

**OREGON LEGISLATURE GETS FAILING GRADE**

The Oregon Legislature earned a 39 percent score on environmental voting in the last session, marking a decade of retreat from Oregon's legacy of environmental leadership, according to the 2003 *Environmental Scorecard for the Oregon Legislature* released by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) this week.

"Oregon's legislators put corporate polluters and developers ahead of the people of Oregon," says Jonathan Poisner, executive director of OLCV. "OLCV is appalled that so many legislators voted lock-step to sacrifice the quality of our water, air and land."

Local lawmakers scoring well were Sen. Vicki Walker and Rep. Floyd Prozanski (100 percent), Rep. Phil Barnhart (96 percent) and Sen. Bill Morrisette (89 percent).

Getting mediocre reviews were Rep. Bob Ackerman (68 percent), Rep. Terry Beyer (52 percent) and Sen. Tony Corcoran (44 percent). Corcoran's score was down from 83 percent in 2001, but OLCV's Scorecard session summary credits Corcoran with helping stop many anti-environment bills from ever reaching the floor. At the bottom of the barrel for local lawmakers was Rep. Pat Farr (20 percent).

"Many legislators claim they had to make tough choices. In reality, it was about corporate special interests getting what they want," says Poisner. "Clean water, healthy air, and farmland are basic values, not trading cards."

Poisner says the 2003 session "left the environment battered" and Gov. Kulongoski "did many good things," but "failed to make good on campaign promises to veto bills that threaten Oregon's environment."

The 2003 *Scorecard* was based on 26 selected House votes and nine Senate votes. For details, visit [www.olcv.org/scorecard](http://www.olcv.org/scorecard).

**SON OF 7 PETITIONS NOW ON THE STREETS**

Oregonians in Action ([www.oia.org](http://www.oia.org)) is fielding paid petitioners to get a new version of Measure 7 on the ballot in 2004. Initiative #36 is a statutory measure that, if passed, would require state and local governments to pay property owners whenever a "land use regulation" reduces a property's value.

"The end result would be to gut Oregon's nationally acclaimed land use planning pro-

gram, state farm and forest practices laws, local land use and zoning ordinances, and many other critical public protections," says a statement in response from 1000 Friends of Oregon ([www.friends.org](http://www.friends.org)).

Nearly 750,000 voters in 2000 thought Measure 7 was a good idea and passed it, despite warnings from economists, land use advocates and government officials. The measure was invalidated by the Supreme Court on a technicality.

If Initiative #36 qualifies for the ballot and is passed by voters, local elected officials, already facing serious budget pressures, will face an impossible choice, says Evan Manvel of 1000 Friends. "Either pay landowners millions or billions of dollars to comply with numerous existing laws that protect our neighborhoods, farmland, and environment; waive, or explicitly repeal, those laws; or fight costly compensation claims in court."

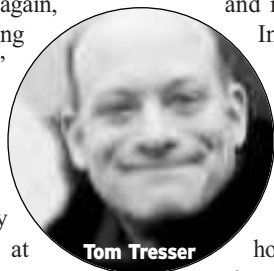
Manvel says the measure provides no funding sources, so that claims against taxpayers and associated legal costs would add to Oregon's budget woes. "Moreover, its many legal uncertainties would certainly lead to extensive litigation."

The Voter Education Project (VEP) has received reports from the field that the paid petitioners are up to their "old tricks" again, distorting the truth when collecting signatures for both the "Son of 7" initiative and the initiative to refer the Legislature's tax increase to the voters. Citizens are being asked to read all petitions carefully before signing, and report any fraudulent activities to VEP at [www.votereducationproject.org](http://www.votereducationproject.org)

Petitions are also being circulated for two initiatives that would reinstate term limits for legislative seats in Oregon. Term limits were approved by voters in 1992, but were tossed out by the Oregon Supreme Court in 2002 for violating the "one subject" rule for ballot measures. — *TJT*

**COLLABORATIVE VISION**

A community workshop on creativity as a driving economic force is planned for noon Friday, Oct. 24, at 249 Lawrence Hall at UO. The open public session will "solicit vision statements from participants on what a 'creative Oregon' looks like or would require in order to maximize the creative potential of her citizens,"



Tom Tresser

**THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW

**INTERESTING THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED FROM REPUBLICANS LATELY**

1) CAREFUL SEMANTIC PARSING ISN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL AFTER ALL. THE PRESIDENT DID NOT MISLEAD AMERICANS ABOUT THE IMMINENT THREAT POSED BY IRAQ-- --BECAUSE HE NEVER SPECIFICALLY USED THE WORD "IMMINENT"!

2) SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ISN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL AFTER ALL. SO WHAT IF ARNOLD USED TO GET A LITTLE FRISKY SOMETIMES? YOU KNOW HOW ROWDY THOSE MOVIE SETS CAN BE!

3) DRUG ABUSE ISN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL AFTER ALL. DRUG ADDICTS DESERVE OUR COM-PASSION AND SUPPORT! AT LEAST WHEN THEY ARE ALSO CONSERVATIVE TALK RADIO HOSTS!

