



Barney Frank (standing)

news Briefs

FRANK TALK ON POLITICS

Barney Frank turned a few heads in downtown Eugene Monday, catching people by surprise on streets and in elevators. The outspoken Massachusetts congressman and one of the longtime intellectual and political leaders of the Democratic Party was in town for a business gathering at Town Club hosted by U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio and an unpublished fundraiser for the congressman. The party was held at a private home in Eugene and attended by about 150 DeFazio supporters.

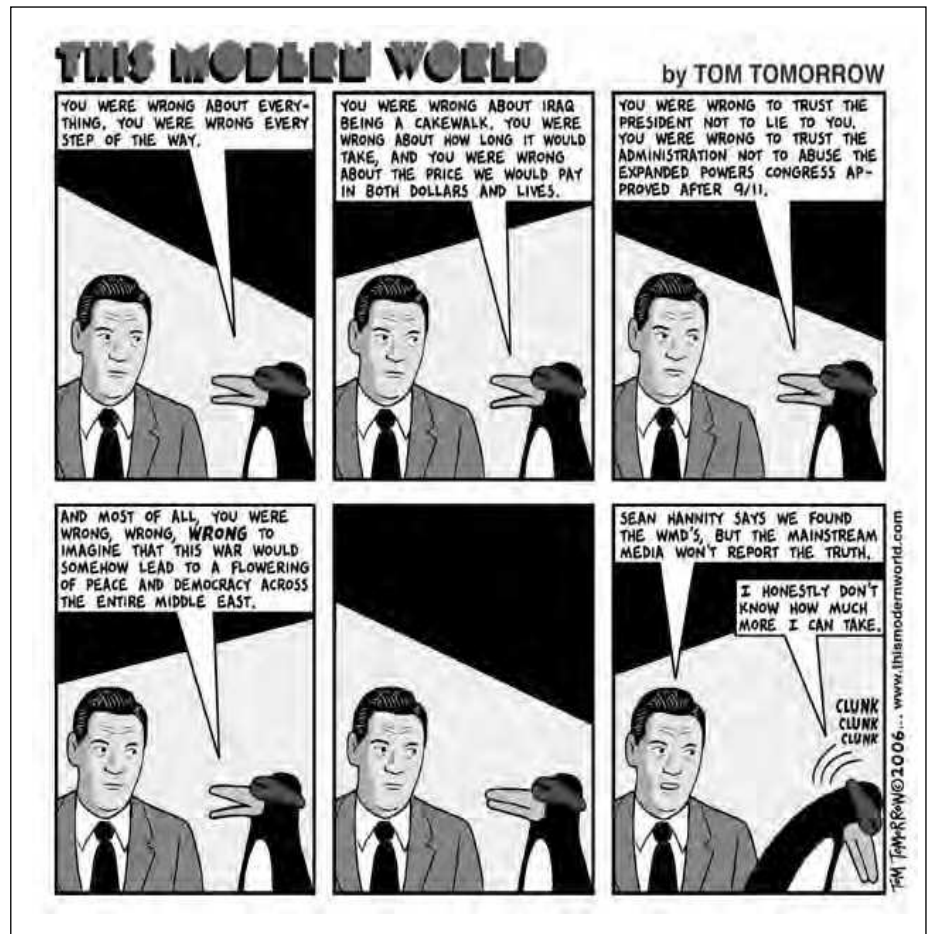
Frank is senior Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee and hopes to take over the chairmanship of that committee if Democrats win the House in November.

"Our country will make its most important decisions ever in November," he said, "and if the Republicans take the House and Senate, they will take this as vindication of what they've done."

When it comes to morality in politics, Frank said, the Republicans "have it exactly backwards. Bullying a 15-year-old lesbian in high school and then not doing anything about it, that's immoral. The war in Iraq is immoral. ... Starvation should not be the remedy for people who do not have fully integrated personalities."

Frank said the conservatives in power do not want government to deal with the real problems facing our country, but they do want government to interfere in people's private lives.

"I can sum up the Republican agenda in nine words: Burning the flag, spurning the flag and earnings that lag," he said.



