

**HAMPTON CAMPAIGN
GEARING FOR NOVEMBER**

Supporters of County Commissioner Don Hampton are getting organized in anticipation of a well-funded, "tough race" in November. "A victory for Don is critical for everybody in Lane County," says Michael Carrigan, campaign co-coordinator.

Hampton, 59, was appointed to the East Lane District position in 2003 following the resignation of Tom Lininger. Hampton will be facing Faye Stewart, 36, of Cottage Grove in November. By county election rules, the top two candidates in primary races face off in the general election if neither gets more than 50 percent of the vote in the primary. Hampton got 32.5 percent of the votes in May and Stewart got 30.5 percent.

The political dynamic is familiar. As in the race between Phil Barnhart and Michael Spasaro for House District 11 (see story last week), a progressive incumbent is being challenged by a conservative candidate.

Carrigan says the Hampton-Stewart race is "the key local election of 2004" in that the winner will likely be a swing vote on important environmental and social justice issues facing the county. The board splits on many issues with progressive-leaning Pete Sorenson and Bill Dwyer on one side and conservative-leaning Anna Morrison and Bobby Green on the other side.

Stewart, self-employed in logging and excavation with family ties to Bohemia Lumber, has said he aligns himself philosophically with Morrison. Hampton's voting record to date on the commission has earned him the endorsements of Sorenson, Dwyer and Congressman Peter DeFazio.

Carrigan and the campaign can be reached at 342-1953 or e-mail carrigan@efn.org — TJT

**UNIONS SHOW UP
FOR KERRY, RAP BUSH**

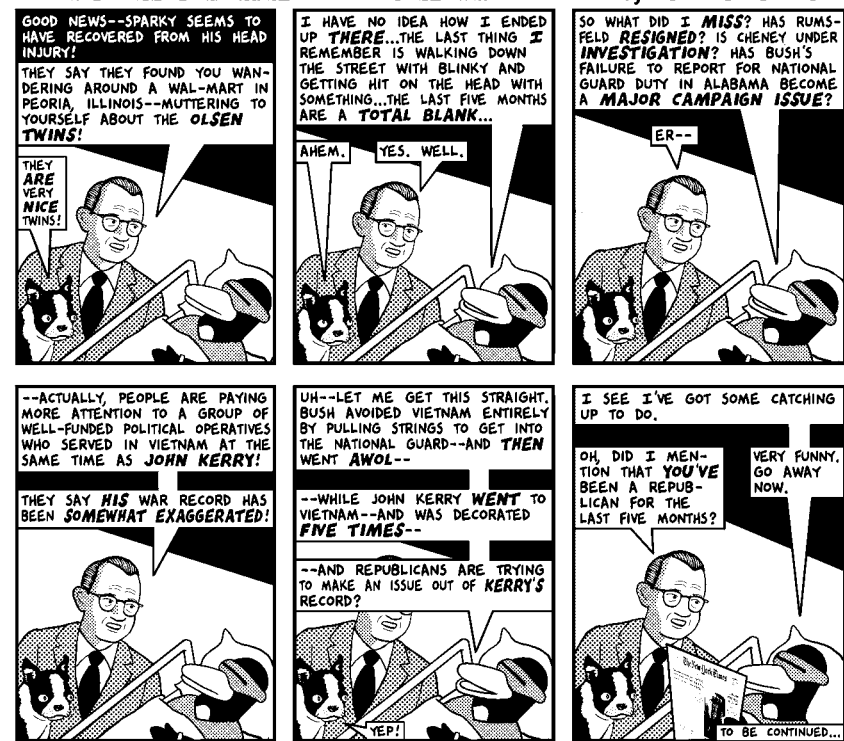
Oregon union members showed up to hear both John Kerry and George W. Bush when the candidates spoke in Oregon last week. Kerry's appearances in Oregon drew more union members than Bush's appearances, but Bush was given credit for bringing \$15 million in matching funds to Oregon for dredging the Columbia River channel.

"We're glad he got the message," says Tim Nesbitt, Oregon AFL-CIO president. "Now we would like to see him respond to the thousands of other letters our members have sent to the White House over the past year on numerous issues that are critical to the well-being of working families in Oregon."

Nesbitt says Bush has not responded to union requests to rescind the pending roll-back of overtime rights for six million workers; extend unemployment benefits for up to two million laid-off workers who have been off the job

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



for more than six months; cancel the pending elimination of union rights for Department of Defense employees; end tax subsidies for companies that move jobs overseas; allow U.S. citizens to purchase less-costly prescription drugs from Canadian pharmacies; add job-protection safeguards to trade agreements, tell Congress

he will drop his opposition to the pending highway funding bill; endorse Congressman DeFazio's proposal to scrap the Northwest Forest Plan and accelerate timber harvest in non-old growth stands of federal forest lands; and restore full funding for No Child Left Behind.

