

BEING PART OF IT

Now that the dust has settled, I wanted to share some thoughts on this election, focused through the lens of having been a first-time-ever phone bank volunteer for the Democratic Party of Lane County. In all, I estimate I made around 3,000 phone calls.

A most humble and sincere thank you to the vast majority of people who were incredibly nice to me on the phone. I heard some great messages (my favorites were the musical ones – and only one scream!), talked to some sweet kids and became privy to the changes that affect our lives, including family illnesses, births, deaths, divorces, moves and the pain of having kids away at college or serving overseas.

I used to be rude to people like me who called on the phone, but no more. This experience has changed me forever. I was gently taught by so many people that it doesn't take long to be nice. Still, it was hard for some people to be patient with a process they didn't fully understand. I often explained that it wasn't me or the DPLC who had called five times in the same evening, but many groups, all working for their candidate or issue. One woman angrily concluded that we were all sexist because, although she didn't like the calls, they were all for the male members of her family, never for her. It was good for her to hear the reason – she didn't get calls simply because she had voted early.

I talked with several 90-something voters who were still grappling with the issues and taking the time to vote and with 18-year-olds who were excited about voting for the first time. My hero is one 25-year-old woman I called Tuesday night. When I asked her if she had voted yet, she said, "I feel just terrible. I left work today and left my ballot in my desk." It had been a long day. She lived in Springfield, her office was in Eugene, it was dark and rainy. But she decided she'd get in her car, drive to Eugene to retrieve it and get it in a drop box in Eugene with less than an hour to spare.

On the other hand, one 20-something woman told me she'd voted twice in her life and "it didn't work," so she didn't plan to bother voting anymore. I told her that when I felt discouraged, I thought of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, who worked for 50 years to get the right to vote for women and both died before they could vote themselves. I said I figure if those women could work at something for 50 years, I could probably hang in there for a couple more. I doubt I convinced her, but who knows.

Elections are exciting, confusing, exhausting, frustrating and sometimes mystifying. I feel happy today because this election went mostly the way I wanted it to, but even if it hadn't, I know that being a part of the process, both as a volunteer and as a voter, beats sitting on the sidelines. Special thanks to coordinators Autumn Wilburn and Sara Chieffo, to all the other hard-working volunteers, and most of all to the people I called who made the process such a rich learning experience for me.

Sharon Franklin
Eugene

WHO SET THE FIRE?

I have appreciated your series by Kera Abraham on Warner Creek and the movements that came out of that campaign. I appreciate the way that Abraham has pulled together events that I remember in a way that ties them all together.

I found it particularly interesting that the fire at the Oakridge Ranger Station destroyed Tim Ingalbee's research. I always thought that ELF had been framed for setting that fire. The fire occurred shortly after the Forest Service had given in to the demands of the Cascade Forest Defenders who occupied Warner Creek. Why would environmental activists attack the Forest Service at this particular time? It seemed more likely to me that the fire had been set by the same arsonists who had tried to profit by setting fire to Warner Creek in the first place. These arsonists lived near the Oakridge Ranger Station and had just lost a potential source of income through the decision not to let Warner Creek be logged. It seemed to me that they had more reason to torch the ranger station than did ELF.

Now I don't know what to think. A confession from ELF members would not be convincing, since this could be a price willingly paid to protect their associates. However, Abraham seems to attribute the arson to ELF on the basis of other ELF actions at that time. If ELF really did torch the Oakridge Ranger Station, what a tragic misuse of good intentions!

Carol McBrian
Eugene

PERSISTENT BULLDOZER

Thank you for the excellent article "Close to Home" in your Nov. 16 issue. I am one of the concerned citizens who saw the whole bulldozer fiasco. For me it was upsetting to learn that our city staff was going to allow this un-permitted and unsupervised bulldozer destruction.