At the gathering were many people active in the struggle for GLBTQ equality, and to them Frank said, "It's frustrating to lose on an issue when it's your life, but it's getting better. The line is moving. Change has been enormous. We're making progress because we've stopped hiding. But it's still not fast enough. It's still painful." — *Ted Taylor*

MUTANT MASCOT

Move over, Captain Planet. Nanotechnology has spawned a mutant mascot: the "ONAMIVore." The cartoon creature, named after the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI), looks something like an irradiated Pokémon character-cum-mad scientist, with shaggy ears, apeish arms, a lab coat and an open-mouthed grin.

UO spokeswoman Pauline Austin confirmed that the new mascot is part of an ONAMI public relations campaign targeting children. The institute's website defines the ONAMIVore as a "rare species of animal, found primarily in the northwest region of the united states (sic), that consumes a scientific knowledge." The site links to an ONAMIVore coloring sheet.

The "Ask a Scientist" feature on the institute's kids-oriented web page explains that the word ONAMI, besides being an acronym, means "tomorrow" in Inuit and "big wave" in Japanese — reflecting the institute's belief that itty-bitty particle science is technology's next big thing.

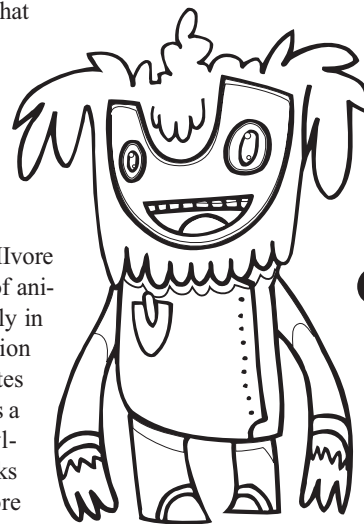
Why is a nanotech institute marketing to kids? "Like many organizations involved in math and science, we recognize the need to interest schoolkids at an early age, because

they are our future scientists and engineers," said ONAMI Director Skip Rung. He added that some of ONAMI's federal funds are earmarked for educational outreach.

Nanotechnology allows scientists to manipulate particles at the atomic level. These nanoparticles can be taken up by cells, enter organs and accumulate up the food chain. Advocates envision the technology leading to new solutions for medicine, energy production and the environment, but skeptics see it as a Pandora's box with inherent ecological and human health risks.

ONAMI is a collaboration between the UO, OSU, PSU, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and regional technology industries. In June, the UO broke ground on its \$78 million, underground ONAMI building, the Integrative Sciences Complex. Most of ONAMI's funding is from state and private sources, but about 20 percent comes from the U.S. Department of Defense. UO Vice President for Research Richard Linton has said that the university won't directly contribute to weapons research, but some campus and community peace activists find the financial relationship a bit too intimate.

— *Kera Abraham*



REVVIN' UP CHAINSAWS

Silver Creek Timber Co., which bought the right to log the Mike's Gulch roadless area in the Siskiyou-Rogue River National Forest, plans to begin cutting Aug. 7. This marks the first time that a designated roadless area will be logged since the Forest Service adopted a Clinton-era rule protecting 58.5 million acres of roadless national forests in January 2001. The Bush administration unraveled that rule in 2005, opening the formerly protected wild areas to logging, mining and oil drilling.

Conservationists are frustrated that the logging is moving forward despite several ongoing lawsuits challenging it. The Forest Service has repeatedly promised to protect

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL



ERIN ELY

"I'm an instigator," says Erin Ely, wearing a gold lamé jacket and jewelry befitting her status as organizer for the local chapter of Billionaires for Bush. "I get things started." Back in her hometown of Albuquerque, where she played soccer with men, Ely instigated a women's soccer league that prospers still, 26 years after her departure. She followed a childhood friend to Oregon, landed a forestry degree and a husband (Doug Bielefeldt) at OSU, and worked for the Forest Service until 1990, when their first child was born. Ely began playing marimba with Kutsinira while she home-schooled her kids Locke and Maggie in Fall Creek. She instigated grant-writing programs for Kutsinira and later for

The Village School after the family moved to Eugene in 2002. "I've probably raised more than \$150,000 in grants," she says. "If I'm part of a group, I think I should contribute to it." In 2004, Ely worked on the Kerry campaign and "billionaired" on the side. "When President Bush came to Central Point, we rented a limo and jumped out," she says. "People got mad at us." Learn how to join the fun at billionairesforbush.com