderated discussion list](#) for readers of The Portland Communique.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 2:16:25 PM) +

Meanwhile, the Portland Mercury [details](#) the City's new "anti-noise" campaign, purported to be an effort to increase livability in Portland, but ignoring the rather simple premise that true livability would be demonstrated not by cracking down on house parties through police powers, but by convincing City residents to talk to their neighbors in advance.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 2:05:21 PM) +

And The Oregonian [covers the formulary showdown](#) today as well.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 2:01:34 PM) +

In a last-ditch effort to obtain his "formulary" (a public-record list of drugs and their effectiveness, essentially under-cutting the pharmaceutical industry's use of marketing over science) Governor Kitzhaber is [reportedly prepared](#) to shut down the 2001 Legislature in a showdown.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 2:00:07 PM) +

Monday, July 02, 2001

This past Sunday, supporters of the upcoming Nader rally [were barred](#) from distributing flyers in Pioneer Courthouse Square, which apparently requires a permit.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:12:27 PM) +

So-called "freethinkers" [gathered](#) in Beaverton to decry the prevalence of God and religion in secular public society.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 10:26:25 PM) +

Saturday, June 30, 2001

A local company which sells "light and airy flute music" for meditation purposes [is suing](#) Napster. The issue: The company's products come with a warning notice informing customers that such music isn't good for situations such as driving, where it might put the customer to sleep at the wrong moment, and Napster's service provides no such warning to users who might download the music in question.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 10:24:22 PM) +

At the Rose Garden on August 4, "The People Have the Power" [rally](#), featuring Ralph Nader, Eddie Vedder, and Danny Glover. The rally is part of the post-election efforts of the Green Party and Ralph Nader.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 5:54:22 PM) +

According to the July issue of [The Southeast Examiner](#), the Good Government Committee has filed a petition (for the May 2002 ballot) which seeks to change the number of City Council members to nine, and remove Council members from administrative functions, limiting them to lawmaking, and giving administrative duties over to the Mayor, who would be removed from sitting on the Council at all.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 5:51:08 PM) +

Also in the Trib is another story on the city's continuing woes with billing from the water bureau. It would seem that by this Fall, the city will issue thousands of large water bills, after having failed to bill between 5000-8000 local residents and businesses for over a year.

(Posted by b!X at 3:50:36 PM) +

In Friday's [Portland Tribune](#), there's a long piece about the residents of Northwest 21st and their concern about being consumed by the power of nearby Trendy-third.

(Posted by b!X at 3:46:33 PM) +

After moving to Portland a couple years ago, the creator of Too Much Coffee Man [has now launched](#) a TMCM magazine.

(Posted by b!X at 3:12:53 PM) +

Reportedly, the city [will not evict](#) the residents of Dignity Village on tomorrow's July 1 deadline. Instead, city officials are (again, reportedly) working with Village leaders on a plan allowing residents to stay on some sort of public land for as long as a year.

(Posted by b!X at 3:08:57 PM) +

Of course, when we say "normal activity" down below, we mean it in a relative sense. In other words, your mileage may vary.

(Posted by b!X at 3:05:03 PM) +

Last Friday, a local non-profit organization [launched](#) its e-Democracy effort, which is "intended to help neighbors connect with one another and with civic and government organizations via e-mail, as well as providing access to information available on the Internet."

(Posted by b!X at 2:58:42 PM) +

The administration of Reed College [is refusing](#) to allow student-run newspaper The Quest to go online, saying that the publication's "off-color" nature does not meet journalistic standards and would be inappropriate for the college to include on its website.

(Posted by b!X at 2:55:14 PM) +

Friday, June 29, 2001

Apologies for the long delay in publication. The Portland Communique will return to normal activity.

(Posted by b!X at 10:01:03 PM) +

Monday, June 18, 2001

Portland's New Year's Eve vandals [did some cleaning](#) down in Pioneer Courthouse Square as part of their community service.