Planning staff originally told us that no permits were needed because the developer said they were not going to do any tree removal, grading or soil disturbance. Of course, a bulldozer moving through a thickly forested and heavily vegetated site will end up doing all of the above, and we were successful in stopping the bulldozer without permits. However, they were back later in the week with an erosion permit and a supposedly less invasive excavator.

There was still devastation. Trees and other vegetation were knocked down, roads that did not previously exist now exist, foot paths that were only 2 feet wide are now 12 feet wide and the soils are indeed chewed up and a muddy mess that now, when it rains, will run into the Goal 5 stream corridor.

Erosion staff assessment of the damage claims that the damage is acceptable, but they also claim that no trees were removed and we have eyewitness to the contrary. City staff has the attitude that the site will be built on, so destruction is OK, while supporters for Save Amazon Headwaters have the attitude that as long as there is still a chance to stop the development, destruction is not OK.

Kathleen Leonard
Eugene

DUE DILIGENCE?

In regard to the article, "Close to Home" (11/16) by Adrienne van der Valk, Ms. van der Valk did a very good job covering this story and all of our supporters appreciate the

How to Be Happy

by Shannon Wheeler



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

writers and *EW* for their contribution and commitment to keeping this story in front of the citizens of our community. The effort for Amazon Headwaters preservation has been a long, emotional and financial draining task, and *EW* has always been right there helping to spread the word and for that we would like to thank you.

In response to the comment from Joe Green's attorney Mark Hoyt, "The city has been very careful to make us follow the letter of the law," I have to ask, if this were true then why on earth was the city going to allow Green's crew to go out to this sensitive site with a bulldozer, no permits, no utility located and no oversight from the city? This bulldozer was going to plow right through the protected Goal 5 resource until we, the neighbors, stopped the bulldozer crew. It was the neighbors, not the city, that made due diligence happen on this day. If it had not been for concerned citizens getting involved, the developer, Joe Green and his crew, would have been allowed to engage in illegal activities.

Public hearing for Green Valley Glen is at 5 pm Dec. 13 in the Council Chambers, 777 Pearl St.

Lisa Warnes
Eugene

SURREAL WAR

I am irritated by this article's ("Flames of Dissent") slant on eco-anarchy and the continued glorification of that time period. For those of us not worthy of the title "radical" it was a nightmare of drunken egos, misdirected anger and undue targeting. While I stand behind defending yourself, especially against the state, the surreal war they waged in that neighborhood was not remotely "revolutionary," and lacked political drive and intelligence.

During the months of attack on the Red Barn, I remember a "black-clad bad ass" whispering suggestions of assault to the counter girl. Another woman, a single mother who worked at the barn, was trauma-

tized when her home telephone lines were snipped in the night after an argument with a group of young activist men. Years later, one guy apologized. Often I would witness abusive language or behavior. When trying to discuss issues with some of the "anarchists," their response would be anywhere from condescending to belligerent. It seemed like the issues took back seat to the egos that tried to expose them. I also think eco-anarchy rising looked different depending on who you were, what you wore and who you knew.

James Black
Springfield

BEER BARBS?

This is in response to Chewie's letter of Nov. 22.

Huh?

In my letter of Nov. 9, I criticized the *EW* staff writer for writing from his bias and for his laziness in not verifying facts. I did not attack Ninkasi. I have no reason to attack any brewery in Eugene as we are all good friends. I have no contention with Jamie Floyd; in fact I have told him more than once that I am proud of him for starting his own brewery. I wish Jamie, Nikko, and Tom the best of luck in their new enterprise.

How fitting that I was in the middle of doing quality control lab work at Steelhead when Chewie's letter was brought to my attention. Quality is not an issue with Steelhead beers, nor with any other beers brewed in Eugene. I am proud of Eugene for being the best beer town of its size on the planet.

The difference Chewie perceives between Steelhead's and Ninkasi's beers is a matter of style, not quality. Different customers look for different flavors in their beers. Eugene has something for every beer drinker.

For the past 16 years, Steelhead and I have provided a training ground for many talented brewers,

