

ingenuity. I must say that I agree with Bob Lee, when he says that "independent music stores like mine are toast." But saying your store is "indy" doesn't make it so. If Face the Music stocks music that is primarily corporate shlock, then I say you are a dependent record store! Dependent on the MTV marketing machine.

Take a look around.

*Shawn Mediaclast
owner, Museum of Unfine Art
and Record Store*

FIRE MY BOSS

I'm a 25-year-old Eugene native who just recently became one of thousands of Oregon National Guard soldiers activated to support Operation Iraqi Freedom the third round. Instead of serving Oregon in times of a state emergency like fighting wild fires, I am spending 576 days supporting the decision of one guy, George W. — a decision that met not only national disapproval but international as well.

So many organizations and people have set up troop support programs like the Yellow Ribbon Campaign, phone cards for soldiers to call home, and basic care packages for us. Well, those are nice, but that's not going to get me back in Eugene any sooner. If you want to support our troops then I urge you to support the candidate who will bring us home the fastest. Support the candidate who will quit activating National Guard and Reserve members at alarming rates for foreign and international affairs.

What do they use active duty soldiers for anyway? As of Aug. 4, there are more than 150,600 National Guard and Reserve soldiers activated and they make up a growing 43 percent of the U.S. forces in Iraq. George W. can't even verify his own military service, casting a huge doubt on his ability to appropriately lead this nation in times like this. Kerry, on the other hand, is a decorated Vietnam veteran.

The best way you can support our troops is by starting to bring them home. Please fire my boss on Nov. 2. I might have to salute the commander in chief, but I sure don't have to vote for him.

*Noah L. Mrowczynski
Soon to be in Iraq*

REPUBLICAN FAILURES

In the *EW* last week (8/12), Rep. Phil Barnhart's opponent would have us believe Barnhart is responsible for the problems Oregon's schools and health care systems have. In fact, the hard right wing Republican Party, in control of the Oregon House for the last 14 years, is responsible for the mess.

Barnhart has been a champion of our schools since 1994 when first elected to the Eugene School Board. Barnhart knows our state is going in the wrong direction but has consistently been out-voted in the Legislature.

Barnhart's right-wing Republican opponent wants to run against policies of his party while blaming Democrat Barnhart for Republican failings! Don't let him get away with it! In a Democrat-controlled Legislature, Assistant Democratic Leader Barnhart will be an important party to the solutions we need!

*Barbara McKeown
Eugene*

TRICKLING DOWN

Jeff Miller recently said that there is no connection between the two websites runjimrun.org and truthaboutkitty.org. That's strange, because those domain names were purchased within one minute of each other and from the same domain name service, Domains by Proxy. In fact, this service allows you to hide the names of those who purchased the domain.

On top of that, Miller demonstrates his contempt for transparent government by fighting against the campaign's designation as a PAC, so he can hide the names of the moneybags behind him. These are more troubling examples of the cowardice and bullying behavior exhibited by the Gang of 9 and their ilk. Yep, it's the usual special interests who whine every time the citizens try to pull the silver spoon out of their mouths.

The voters made their choice in May. If Jim Torrey joins their sore loser campaign, he will actively be trying to undo the will of the people, an act he traditionally rails against. I can't think of a better way for him to destroy the credibility he spent years building up with the average folks in this town.

The bottom line is that Kitty Piercy will actually be a mayor for all Eugene. But the easy money for the rich folks just might be harder to come by and they can't stand it. Meanwhile, Kitty is going to prove her word by leading us to a local economy that is stronger for everybody, including the select few, because a rising tide lifts all boats. Trickle down never makes it past the gold cuff links on a few silk shirts.

*Charlie Magee
Eugene*

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

The best thing Jim Torrey ever did for Eugene was to entertain us by winning a pie eating contest. As mayor, his appetite for pie exceeded only by his love of asphalt. This sub-

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