



LOCAL REPUBLICANS STUMP FOR KERRY

A group of local Republicans held a press conference at the Vet's Club on Aug. 26 to announce the creation of a newly formed Oregon Republicans for Kerry. Operating under the slogan "Country before party," ORK emphasizes that the politically moderate Kerry team would better represent mainstream Republican values than the conservative right-wing Bush administration.

Some ORK members seem unlikely allies of Democrats. Former Republican Gov. Vic Atiyeh's nephew, George Atiyeh, is the steering committee's co-chair; retired Army veteran and longtime Republican Mark Flowers also sits on the committee.

"We feel we are not represented by the Bush administration, and we feel that John Kerry would represent our concerns as mainstream Republicans," says ORK spokeswoman Patsy Hand. "The term 'compassionate conservative' is a media tagline. A compassionate president would not send American soldiers to war without exhausting every other means. A compassionate president would not roll back environmental regulations and put Americans in danger by putting toxins in the air and rivers."

Veteran Jim Kissman has been a Republican since he was first eligible to vote — in 1952 — when he cast his ballot for Dwight Eisenhower. Ironically, says Kissman, Eisenhower established the Arctic wilderness area that Bush wants to open for oil drilling. And in his 1960 farewell address,

Eisenhower warned the nation to beware the military-industrial complex. Now, says Kissman, corporations linked with the White House, such as Halliburton, have too much influence on the military.

Ken Shulman, a local painting contractor, is most concerned with Bush's fiscal policies. "I just made up my mind a few days ago to vote for Kerry," says Shulman. "George Bush has been squandering money on a lot of things that are just not helping to create jobs." He says that although the economy was strong at the end of Clinton's presidency, Bush's irresponsible fiscal policy caused the current recession. Shulman says that the president's tax cuts benefitted the rich, but they failed to help him as a small business owner.

Howard Ollis, a local retired veteran, is also fed up with the Bush administration. "I've never voted Democrat in my life, but I am definitely voting for John Kerry," he says. "A lot of my friends are mad at me, but I'm voting for Kerry because Kerry is a better presidential candidate."

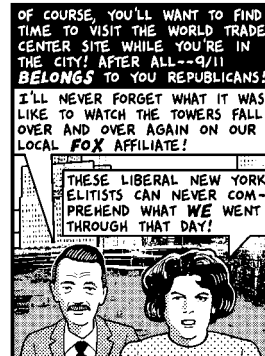
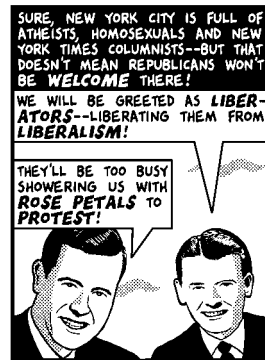
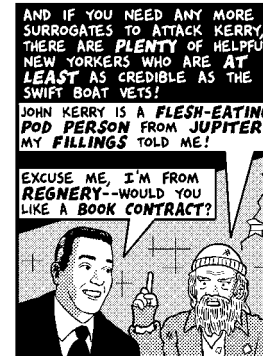
The upcoming election will decide America's standing in the eyes of other nations, says Ollis. "This election is going to be a referendum on our country," he says. "If we re-elect this president, the world is going to say, 'OK, Americans really believe they should be attacking countries, invading nations and being an oppressor.'"

Ollis says that the Bush administration violates the boundaries between church and state. "I believe in God, but I don't believe the president has any right to bring God into

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by TOM TOMORROW

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his decision process," he says. Ollis hopes that stem-cell research — which Bush opposes on religious grounds — could lead to treatment for his daughter's kidney problems.

Florence resident Jim Rassmann, a Vietnam veteran campaigning for Kerry, also spoke at the press conference.

ORK will host a meeting for undecided Republicans to discuss the issues at 7 pm Wednesday, Sept. 8 at the UO Continuing Education building, 975 High St.. RSVP at 465-8150.

