

to any campaign to defeat any anti-gay ballot measures, including the recent Measure 36 campaign.

Wheeler does have a record of offering domestic partner benefits at his company. This is respected but does not in itself demonstrate a clear record of support for GLBT issues. If he would have been able to show a history of broader support on these issues, I'm sure BRO might have had a tougher time justifying its decision.

Weighing the records of the two candidates on GLBT issues shows a clear and significant difference between Linn and Wheeler. Using the word "supportive" for Linn's record doesn't begin to give it justice. Whether or not you agree with everything she has done as county chair, you can certainly say her support for equal rights for all citizens of Multnomah County has been groundbreaking. She is the only candidate in this race who deserves an endorsement and a green light from BRO.

Its decision to not give her opponent a green light is not a slam against him. It only reflects what his current record shows.

KEVIN REEDY
Portland

A Ripple Across the Nation

TO THE EDITOR:

I was disappointed when I read the last publication of *Just Out*. While the paper endorsed a personal friend and hero of the entire LGBT community, Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn, everything pointed to the contrary—from the open attack by Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey, to Brian Wilson's ill-informed criticism of Diane and Basic Rights Oregon, and the lack of attention given to this paper's endorsement. It is nearly impossible to overstate the importance of this race and why our community must so strongly work for Diane's re-election with all we have.

Very few elected officials have stood with us in such a courageous way. Even fewer have done so when the political risks were both unknown and potentially career-ending.

Diane has led with courage and commitment to the LGBT community during her term as chair. She led the effort to protect county workers with a nondiscrimination ordinance covering sexual orientation and gender identity, has spearheaded efforts to combat HIV/AIDS infection rates in our community, worked to increase funding for HIV/AIDS education and worked diligently to curb crystal meth addiction in Multnomah County. And yes, she made the amazing decision to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, moving public approval of our marriages from 33 percent to 44 percent, no small feat in the lifetime of a movement.

This is an election being watched by our friends and enemies everywhere. The outcome of this race will send a ripple across this state and the country. Call it a second referendum on gay marriage. Will an elected official outside of San Francisco be able to survive a decision like Diane's? It's an important question for our movement, and the answer we give—with our financial support now and vote on May 16—is even more important. A victory for Diane on Election Day will be a victory for equality. If she wins, it will embolden others in the state and around the country to stand up for equality.

Ted Wheeler has done *nothing* for our community. Where was he during the past two decades of

anti-gay ballot initiatives? Neither his time nor his financial support was there. Nothing in his record—from his professional career to the anti-gay/anti-progressive recipients of his family foundation—shows he will support our community.

National leaders around the country are supporting Diane in her re-election campaign. People like Elizabeth Birch, Judy Shepard, David Mixner, Ambassador James Hormel, Bruce Bastian and Human Rights Campaign co-chairman Mike Berman, all seasoned political strategists who understand the national implications of this election, are supporting Diane in this campaign.

If we don't support Diane with everything we have now, why would other politicians go out on a limb for us? I urge the Multnomah LGBT community to stand up and get behind Diane, who has done so much to advance our cause in Portland and across the country. During tough political times, we must not abandon our best friends in elected office. Together we can show Oregon and the country we support those who stand up for us. Please, stand with me now and support Diane.

TERRY BEAN
Human Rights Campaign Board of Directors

Van Sant Postures for Oscar

TO THE EDITOR:

I was so incensed by the editorial earlier this month in *The Oregonian* about its homophobic pontificating about the Best Picture Academy Award that I prepared and forwarded a letter to them. Of course, that letter died, and *The Oregonian* never published any responses from anyone about its outrageous stance in a matter that overruled even its own film critic.

Recently, Brian Libby interviewed Gus Van Sant, who was asked his opinion of the Oscars, and the best feeble response that Van Sant could come up with is that the choice for Best Picture was "clumsy." What was clumsy, if not downright insipid, was Van Sant's response to outrageous homophobia animating the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Van Sant probably does not want to rock the boat that could conceivably bestow an Oscar on him, I guess. I quite frankly am not inclined to take it from the academy, and a rather bogus one at that, and then meekly and quietly purse my lips.

