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DAVE HUGHES: MAKING A BOLD LEAP INTO CYBERSPACE

Posted by Citizen Report on August 28, 2009 at 2:28pm [View Blog](#)

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"Everyone knows that daily newspapers are losing out to other media. Many newspapers are going out of business. Older people tend to watch cable television. Younger people tend to get their news on the Internet. What's a metro newspaper paper to do?

So the Gazette Telegraph made a bold leap into Cyberspace! They invited anyone with an Internet connection to post their own stories, opinions, and announcements on their online HUB system. Community news. Uncensored, unedited and Free. Then anyone else with an Internet connection can read those offerings. It's a grand journalistic experiment, rooted in Cyberspace. I like that, since I have been online for over 30 years. I knew a long time ago that personal computers, a net connection, was going to change everything. Even the business of where people see advertising.

Thousands of people in the Pikes Peak Region have taken up the offer, babbling away on subjects from pets, to trips, education to economics. Personally I started out educating everyone in Colorado Springs about the 150 year history of Old Colorado City - the historic westside of Colorado Springs.

The Gazette didn't stop there. In a clever twist only they could do - after all the GT IS a newspaper - the GTs HUB editors started every week pulling together the most interesting online pieces. Then they put them into one of four neighborhood print HUB additions that are wrapped around every Gazette Telegraph subscriber's Thursday morning newspaper.

But now the Hub is on the Radio too! I am the living proof of that, for I, Dave Hughes, the historian of Old Colorado City, have posted no less that 120 HUB articles on the Gazette's online HUB.

Now I find myself on the air, baying at the moon over KRCC radio.

Those who know me know I have done Internet Pioneering from way back in the 1970's. I fashioned an early computer bulletin board, called Roger's Bar. Which was that Westside Watering Hole where local politics had been always discussed, face to face, over coffee and beer. Then, with personal computers locals could start debating local politics online! That's Electronic Democracy. I acted as the Electronic Bartender. It got pretty famous. It even helped an unknown, Wayne Fisher, win a City Council

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seat over a very well known local political science professor. Someone called it the New England Town Hall over an electronic back fence in Colorado. Now everyone at the grass roots level can do that. For computers are everywhere. And not just get their opinions from corporate television, or radio, or even newspapers. Ordinary people can share their opinions with other people before they vote - the original essence of Democracy.

So being the first Hubber to be offered the chance to take to the airways, backed by both YourHub and Colorado College's KRCC public radio, I am here to welcome you 'citizen listeners' to the newest collaborative efforts to let you as 'citizen journalists' broadcast your own stories. You first write online where others can read it that way, then your words may appear in the weekly print version of the HUB. Now that same story can be broadcast to any listener with a radio. It will not be in my voice, or that of the KRCC staff, but the voice of you, the original citizen journalist writer! So wanna be a broadcaster, too? And tell your stories? Just start online at ColoradoSprings.com to find your neighborhood hub site.

I find it pretty interesting that the Gazette, the Gray Old Newspaper Lady of Colorado Springs, is drinking Electronic English from the fountain of cyberyouth. She is kicking up her heels trying out this Audio Hub. Watch out local television. You may be in her sights next!

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