Northwest Forest Plan, but have been added back to the sale by the National Forest Service since the elimination of that program. —*AS*

NEW PROGRESSIVE COUNCIL COULD REVISIT VOTES

What will change when the new city council and mayor take office with a potential progressive majority next year?

Here's a list of close council votes on key issues over the past five years where having Councilor-elect Andrea Ortiz and Mayor-elect Kitty Piercy in office could make a big difference if the decisions are revisited:

• Pursue a moratorium against big-box store development. Failed 5-4 on May 25, 2004.

• Ban the use of urban renewal money diverted from schools and other government services for a new highway near the river. Failed 5-4 on Feb. 25, 2004.

• Raise stormwater fees to adequately protect water quality and buy and protect threatened stream corridors. Failed 3-5 on Aug. 11, 2003.

• Support developer plans to sharply reduce natural areas that may be protected. Passed 5-3 on July 28, 2003.

• Increase development fees for sprawl versus central city development. Failed 5-4 on July 28, 2003.

• Preserve funding for the Toxics Right to Know law. Failed 3-5 on March 12, 2003.

• Require above poverty "living" wages for the employees of the city, its contractors and recipients of city tax breaks and incentives. Failed 3-4 on Jan. 29, 2003.

• Refer a city performance auditor to voters to make sure the city isn't wasting money. Failed 3-5 on July 10, 2002.

• Allow the West Eugene Parkway to destroy endangered wetlands. Passed 5-4 on July 8, 2002.

• Take money from other needed road projects to build the West Eugene Parkway through wetlands and promote urban sprawl. Passed 5-3 on July 8, 2002.

• Subsidize the $80 million UO football stadium with city park property for parking lots. Passed 5-3 on Jan. 22, 2001.

• Require permits to cut more than three trees. Failed 5-3 on Sept. 25, 2000.

In addition to these decisions, a progressive majority could also revisit several votes over the past five years that blocked funding for human services, including city funding for non-profits, housing programs, drug treatment and poverty reduction. —*AP*

