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EUGENE CELEBRATION GUIDE 2004



Politics Float AT THE EUGENE CELEBRATION

This town ain't Eugene if it ain't political, so it's appropriate that the Eugene Celebration will include some political stompin' and stumpin'. Several entries in the EC parade on Saturday, Sept. 18 are intended to stoke participants' civic spirits.

Save Our Valley, the grassroots group opposing the proposed natural-gas-fired power plant in Coburg, plans to march with a float of two huge smokestacks pulled by a vintage Model T Ford.

"The float symbolizes what would happen if the north entrance to Lane County was characterized by two 195-foot smokestacks, each spewing harmful air pollution," says Oregon Toxics Alliance Administrative Coordinator Lisa Arkin.

Members of the **Oregon Bus Project-Lane**, a grassroots political movement, will also march in the parade. Their 11-passenger minibus will be decorated with campaign signs and the group's motto: "Engage, educate, elect." The Oregon Bus Project was founded in 2001 (and the Lane "bus station" in 2003) to engage young people in politics, bridge the urban-rural divide, and mobilize voters statewide.

"We'll have a bunch of volunteers out there whooping it up to draw attention to four local candidates for the election: Don Hampton, Phil Barnhart, Bev Ficek, and Floyd Prozanski," says Project Chair James Mattiace. Bus Project volunteers will also pass out info on an upcoming canvassing event and urge people to vote "no" on Measure 37.

Presumed Mayor-elect **Kitty Piercy** and about 60 supporters will march with a jazz band on a decorated flatbed truck, under the slogan "Kitty Piercy in Tune with Eugene." They will wear Piercy T-shirts and carry signs reminding locals to vote again in November. Supporters of Congressman **Peter DeFazio** will also march in the parade.

Mainstreet Moms Oppose Bush (MMOB) will scout for single women and urge them to get out the vote. Decked out as suffragettes, MMOB members will hold

signs, do quick skits, and sing the Suffragette Song from Mary Poppins.

But they won't be the only people singing. The **Eugene Peace Choir**, who won the "Best Listening" award at last year's parade, will be back this year, marching and singing under a banner for peace. Their selections for the parade are upbeat songs including "Sing 'Til the Power and the Joy Come Down," "Freedom is Coming," and "We Shall Not Give Up."

This year marks the choir's 20th anniversary in Eugene. "We're very proud of the fact that we've been singing for 20 years for the cause of peace in this community," says choir member Val Rogers. "We're feeling really high right now. And we want to take our message to all the people who will be lining the streets for the parade." For those inspired to join in, Rogers adds, the Peace Choir will be accepting new members through September.

Urgent Carnival, a local political theater troupe, won't be in the parade, but they will be presenting *The Wizard of All*, a humorous play about current world events. The performance will take place on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 2 pm in the Hult Center's Soreng Theater.

Other groups that will march with a political message include **Political Punishment**, **Kids for Kerry**, **Vets for Kerry**, and **Billionaires for Bush**. For more information, visit www.eugenecelebration.com — Kera Abraham

