

New people key to local elections

Any Lane County political junkie can list the problems facing local government these days — log moratoriums, nuclear free zones, higher education financing. These all give city and county officials sleepless nights.

The problems are not new. They have been around — and been ignored — for a long time. However, the issues are now critical, and it is time to get things solved. New blood and a different perspective are needed.

That reasoning, more than anything else, has colored the *Oregon Daily Emerald* endorsements for city and county candidates, which are as follows:

County Commissioner

- Position 1 — Ellie Dumdi
- Position 2 — Pat Riggs
- Position 4 — Cynthia Wooten

City Council

- Ward 1 — Randy MacDonald
- Ward 4 — Paul Nicholson
- Ward 5 — Ken Tollenaar
- Ward 6 — Bobby Green

While it is important to bring in new people to county government, it is also imperative to retain some officials with experience. Of all the county commissioner incumbents running for reelection, Dumdi is the one deserving to remain in her post.

Dumdi's background in local education is flawless and a much-needed commodity on the commission. Government needs experts, and Dumdi's knowledge of the community is valuable. She is worthy of reelection.

We choose Riggs over Steve Cornacchia because of our dissatisfaction with Cornacchia's voting record. He seems to be part of a growing conservatism on the county commission that is leaving constituents more and more isolated. It's time to put the commission back on an even keel.

Riggs is a logical choice. She has much experience in government, serving on the Lane Community College Board of Education and the Public Employees Retirement Board. She has been a committed public servant and will provide new insight into county politics.

When Jack Roberts was appointed to the Position 4 seat on the county commission, we had high hopes. After all, he was an experienced lawyer who had run for state government twice before. He seemed knowledgeable, and we expected him to become an integrated member on the commission.

We have since become disillusioned.

Roberts has aligned himself on several issues with outgoing commission chairman Bill Rodgers. His most recent move — defending the county office ban on the environmentalist magazine *Forest Voice* — only furthers our disappointment.

Wooten was a Eugene city councilor for eight years. She promises to fight for individual rights and against special interests. We believe her.

In the Ward 1 city council race, MacDonald is most qualified. His experience, gained at the feet of state Sen. Larry Hill, will allow him to become an important, vital part of the board.

Nicholson is the only choice for Ward 4, which includes the University. His concern for community, rather than for business interests, are unique ideas for a city council candidate. Nicholson represents a grass-roots mentality long absent from city politics.

The Ward 5 race was tough to call, but we finally decided to go with Tollenaar over Kaye Robinette. Tollenaar's background in education, specializing in state and local government, gives him the edge.

Green was appointed to his post in Ward 6 last year, and has been one of the most visible of all city councilors. He deserves a second term.



Flapping gums

Every time I open the *Oregon Daily Emerald* there's a new letter either for or against homosexuality. We can debate this topic until we're blue in the face, but we have to realize the homosexual community exists no matter what is said or done or thought.

Homosexuality has been recorded farther back than even ancient Greece, where it was accepted by society as a social norm. It's not a new issue. It's not even a debatable issue. You can give your opinions on any subject as often as you wish, but I hope you don't expect to make people change by flapping your gums in the wind, because they won't.

Homosexuals are not trying to convert anyone's sexual behavior; don't try to change theirs. They just want to be accepted. To accept homosexuality is not to say you are a homosexual, which seems to be a fear of people who are uncomfortable with the idea. "There is nothing good or bad," Shakespeare said, "but thinking makes it so."

Face it! The battle against homosexuality cannot be won. Why not focus our energy on something more constructive like animal rights, human rights and the preservation of our planet?

Paul Verano
Theatre arts

Leaders?

Richard Nixon got away with a number of crimes. So did half the Reagan administration. George Bush ignored international law and common sense when he sold guns to the Contras and invaded Panama to get one lousy dope dealer.

Ivan Boesky ripped off thousands of people to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars and then ends up doing a few months in a federal country club complete with manicured lawns, tennis courts and cable television.

These are our leaders, the

men we hear of every day, the respectable sort of people who supposedly embody everything that is great and wonderful about this country, and whom we were all taught from day one to emulate. Perhaps Diane Wong and Gerard Moseley should consider these examples before blaming the "question-authority mentality of the '60s generation" for their children's self-centeredness (*The Register-Guard*, May 1).

One should also keep in mind that kids often reject their parents' values rather than emulate them. The members of the '60s generation that are being berated did so in large part because the authorities deserved questioning. Remember Vietnam? Is the '40s generation ultimately to blame then?

But perhaps the folks that are trying to discredit the '60s feel a need to do so. After all, isn't it that very same anti-authoritarian generation that keeps insisting on such things as nuclear free zones, old growth preservation and direct democracy — practices that make it so difficult for our leaders to do things as they, in their infinite wisdom, see fit?

Bill Smee
Staff

Insensitivity

I've seen *The Simpsons*. Sometimes I shake inside as my bitter, terrifying childhood memories are roused. Sometimes I laugh, as when "ordinary dumb kid" is said instead of the doublespeak used in real life. An example of the latter occurs when a child is told he or she is smart enough to do well in school, but not smart enough to have valid criticisms about school.

I know about satire, and I'm sure Gary Darby (*ODE*, April 27) does. I think the real issue involves looking at what amuses people. Some people worry when they see people laughing at situations that include physical and/or emotional pain. I know I worry when people laugh as they watch on TV the umpteenth woman do

childbirth. I'd feel less troubled if I could be sure that insensitivity to fictional suffering does not indicate insensitivity to real-life situations.

My worries were not allayed by Frank Phillips' May 4 letter, in which he referred to Bart as "an extension of any bratty little kid you've had to deal with."

Please read "Interview" in the March 1987 *Omni*, pages 73-83. Instead of parroting the conventional belief that children are to blame for the "problems" they cause, the article lays out the roots of these problems, clear to see for those who are not parrots.

I don't believe Phillips when he says he "created problems" for his family, but I believe that type of thinking causes problems for the children's movement.

Alice Berry
Eugene

Incubators

It is amazing to me that our society is treating women as incubators and storage devices for procreation. We are stripping them of their fundamental rights to their own bodies and making them into appliances.

In the United States, we have already witnessed the forced and court-ordered Caesarean section of a mother dying of cancer in an attempt to "protect" a fetus, and incarcerated another woman, denied treatment for drug abuse, when her newborn baby tested positive for drugs.

We are currently threatening more women with jail sentences if they fail to produce perfect babies. Even with all the best prenatal care available, who can guarantee a perfect baby? So what's next — jailing all the mothers involved in the March of Dimes because their kids are disabled?

Dean Walton
Eugene

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The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.