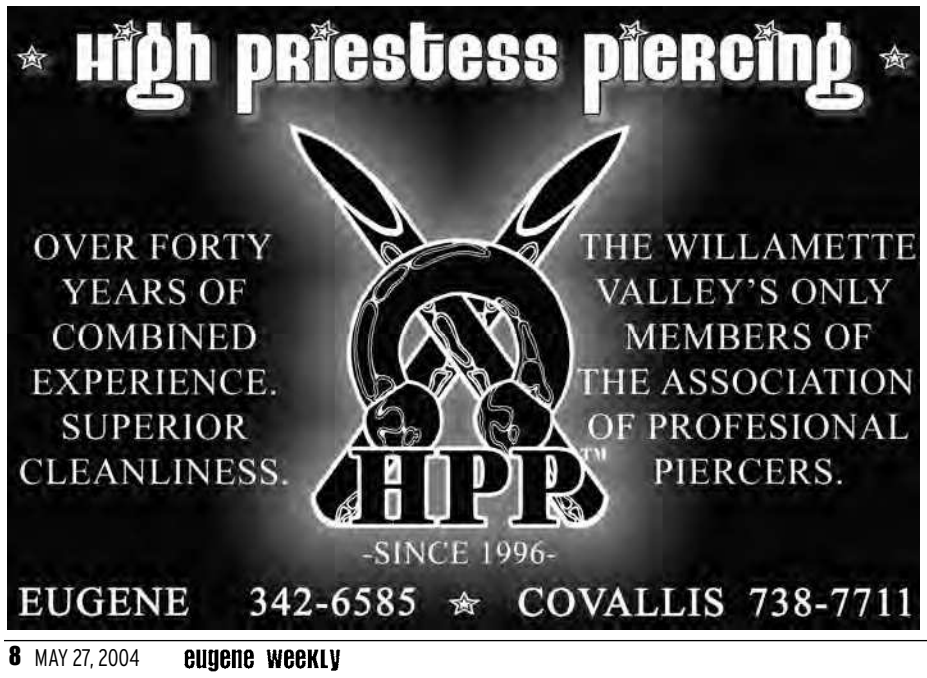
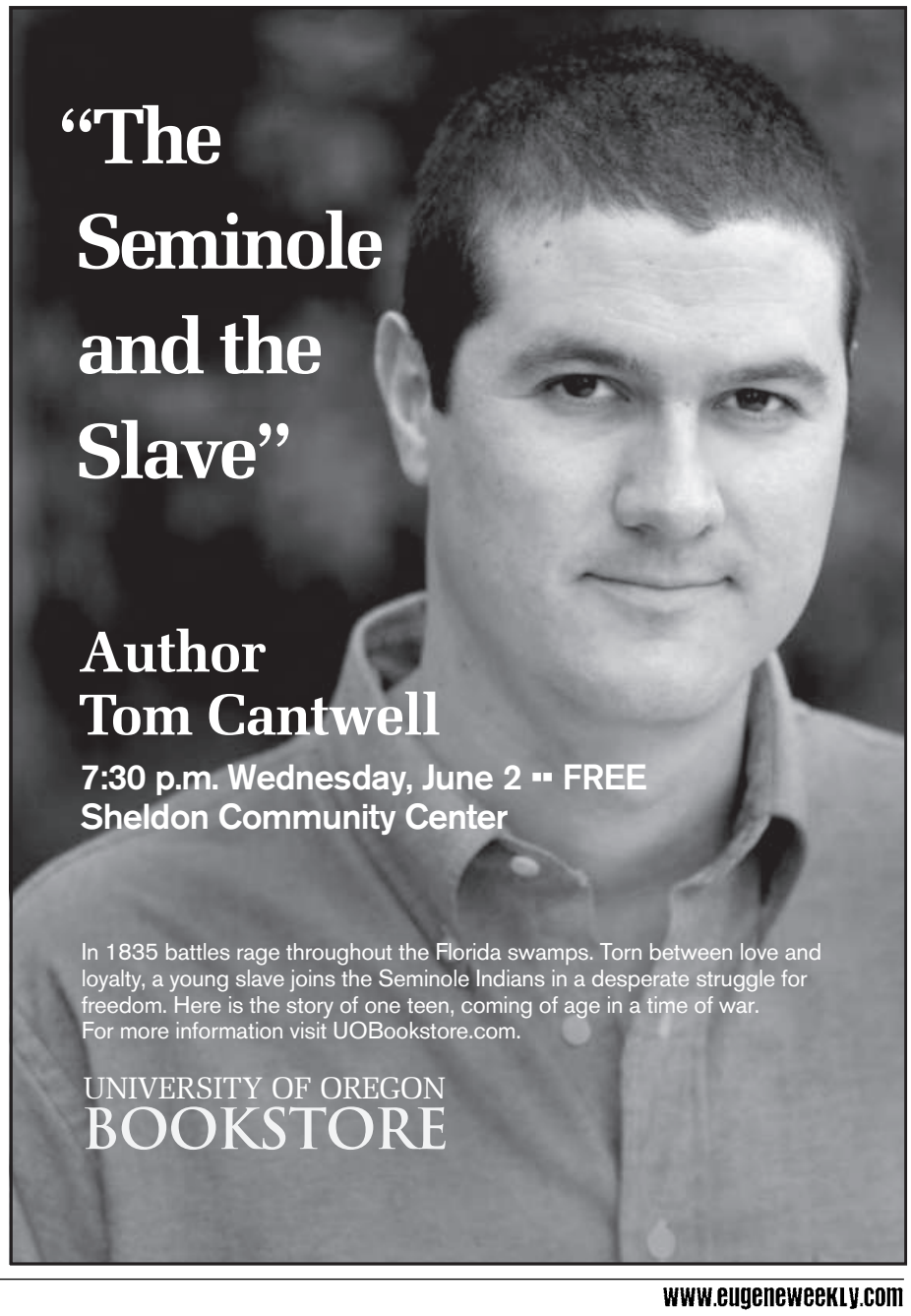
CHURCH TO MOVE OR DESTROY HOMES, TREES

Residents of the Jefferson-Westside Neighborhood are speaking out against the Faith Center Foursquare Church's decision to move or demolish 10 houses within the area of Polk St. and 15th Ave. to make room for a youth center and parking lot.

Cialin Mills-Ostwald, who occupies one of the houses on the south side of 15th Ave., directly across the street from those that would be moved or demolished, has spoken to many of the church members, who she says had not been "fully informed as to the extent of the plans, or had considered their impact."

Steven Savich, another neighbor, says "We want to come to some compromise that works for *both* the neighborhood and the congregation. We do request that the Faith Center leave the neighborhood intact (trees, houses, landscaping) until the process of approval from the city has been completed, instead of clearing the land and leaving it empty."

According to Savich, the properties in question are currently zoned R-1 (residential), meaning the church must petition the city for a conditional-use zoning change to complete its project. The youth center will include two auditorium spaces and a gymnasium, and would be used primarily on Sundays and some weekday evenings.

Neighborhood residents intend to gather at 7 pm, Thursday, May 27, at 1330 Polk St. to discuss possible alternatives to moving or destroying the houses. One option may be for church members to use the brand-new facilities at the soon-to-be-constructed Cesar Chavez Elementary School, which is only two blocks away.

—*Ben Fogelson*