



THE RACE IS ON!

Who will be Oregon's next governor?

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ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN MOORE



Anita Floyd

Lost in space

Anita Floyd finds a brave new world under the sea

BY MELISSA SAYLER

Will you ever know what it feels like to walk in space?" Anita Floyd asks. For those who want to experience floating weightlessly and meet fascinating creatures in a strange, new world, scuba diving is the next best thing.

"When you're diving it's the closest you'll ever come to visiting another world. You are not in your environment, you're in the fish's environment," Floyd asserts.

She goes on to describe her experiences interfacing with curious octopi and 6-foot-long wolf eels as well as green, firefly-like phosphorescents encountered in night diving—not to mention the eerie memorials of old shipwrecks.

In one trip off the Canadian coast on the way up to Alaska, Floyd swam through a cruise liner that sunk in the 1940s. "It was different diving on that particular vessel because it was a memor-

ial site," she remembers. "There were 300 people who died right there. It gives you a different feeling. You don't want to touch it. It's like walking through a graveyard."

Floyd started diving in 1996 at the coaxing of a friend. At first she was a little apprehensive.

"I grew up on the Oregon coast, and a smart person doesn't even put their big toe in the water, let alone think about swimming in it. I never even thought about learning to scuba dive," she remarks.

But she figured if her friend, who'd been certified a year before, was up to the challenge then she could be, too.

"Being 45, I had a mind-set of all those things that could go

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