

Dropout

Nick Pennetti

Two weeks ago, the vacant Pine Street building that once housed See See Motor Coffee Co. reopened with two local businesses sharing the space. Nick Pennetti is the manager at The Dropout Bike Shop, which moved from its original Virginia Street location and now occupies 131 Pine St. alongside a new Hub Coffee Roasters shop.

So, why the move?

This location, I think, was the culmination of the owner Mark [Trujillo] of the Hub and the owner of Dropout, Chad [Kortan]. They've always been friends and they've always wanted to, kind of, get together with something. And I think the location up there was nice because it brought us closer together, but it wasn't really the ideal situation. Chad had previously worked at a place where coffee and bikes were together under one roof, and I think that was kind of the idea here—to just get a communal space where everything can be shared. There's bike stuff here, coffee stuff on the wall. It's fully integrated, but still two separate businesses, which, I think, is a good motto for nowadays. I feel like a lot of bike shops have a hard time staying alive in the slower season. This might help a little bit.



PHOTO/MATT BIEKER

I always thought “dropout” implied a connection to the university.

It's funny because everybody asks that. There's two meanings. So, a dropout is actually the part on a bicycle where the wheels go in. So, not only is it that, but also, you know, across from a college. I can never get a straight answer out of Chad as to why. As far as that goes, I think it's going to be a good move coming down here. We're not near the university, but we're less than a mile away, and they're going to be putting in a bike lane coming right down Center Street. So I don't think it's gonna hurt us moving.

The Hub has always been bike-friendly. Is the idea that this is going to the cyclists' coffee shop?

I think they're going to make that decision, but it'd be nice to see the cycling community kind of, like, you know, take on this shop slash coffee shop as the place to go to. I think it's convenient. So, I think it's going to happen. You know, I think it's a good place to meet up before rides, finish a ride, maybe stop to warm up or cool down on your ride. And eventually they're going to be serving beer as well, I think. You get your coffee, go on around, you get your beer when you're done. It just makes sense. Plus it's really nice, you know, people come in for quick service, they can get a cup of coffee and hang out.

Is Reno a pretty big cycling town in your experience?

I guess it is. I think it is. I think that it's getting away from the casinos and everything, and it's becoming more of an outdoor town. We recently just got a bike park out west, Sierra Vista Bike Park, which is really nice. It's a good place for the community to come together. They have everything for little kids on Striders to, you know, adults on huge bikes doing huge jumps. So, it's really nice. It's diverse. We have a lot of trails. You can ride spring, summer, fall—you can commute. We're getting better. I think it's becoming more popular. □

NOTES FROM THE NEON BABYLON

BY BRUCE VAN DYKE

Pressing issues

We are about nine months from Election Day. You have a job to do. You need to take the concept of “informed citizen,” and embrace it. It's not always a *fun* job, but it's an important one. This is not a drill. There is zero room for complacency or excuses. We need us another one of them there Blue Wave elections. To quote the great political strategist The Rock—“Know your role. Dammit.”

My opinion about caucuses has been fairly predictable for a while. The whole process just seems like a bit of a CF, a horse and buggy-style relic of the 19th century. I know advocates of caucuses who swear that there are upsides to the process, convinced that in some ways, they're actually superior to direct primaries. Perhaps. But on this Tuesday morning, with the results of Iowa's caucuses still a total mystery, my CF position seems to be strengthening, if anything.

And the Nevada caucus is in two weeks. (Why do we stick with caucuses in this state? The answer is a five-letter word that begins with M and ends with Y).

This just into the newsroom. El Chapo, through his team of lawyers, has let it be known that he would very much like to get one of those trials where there are no witnesses allowed. Just sayin'.

To point out how much Netflix and YouTube and HBO have revolutionized our Boob Tube lifestyle, let me ask this question. Do you watch even *one* show on NBC, CBS, ABC or Fox on a regular basis that *isn't* news or sports? Me neither.

I was home recently, nursing a head cold, and it struck me, as I was searching through Netflix, that there's never been a better time to be illin' in America. With the astounding amount of data now available to stream into our

Smart TVs, my two sick days spent sniffing in my television room were kind of a blast. What a drag to get healthy again and resume the routine!

OK, I've had it. All these so-called professional announcers who consistently mangle the word “asterisk.” You know what I'm talkin' about. The legion of chowds who effortlessly morph Asterisk into Aster-Rick. Eesh. Pathetic. So let's fix this. It just takes a little practice. Start with the first syllables. Aster. Like the flower. Easy, right? Ass-turr. No sweat. Now, the third syllable. Risk. Another easy one. Couldn't be simpler. Now, put 'em together. Aster-Risk. Asterisk. Bingo. Say it again. Asterisk. Congrats. You're now more adept than 80 percent of the clods on sports talk radio. Is asterisk as easy to say as “market” or “table?” No. But it *is* easier than “rural” or “forests.” OK, I feel better now. □



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