(Posted by b!X at 12:56:47 PM) +

Sunday, June 17, 2001

The Disclosure Project has [embarked upon](#) something of a tour to promote its campaign for Congressional hearings on what the government is alleged to know about UFOs (and also to promote its book on the subject.) The road show comes to Portland on September

12.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 12:13:58 PM) +

Saturday, June 16, 2001

Reportedly, there are occasionally people dressed in armor fighting with swords in the Park Blocks late at night.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:41:58 PM) +

An anti-tax activist is [launching an effort](#) to put before the voters a measure which would pull the [Oregon Liquor Control Commission](#) out of liquor sales.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 10:07:22 PM) +

Oregon members of Congress [introduced on Wednesday](#) a bill to back aggressive pain management. Says [Senator Ron Wyden](#), "My hope always was that both sides in the assisted suicide debate should rally to the cause of beefing up and improving pain management because that can reduce the demand for assisted suicide, and that should be appealing to both sides."

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 10:05:03 PM) +

There were 13 searches for the week ending 6/9/2001 for The Portland Communique. Here are the top phrases searched: 5 for "nader"; 3 for "tribune"; 2 for "dignity"; 1 for "blah"; 1 for "oregonian".

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 9:58:02 PM) +

With advertising revenue down, The Oregonian has [let go of](#) a "handful" of temporary workers, including reporters.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 9:06:30 PM) +

Also in Friday's Trib is a commentary from a local parent who discovered that the students at her son's school are not allowed to engage in "imagination games" during recess. Those who try are quickly told they need to go play ball or some other obvious and sanctioned activity that can be easily monitored by the adults at hand.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 8:59:21 PM) +

Yesterday's [Tribune](#) had a profile of the inevitable re-shaping of the West End (see previous entry regarding Erik Sten), including the "Burnside Triangle" gay district, detailing two opposing plans for the area, and what both sides claim each development direction would mean for its residents and businesses.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 8:56:10 PM) +

This Wednesday, the Willamette Week [added it's own take](#) on the question of Gen-X city councilman Erik Sten's allegiances, in this case on the matter of West End development.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 8:52:56 PM) +

Thursday, June 14, 2001

In Wednesday's Oregonian, a local high school student [explained](#) how adults treat teenagers like criminals.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 1:29:02 PM) +

Planning recommendations for the Rose Quarter, released Tuesday in draft form, [see the area](#) as potentially being "one of the most dynamic and exciting new districts in the city of Portland."

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 1:27:16 PM) +

A reader of Phil Stanford's column in the Portland Tribune wrote that columnist in response to a tidbit about a party wherein the guests ate sushi off of naked women. Seems the reader has heard tales of "the more adventurous members of Portland's upper crust" stripping down in order to play badminton back in the 1920s.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 1:22:08 PM) +

The Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision [declared unconstitutional](#) the warrantless search of an Oregon house via thermal imaging technology.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 1:16:43 PM) +

Monday, June 11, 2001

Still sticking with The Oregonian for the moment, [here's another glimpse](#) of life in Dignity Village.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:18:08 AM) +

Also from The Oregonian, a [look](#) at teen-agers and activism.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:16:45 AM) +

Will the Bush Administration's need to avoid retaliation against Gordon Smith keep them from [gutting](#) Oregon's assisted-suicide law?

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:13:36 AM) +

Sunday, June 10, 2001

On Oregon's bridges [and](#) Oregon's past.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 9:07:42 PM) +

In Salem, the [wrangling over redistricting](#), as required in the aftermath of a Census, has begun.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 9:06:07 PM) +

Governor Kitzhaber [prepares a compromise](#) on workplace smoking bans that would ban the habit from all places of work except bars.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 9:02:45 PM) +

Randy Gragg on the approaching support of the City Council for OSHU's [proposed development](#) in the North Macadam District (complete with tram), and what the Council should insist upon in exchange for its backing.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 2:37:24 PM) +

Saturday, June 09, 2001

In another sign of the Endtimes in which we are all "privileged" to live, infamous Portland-area skater Tonya Harding reportedly wants to [cash in](#) on a recent breast augmentation by starring in a topless Ice Capades show in Las Vegas.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 3:39:44 PM) +

The state Senate voted to put on the November 2002 ballot **an initiative** to lower the age of eligibility to serve in the state Legislature to 18, joining seventeen other states who have previously allowed this.

(Posted by **b!X** at 3:35:53 PM) +

The coordinator of the Dignity Site Development Team **responds** to an Oregonian **editorial** that slammed Dignity Village.

(Posted by **b!X** at 2:02:10 PM) +

Friday, June 08, 2001

According to today's edition of the Portland Tribune, one of the nation's largest developers of shopping centers, **Urban Retail Properties**, is showing an interest in the plan to **develop the Midtown Blocks**. URB is responsible for Copley Place in Boston, among various other major sites around the country. A companion story details how, since the development plan was first proposed, the area under consideration has tripled in size.

