

NOTE FROM PRISON

I just wanted to say thanks to everyone who voted me Best Activist. I was deeply touched that after more than four years behind bars, people still carry me in their thoughts and hearts. I'm honored. My sincerest and deepest thanks.

*Jeffrey Luers
Salem*

TWO WORDS FOR TORREY

As a Eugene resident for almost 35 years, I suffered through the terms of one anti-environment, pro-big usiness/sprawl/development mayor after another, the worst of the bunch being Jim Torrey.

Torrey's Chamber of Commerce local-media cronies portray him as a moderate balance between business and environmental concerns. His 12-year voting record on the city council and as mayor, however, reveals relentless support for big business tax breaks and giveaways, votes that transfer huge hidden costs of pollution and sprawl to the taxpayer while privatizing profits for his big-buck buddies.

Torrey met secretly with Hyundai (now Hynix) officials, spearheaded their demands for more than \$50 million in tax breaks and other concessions, profited personally from selling land in the Hyundai area, supported an enormously expensive freeway boondoggle through sensitive wetlands, promoted urban sprawl, voted consistently against tree preservation, praised police for their vicious pepper spraying of and attacks on tree sitters and their supporters, added his voice to the deceitful Gang of 9 attack-ad campaign against council progressives, and encouraged the RunJimRun fiasco.

As lame-duck mayor, he's promoting an anti-environment Wildish executive for the Planning Commission and the hiring of another business facilitator costing \$100,000 annually. Although numerous surveys over the years indicate strong citizen support for prudent, environmentally sustainable growth in Eugene, Torrey has consistently abused the public trust to push his short-sighted right-wing economic agenda.

Remember his record when he resurfaces politically. For now I have two words for Jim. They are not run, run. They are good riddance.

*Jerome Garger
Yachats*

CHRISTIAN MARINES

It seems a rather sad irony that a majority of Marines are Christians, and as such, their poor souls have been vanquished for eternity

to hell in the name of lies, obfuscations, and flat-out political manipulations. I am a veteran and live in Eugene. I've had several discussions with the liberal, self-made capitalist hippies asking them to withhold judgement of the troops. Soldiers represent the poorest, most uneducated segment of our society and the military is nothing more than a survival strategy option for many destitute families.

However, murder is murder no matter how many official documents claim otherwise and no matter how many ribbons you wear on your chest. I am now in every form against our military, against our current regime, and against the woe we spread in the name of Christian democracy. I will be burning a flag very soon for the 1,100 dead soldiers. I hope millions of citizens join in!

*William Porter
Eugene*

VELVET FLYING ELVIS

Right now, many Bush supporters are quite possibly regretting the FCC's current crackdown on "bad-taste broadcasting" (although, like their leader, they'll doubtlessly change the subject rather than admit to a mistake). Because of "uncertainty" over rules regarding what is permissible, this Veterans Day several CBS affiliates refused to broadcast the award-winning movie *Saving Private Ryan* — which, in case you don't know, contains scenes of graphic violence, as well as words that would make George Carlin blush ... well, blink maybe.

"But it's a really good movie, in which the firm resolve of our brave soldiers under fire is strongly depicted," the Bushists might say — to themselves, of course. "Surely an exception can be made for true, quality works of art."

Ah. So it's an old argument, resurfacing again: if the distinction is to be made, then who is to judge what is or is not "art"? Now there's a concept that ought to make you rock back on your heels and say "Howdy!" We all know that George II and his cronies are not ones to shy away when it comes to making moralistic decisions.

So here are my predictions of "art" by the year 2006:

TV — nothing but NASCAR and big-haired televangelists 24/7. Radio — nothing but the O'Reilly Network and the Limbaugh Channel. Magazines — nothing but "Ann Coulter Living."

And soon to be unveiled at the Eugene Airport, replacing all those weird flying locals: wall-to-wall velvet Elvis.

Praise be.

*Bill Smee
Springfield*

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Jane Monheit

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