FLOYD M. ZULA
Portland

Big Eden Outshines Brokeback

TO THE EDITOR:

I think Jim Radosta and the rest of the critics significantly overrate *Brokeback Mountain* in the context of a neglected film that deserves all the praise that *Brokeback* received: *Big Eden* ["The Brokebacklash," April 7].

Now, I approve of the masculinity of the *Brokeback* characters. It's very liberating to tell the truth that gay men conform to no stereotypes. And yes, masculinity is not only good and powerful—it's very sexy. However, the *Brokeback* cowboys are ultimately crippled by their crude notions of masculinity. They lack both enough courage and imagination to make a strong man's choices, and they suffer for it.

Big Eden, by contrast, shows ordinary men developing enough courage and imagination to be

truly open to love. If *Brokeback Mountain* is ultimately about macho losers, *Big Eden* is about the triumph of the pure heart. But more than that, it offers a very radical vision of an alternate world: a life without imposed homophobia. We don't need *Brokeback Mountain* to tell us that homophobia hurts, but we need *Big Eden* to inspire us to imagine a sane world.

MITCHELL SANTINE GOULD
Portland

Democrat Today

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm Lee Coleman, and I'm the Oregon Democratic Party's candidate for the Oregon House of Representatives District 26, which includes Wilsonville and parts of Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Aloha.

Some folks might remember that I used to be a Republican, but I have converted! Why? Because the Democratic Party cares about people and does so responsibly and with compassion.

My campaign includes promises for 1) economic relief (including tax reductions through a "Family Tax Relief Act" and a completely new and different mode of taxation of business entities so they can pay their fair share, 2) social justice on a broad range of subjects including civil rights and adequate funding for education and health care, 3) creation of new jobs through new transportation and highway initiatives (including a "Northwest Passage" highway from Wilsonville to Scappoose) as well as through leadership in development and use of alternative energy options and 4) control of predatory businesses such as "payday loan" companies.

I am running so that this state can move beyond the train wreck that is the history of the Oregon House of Representatives during the past several sessions. The current Republican leadership engineered that train wreck, and they deliberately derailed equal treatment for gays and lesbians, the education budget, the health care budget, adequate funding for necessary police protection for the people of Oregon, adequate protection for working families and a whole host of other areas. We can do better than that. See www.friendsofleecoleman.org for more information about me and to support the campaign.

I used to be a Republican, but as I began to think about the true role of government, I looked at the statements made by the founders in our Constitution's Preamble. They wrote the Constitution in order to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquillity and promote the general welfare. Those must have been very liberal ideas in 1787, and they are despised as liberal ideas today by my former associates in the current Republican leadership. But they are ideals that are to be honored, not despised. That's why I'm a Democrat today.

LEE COLEMAN
Aloha

CORRECTION

The April 7 article "Women Warriors" incorrectly stated that the Portland Shockwave's April 29 game against the Redding Rage of California would be played at home. The football team's first home game is actually vs. the Eugene Edge 6 p.m. May 13 at Lincoln High School, 1600 S.W. Salmon St. Tickets are \$3-\$7.



*Don't worry chief,
I'll be all right.*



Valentino

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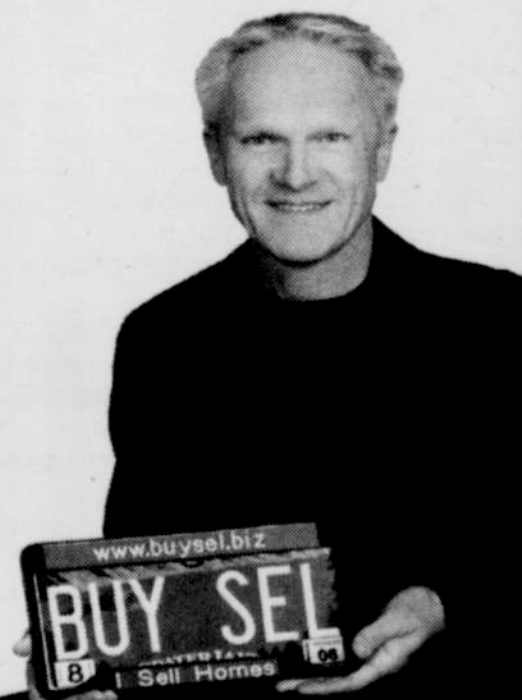
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Roger Mosser

Real Estate Broker

What will Roger say next?

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