(Posted by **b!X** at 6:11:24 PM) +

Word has it, for those interested in such things, that the portable toilets at the **Rose Festival** smell remarkably like cotton candy.

(Posted by **b!X** at 5:24:48 PM) +

Meanwhile, when asked why the website for the city's **Office of Neighborhood Involvement** doesn't include any information about the new pilot project to rid our streets of posters, the city's graffiti man, Hugh McDowell had this to say: *We are still in a partial planning mode. One of the main components of the pilot project is to get input from the community on how to deal with this issue.* When it was pointed out that, given the controversy, it would be smart for the city to have at least something online so there was a clear point of reference, he sent this follow-up: *Good point. Hopefully we can get something online soon. We'll see.*

(Posted by **b!X** at 4:51:04 PM) +

The City Council has passed the Auditor's version of a **police review board**, which CopWatch is suggesting be called the Co-Dependent Review board, since it still involves Internal Affairs detectives.

(Posted by **b!X** at 4:43:12 PM) +

AT&T Broadband is **laying off** nearly 200 local employees. Service-related jobs, despite the company having faced stiff fines for providing poor service in the area to begin with. Go figure.

(Posted by **b!X** at 1:49:47 PM) +

The co-chairman of the Pacific Green Party **defends instant-runoff voting** in a response to The Oregonian.

(Posted by **b!X** at 1:34:09 PM) +

Thursday, June 07, 2001

Moving to Portland? Take **this quiz** and see if you're ready.

(Posted by **b!X** at 4:26:28 PM) +

The Portland Mercury presents a [new version of Chutes and Ladders](#), showing the world as it is, and as it would be under the Mayor's new anti-postering plan.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:27:55 AM) +

Wednesday, June 06, 2001

Very early this morning, the Port of Portland [received 80 telephone calls](#) from irate residents of a SE Portland neighborhood. Seems an EA-6 attack plane did a little fly-by, shaking walls and rattling windows.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 12:45:04 PM) +

New census data reportedly shows that Multnomah County [ranks sixth in the nation](#) in unmarried couples living together.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 12:21:35 PM) +

Yet another look, this time from the Willamette Week's music section, at the [city's war](#) against public expression in the form of fliers and posters.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 12:04:20 PM) +

The [Portland Tribune](#) is reportedly [converting](#) the now-defunct Our Town weekly into its Friday arts section, to begin sometime this fall.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:52:23 AM) +

Monday, June 04, 2001

Meanwhile, The Oregonian also [blasts](#) the Green Party proposal to bring "instant-runoff voting" to the state of Oregon, saying it would make voting "more artistic but also less responsible."

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 12:49:09 PM) +

The Oregonian offers a [brief look](#) at the Dignity Village controversy.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 12:43:53 PM) +

Sunday, June 03, 2001

The fall into moderate mediocrity of [Erik Sten](#), the city's Gen-X council member.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:55:55 AM) +

Saturday, June 02, 2001

Apropos, as it turns out, of the eyesore of a sign for the Portland Visitor's Center, Randy Gragg of The Oregonian (who covers the paper's architecture beat), had [a recent piece](#) on the design controversy. He concludes: *But in a way, the new visitor's center sign may actually be more in tune with the times with its graphic inflections that hint more at the commercial than the civic. Think of it as a banner for tourism hanging over the keystone of speech.*

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 10:25:10 PM) +

And speaking of the Trib, it is becoming something of a refreshing change from The Oregonian. Although it still has a long way to go, it's nice to have a truly local paper that focuses as much as possible on

Portland itself. You'd never see in The Oregonian a front-page above-the-fold profile of the man behind [Dignity Village](#) (Portland's embattled homeless encampment beneath the Fremont Bridge) like the one featured in an early Tribune. Plus, the Trib has been running a regular page two column by Phil Stanford on the city's history -- primarily its seedy criminal history. Hopefully, when the Trib's website goes up in August, all of these columns will be available.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 6:15:35 PM) +