Write-in Effort Draws Fire

Is the Torrey revival campaign in violation of state election laws?

By Kera Abraham

Opponents of Mayor-elect Kitty Piercy have launched a campaign to convince outgoing Mayor Jim Torrey to run as a write-in candidate against Piercy on the November ballot, but the campaign appears to be in violation of state election laws.

Torrey supporters ran full-page ads in *The Register-Guard* Aug. 16 and 17 encouraging Eugene residents to write in Torrey in November. Piercy is the only name on the ballot since she won 51.6 percent of the vote in the primary. The open letter was signed by Jeff Miller, a former mayor of Eugene. The *R-G*, the ad was created by Derek Adams of Roseburg's American Flyer Advertising for Miller.

Torrey has not yet declared his intentions, but creators of the website www.RunJimRun.org aim "to convince Jim that he should be a write-in candidate this November. Jim has been and will be the one true mayor for all of Eugene."

Torrey supporters held a rally at City Hall Monday. About 50 people attended, most wearing bright yellow T-shirts reading "RunJimRun.org." Miller, a Republican who signed Monday's open letter in the *R-G*, addressed the crowd.

"Jim has nothing to do with this," said Miller. "He didn't say yes ... He said, 'I'll never say never,' and that gives us hope."

Supporters at the rally cited the proposed West Eugene Parkway — which Piercy opposes and Torrey backs — as a primary reason to re-elect Torrey as mayor. "To me it seems kinds of silly to be protecting that area just because it's listed as a wetland," said 31-year-old builder Aaron Solbeck, a volunteer for the Torrey write-in effort.

"Jim does a great job leading the city and we want him to continue," said Chelsea Konrady, a teacher and a longtime friend of Torrey's.

But if the movement to re-elect Torrey is a grassroots effort, some of the people funding the campaign appear to be taking great pains to remain anonymous.

In early July, a survey firm from Portland called Eugene residents to ask about local politics. Surveyors asked respondents to rate local politicians including Torrey, Nancy Nathanson and Piercy. They also asked respondents whether they would support a write-in candidate for mayor. The firm, Moore Information of Portland, was hired to conduct the survey but refused to disclose who funded the project.

Two related websites — www.RunJimRun.org and www.TruthAboutKitty.org — are also cloaked in mystery. RunJimRun praises Torrey and urges citizens to maintain the status quo under his leadership. TruthAboutKitty describes Piercy as a radical liberal tax-lover who will divide Eugene along party lines.

Although there is no admitted affiliation between RunJimRun and TruthAboutKitty, the two websites are both registered through Domains by Proxy, a company that anonymously registers Internet domains so that the registrant can't be identified. Both sites were created within the same minute on Aug. 4. And both sites are hosted on the same computer on the Globalcon network, a self-described "Christian Web Hosting Company."

The people who paid for the survey (which, according to the *R-G*, may have cost several



Torrey supporters gather for a press conference Aug. 16.

thousand dollars), the advertisements, the two websites and a confidential UPS mailbox have been careful to remain anonymous. In doing so they may have violated campaign finance laws governing political action groups. Under Oregon law, any organization that raises or spends money to support or oppose a political candidate is required to register as a PAC within three business days of its first financial transaction.

According to Josi Pravinsky, compliance specialist for the Oregon State Election Division, RunJimRun is not yet registered as a PAC. Pravinski said that Miller doesn't consider his group a PAC because Torrey has not yet declared his intention to run. That may not matter. "If they're opposing Kitty Piercy, then they are a political action committee," said Pravinsky. "In our opinion, at this point they are a political action committee." As such, they are violating election laws.

Concerned by the apparent violation, City Recorder Mary Feldman contacted the state Election Division. "Their advice was that based on the fact that all three elements that are required to register an organization as a PAC are present, they need to register as a PAC," said Feldman. She then contacted Miller and recommended that he register as a PAC. "He had some additional questions," she said.

On Tuesday, Dan Isaacson of Eugene filed a complaint with the Election Division requesting that the organizations behind RunJimRun.org and TruthAboutKitty.org be required to comply with Oregon election law. If the organization is determined to be a PAC, the state Election Division will send a notice citing the violated statute. There is no penalty for the first violation, but the PAC will be required to submit a Statement of Independent Expenditures detailing its financial transactions. The information will then be on the public record.

"Oregon's election laws are in place to allow the public to follow the money," said C. Michael Arnold, Piercy's treasurer, in an e-mail to *EW*. "The process is supposed to be open. The public is misled otherwise."

Torrey is expected to decide within a month whether or not to run as a write-in candidate. If he refuses, said Miller, organizers will write off the campaign.

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