

EDITOR'S NOTE: Too many letters, too little space. Check our website (www.eugeneweekly.com) last week and this week for additional letters.

IT'S YOUR LAND

The leader of the "have mores" sent one of his female whores to the Monaco factory in Coburg last week. Interior Secretary Gale Norton arrived to pay back CEO Kay Toolson for his generous contributions to the Republican party.

Apparently Ms. Norton had no time to actually visit any of the Oregon lands under her control. Instead, she spouted the jingle: "It's your land, lend a hand." Hey Gale, keep those damn RVs off my land!

And Ms. Norton's idea of her department's initiative: "Take Pride in America" is to hop into one of Monaco's half-million dollar motor homes for the ultimate, isolated-from-nature trip up I-5 to Washington state. The gasoline consumption of one of these monstrosities makes any SUV or Hummer look earth-friendly by comparison.

George W. Bush was awarded the 2003 Doublespeak Award from the National Council of Teachers of English Committee on Public Doublespeak. This year's deadline for submissions is Sept. 30. I highly recommend Gale Norton for the award she so richly deserves.

Robert Simms
Eugene

MAJORITY RULES

I don't know why I am surprised and shocked at this (mayoral) campaign tactic. The city of Eugene residents spoke their minds with 51.6 percent of their votes on

who they wanted for mayor. 51.6 percent of us are tired of Big Money coming in here and destroying one of the most beautiful places on the planet. 51.6 percent of us were happy someone had finally stepped up to the plate to say this is enough.

It does not surprise me that they are hiding where the money comes from. Who wants someone in office with friends backing them up that don't have enough courage to state who they are? Didn't we already go through that for years? Torrey has run this town into the ground long enough. 51.6 percent of the residents said so by voting for Kitty Piercy. Piercy for mayor!

Pam Mamula
Eugene



LIBERAL LOVE

If you are a liberal, be proud, for you are in step with the world's great minds. We can thank liberals for progress in every field of human endeavor, for progress in the arts, the sciences, communications, philosophy, medicine, and literature. We can thank liberals for the freedoms we enjoy, for the

TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN BY SHANNON WHEELER



rights we take for granted, for abolition of slavery, for laws prohibiting child labor.

Liberals have given us public schools, prison reform, women's suffrage, pure food and drug laws, safe working conditions, the eight-hour day, paid vacations, national parks, birth control, Head Start, Social Security, Medicare, the GI Bill, civil rights,

and social justice.

Liberals have advanced our knowledge.

As written into the preamble of the European Constitution, we share a heritage "of humanism, equality of persons, freedom and respect for reason." Our Declaration of Independence was written by liberal insurgents who pledged their lives, their fortunes,

KUMBAYA Dammit BY DAN CARROL

Anger Management

Get ready to grit.

George Bush accepts the Republican Party nomination tonight and I assume he will have a punchy speech with some forward-thinking ideas and a good sound bite or two, fresh from the focus groups. Also look for lots of talk about how it's "sunrise in America," in a thin retread of Ronald Reagan's 1984 Morning in America. In short, get ready to grit your teeth.

I definitely expect to be *annoyed* because when I really think about it, if it was morning in America 20 years ago, and now Bush is telling me it's still sunrise, maybe our country isn't moving forward – at all? I mean, shouldn't it be lunch or something by now?

I'll get *aggravated* no doubt, as Bush will claim credit for various things he calls reform, like his prescription drug program that rips off seniors and doesn't take effect until 2006. A big "grrrr" to that, with a special shout out to Ron Wyden for helping to make the Medicare Mislead possible with his misguided vote last December.

Let's not forget how *flummoxed* and *frustrated* I'll feel if Bush actually does something inspiring and hopeful, like call for a national youth corps or something that invokes JFK or another famous Democrat, another old Reagan trick. A big Homer Simpson "doh" will fly from my lips if he pulls this off – or should he dramatically dump Dick Cheney for Rudy Giuliani or John McCain.

Boy oh boy, that will sting.

However, because I am a "think ahead" kind of guy, I have invited a bunch of friends to my house tonight so we can commiserate in a group rather than seethe alone. But we'll also be doing more than getting angry – we'll be signing up to get busy in the weeks ahead.

As for you, well, sorry, you are not invited to my house. Maybe another time. But if you're still reading, I do have a bit of advice about how to harness your anger effectively. And I can name that tune in three notes, rather than 12 steps.

#1: Mantras to STOP saying to yourself

Do you find yourself muttering that Bush and his crew of draft-dodging chicken hawks like Cheney are shameless and scurrilous cowards who are nonetheless getting

away with murder on this Vietnam issue ... while shaking your head at how lame the Kerry campaign is responding or grumbling that the whole darn campaign is too negative on all sides, again?

Well, you're right – but none of this will change in the next 60 days. So anger management, step one, is to lose this mantra.

#2 Hit the road instead and have a little fun

One of my favorite people is Jim Hightower, and one of his favorite slogans (coined to launch a new grassroots Chautauqua movement a few years back) is "we've got to put the party back in politics". So if you are feeling grouchy, why not take a ride north on Sept. 18th and hit either Farm Aid (just outside Seattle) or Punk Voter's Rock Against Bush Tour, launching in Portland the same day (www.punkvoter.com).

If you have more time to spare, check out www.drivingvotes.com. It's a cool site serving as a volunteer ride board for folks who want to band together and organize in swing states.

But don't forget there's plenty of essential work to do here at home.

#3: Peer to peer politics

Study after study shows that face-to-face, door-to-door, retail politics is the new coin of the political realm. So invite your friends over to get busy – and get how-to tips on holding house parties at sites like MoveOn's www.greatpublicschools.org.

Your house a bit too messy for guests? Talk to your neighbors instead. But don't come empty-handed; bring your own documented research in support of the candidates and issues you care about. One group, The League of Independent Voters (www.indyvoter.org) will soon launch a nifty "make your own" voter guide kit online for do-it-yourself canvassers. Expect similar fodder from my pals at the Oregon Bush Project in the weeks ahead. Don't worry about having cute graphics when you make yours – worry about sharing the best facts and the arguments.

Besides your reasoning for "Not Bush" and "No Sore Losers, Vote Kitty," don't forget to include your brief recommendations for how to vote on those nasty, hard-to-explain-let-alone-understand initiatives on our state's ballot. As I recall, most of the measures this year are numbered in the 30s (35, 36, etc.) and would take us back to that era – the 1930s.

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