Patsy Hand says the local group is not a PAC and is only philosophically connected to the national Republicans for Kerry group at www.republicansforkerry04.org

—Kera Abraham

PERMACULTURE EXPERTS TO GATHER IN EUGENE

The Eugene Permaculture Guild is planning its eighth Annual Northwest Regional Permaculture Gathering the weekend of Sept. 10-12. This year's theme will be "Towards An Enduring Bio-Region."

"As global, national and local trends evolve, the wisdom of looking closer to home to satisfy more of our cultural and economic needs is making more sense," says Jan Spencer, one of the organizers.

The event will begin at the Maitreya Eco Village in west Eugene. Registration begins at 3 pm Friday with a keynote talk by Dr. Allan Kapular at 7 pm. The cost is \$20 to \$40 per day; work trade and scholarships are available, call 302-3247.

The gathering will include workshops, panel discussions, hands on and plenary sessions, along with traditional permaculture topics such as composting, healthy soil, gardening and eco-forestry. There will also be a track relating to this year's theme, such as urban redesign, local food security, urban-rural partnership, economic democracy, voluntary simplicity and local culture.

Other practical presentations will cover food fermentation, healthy diet, water gardens, animals and conflict resolution. Special events will include a presentation on "Peak Oil" at 7 pm Saturday, and a Land Use Bike Tour at 3:15 pm Saturday. Children's sessions are also planned.

Spencer says the gathering will also move forward the composition of a "Green Paper," a set of principles, ideas and strategies for moving Eugene in a greener, bio-regional direction. The paper will be offered to the city and citizens of Eugene in the fall.

For more information, call 344-7196 or visit www.heliosnetwork.org/epg

SLANT

• The guy has been putting out little notes that he plans to go for a second term in '06. That probably doesn't shock you, but political gossip even before the fall of his crony Neil suggested that Kulongoski didn't love his job, his inside staffers were leaving, and he might retire after one term. And then what? We envisioned our own Peter DeFazio governing Oregon, freeing himself from both that cross-country flight and the rabid right in Congress. And then what? Last weekend a political pro speculated if Jim Torrey and his backers were really running him for Congress with RunJimRun only the preliminary round. The money that Jim's talking about, \$200,000 to \$250,000, sounds like seed money for bigger things than mayor of Eugene. Ted could change his mind. Let's watch the dominos.

• Meanwhile, presumed Mayor-elect Kitty Piercy's living up to her promise to be a "mayor for all Eugene" and has been meeting with hundreds of folks in local business, industry, government, non-profits and media. Two meetings with John Musumeci, and even a visit with Hynix management. What's that equivalent to? Torrey showing up at a meeting of



Citizens for Public Accountability? Anna Morrison schmoozing at the Alpha-Bit in Mapleton? The point is, Piercy's building bridges in a polarized community in ways that no other mayor has done in recent memory. The result? We might still be polarized, but maybe by talking to each other we can make progress on issues important to the health, vitality and sustainability of our community.

• Republicans for Kerry? What's next, Democrats for Bush? Well, there probably are a few around, but we suspect

not many since the political center has moved so far to the right. At the RNC in New York this week, the R's are parading moderates before us while the radical right-wingers who run the White House are being kept in their cages. As San Francisco pundit Marc Perkel tells us, "It looks to me like the Republicans are trying to put lipstick on a pig."

• White Hot Odyssey, the new sex-rock project by the Cherry Poppin' Daddies' Steve Perry is just that. Caucasian, sizzling, and the beginning of what should be quite a raunchy musical journey. Their Aug. 28 orgiastic jam at the McDonald Theatre was erect glamour rock on enough steroids to fill the McDonald and squeak out through cracks in the walls. The Daddies followed up with hard-hitting, horny swing. Drummer Jivan Valpey kept up with a hurricane on drums. Perry says it's "big dumb rock," and that the world needs just that. Perry's Daddies proved that he had one formula right; now might not his grunting and squirming make for a national repeat? We say yes!

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com