4) NATIONAL SECURITY ISN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL AFTER ALL. EVEN IF THE WHITE HOUSE DID EXPOSE THE IDENTITY OF THAT CIA OPERATIVE--WHERE'S THE SCANDAL? IT'S NOT LIKE THE PRESIDENT WAS HAVING SEX WITH AN INTERN OR SOMETHING!

5) INTELLECTUAL CONSISTENCY ISN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL AFTER ALL. NONSENSE! WE CONSISTENTLY CONDEMN THE MORAL SHORTCOMINGS OF LIBERALS-- --WHILE CONSISTENTLY EXCUSING THE SAME BEHAVIOR IN CONSERVATIVES! SO YOU SEE-- WE'RE PERFECTLY CONSISTENT!

says presenter Tom Tresser of Passionate Strategies, with headquarters in Chicago.

Tresser has an academic background in urban development, sociology and business and is in residence at UO with the Institute for Community Arts Studies.

"A number of writers have made the case that America's current socio-political status as well as its continued economic success are both closely tied to how well we foster and nourish creative thinking and creative people," says Tresser. "Is there such a thing as the 'Creative Class'? If there is a new social order stirring, what might its civic calling be?"

Tresser says the Friday presentation will combine elements of performance and lecture to "examine the role creative workers might play in shaping the American civic agenda going forward."

**POOCH POLICY PUSHES PROBABLE CAUSE RULES**

Eugene police policy allows officers to use a drug detection dog to sniff the outside of a vehicle during a routine traffic stop even without probable cause or reasonable suspicion that the vehicle may contain drugs.

The Eugene city attorney expressed "some reservation" around the policy according to a staff report to the Police Commission. The legality of such a use of a drug dog without reasonable suspicion is "debatable," the attorney noted. But the attorney knew of no cases establishing precedents around the use of drug dogs in such a manner, and the EPD did not want use of the dog in traffic stops restricted.

A city study of traffic stops by EPD last year shows that Eugene police stop and search blacks and Latinos at much higher rates. Police searched Latino drivers at a rate 2.6 times higher than whites and searched blacks at a one-third times higher rate.

Police policy also allows the drug dog to be sent to community events for "public relations purposes." If the dog smells drug residue while at the community event, EPD policy specifies that the police handler will follow up as if the purpose of the dog's visit had been to find drugs.

The policy also allows the dog to sniff bags on an airport conveyor belt or other such luggage area in random checks for drugs without probable cause or reasonable suspicion.

Eugene police got the drug dog for free from Gresham this summer after that city decided its limited money was better spent on police officer patrols. — *Alan Pittman*

**SLANT**

- Who will fill Tony Corcoran's Senate seat when he takes his state board appointment in November? His district covers two counties, so Democratic Party precinct members in both counties will meet jointly and make their recommendations to the two county commissions. Lane constituents outnumber Douglas constituents by about 3-1 in Senate District 4, so commissioners will vote proportionately. Rep. Floyd Prozanski would be an obvious appointment, which would vacate his House seat. We hear Lane Commissioner Green is the key player in deciding who will take Corcoran's seat. He should go for Floyd who is such a reasonable, decent and smart guy who knows his way around Salem and will serve Green's constituents well. The list of local Dems who could end up in the House or Senate includes Don

Nordin, Mitzi Colbath, Max Grosbeck and Bonnie Bettman.

- Mayor Torrey's term is up in 2004 and with Nancy Nathanson voicing her ambitions for the post, Torrey's not likely to run (but we've said that before). Who would challenge Nathanson? Kitty Piercy and Jeff Miller might be contenders. If the progressives field a strong candidate this time (such as Piercy), conservatives will raise hundreds of thousands more than are needed for a reasonable small-town mayoral race. Our lack of meaningful campaign finance rules means we can look forward to another outrageously expensive media blitz that will focus on personalities and smears and do little to advance important civic issues.

- Kevin Mannix said last week that "taxpayers deserve the right to vote on this

massive tax increase" passed by the Legislature. "There was almost no public input on the tax plan during the legislative session." Well, maybe the details of the GOP-written plan were not hashed out in public, but public input to generate new revenues to slow Oregon's slide into the 19th century was massive. And it took many forms, from letter-writing and hearing testimony to fasting on the steps of the Capitol. Unfortunately, Oregonians still buy into the tired old GOP rhetoric that taxes scare away business from locating in Oregon. If anything scares away business, it's an underfunded and failing education system.

- Last week's cover story on Eugene police profiling blacks and Latinos only confirmed what minorities have experienced here for generations. But people of color are not the only ones being selectively

persecuted by local law enforcement. We'll never have statistics to debate, but it's no secret that traffic cops profile counterculture folks and poor people in beat-up vehicles. It's an insidious form of discrimination based not on race, but on social status and intolerance, and it reflects poorly on our police and sheriff's departments.

- Signature gatherers are on the streets with two initiative petitions intended to restore term limits in Oregon. Bad idea. We've had a decade of term limits that have contributed to our inept and ideological Legislature. It takes a couple of terms for lawmakers to get over their petty agendas and learn how to work together. It's dangerous when lobbyists are the only ones who know how the system works. We already have term limits. It's called the ballot.