Speaking of the new visitor's center, the [Portland Tribune](#) included in its Friday edition a 24-page pull-out section on the center (and area businesses, of course.) It provides a better look at it than the previously-mentioned article in The Oregonian. Unfortunately, it also shows the sign for the center, situated above its entrance in Pioneer Courthouse Square, which is more tacky and out-of-place than the Square's resident Starbucks.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 6:08:28 PM) +

Friday, June 01, 2001

The commissioner of Major League Baseball is [reportedly considering](#) the use of [PGE Park](#) as an "interim" ballpark for the Montreal Expos, while that club would await construction of a new facility. The [original story](#) appeared in the Montreal Gazette.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 4:53:08 PM) +

While not limited to Portland itself, this story is relevant since the bulk of the signatures will probably have to come from city residents. Supporters of Green Party candidate Ralph Nader are [launching an effort](#) to bring "instant-runoff voting" to Oregon via a November 2002 ballot initiative.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 4:44:36 PM) +

Thursday, May 31, 2001

The city's new [visitor's center](#) will finally open up in the space beneath Pioneer Courthouse Square on Friday. Gone is the dimly-lit brick cellar, replaced by a 7-day-a-week one-stop information center.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 3:46:43 PM) +

Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition, the Portland Mercury is [one year old](#) this week.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:41:05 AM) +

Wednesday, May 30, 2001

The FCC [has fined](#) KBOO \$7000 for airing "The Revolution Will Not Take Place Between My Thighs." KBOO [has filed](#) a complaint.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 3:40:20 PM) +

They asked me to come down and watch the parade and to march down the street like the Duracell Bunny. With a wink and a wave from the cavalcade. Throwing out candy that looks like money to people passing by that all seem to be going the other way. Said won't you follow me down to the Rose Parade? Tripped over a dog in a

choke-chain collar. People were shouting and pushing and saying. And when I traded a smoke for a food stamp dollar, a ridiculous marching band starting playing, and got me singing along with some half hearted victory song. Won't you follow me down to the Rose Parade? Won't you follow me down to the Rose Parade? Won't you follow me down to the Rose Parade? The trumpeter has obviously been drinking, 'cos he's fucking up even the simplest lines. I'd say it's a sight worth seeing, it's just that everyone's interest is stronger than mine. And when they clean the street I'll be the only shit that's left behind. Won't you follow me down to the Rose Parade? Won't you follow me down to the Rose Parade? Won't you follow me down to the Rose Parade?

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 3:13:27 PM) +

Esquire, Salon, The New Republic, and The Atlantic Monthly [have teamed up](#) with [Powell's City of Books](#) to provide commentary on books, both old and new, five days a week. Now if only Powell's would allow each bricks-and-mortar shop to have its own unique section of the site, designed and maintained by its own staff, and built in a way to connect book lovers to each other. Granted, that doesn't quite have the same name-brand value as this announcement, but it would help the Powell's online presence better reflect what Powell's does so well offline.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 11:52:59 AM) +

Tuesday, May 29, 2001

According to a group of geologists, the [risk of an earthquake](#) in Portland "just got ratcheted up another notch" due to a recent discovery about the Portland Hills Fault.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 3:11:56 PM) +

This story is a couple weeks old by now, but is still current. The city of Portland is [launching a pilot program](#) to deprive the average citizen of a fundamental form of urban communication: The use of telephone poles for posters, announcements, and art. In essence, the city is siding with the utility companies on private property grounds, rather than requiring utility companies to accept, as part of their right of way when placing the poles on our streets to begin with, that they will be used for free speech purposes. The instigator of this pilot program, Hugh McDowell, the city's Graffiti Prevention Coordinator, would apparently [like to hear](#) from Portland residents about this.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 3:06:47 PM) +

Interesting article in last Friday's [Portland Tribune](#) on the [city's bridges](#), although the article itself is not online (the bi-weekly paper's website isn't scheduled for launch until August 1). Includes some interesting and useless facts such as: The tone produced by driving the grate on the Hawthorne Bridge at 30 mph is a C.

(Posted by [b!X](#) at 2:54:00 PM) +

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

On February 21, 2002, at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall: Newt Gingrich [versus](#) Ralph Nader in "Who Rules America?" -- although

why they announced this so far in advance I have no idea.

(Posted by b!X at 4:14:51 PM) +

Before leaving Portland after a three-day visit, the Dalai Lama criticized the blessed way of American life, but claimed a hopefulness that we will figure things out.

(Posted by b!X at 4:06:05 PM) +