

environmental, anti-livability and anti-accountability voting record, according to an *EW* review of votes. The Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) has described Torrey's voting record as "dismal."

• **The Register-Guard.** The daily paper has been a strong backer of Torrey, showering the pro-sprawl mayor with glowing coverage and endorsements for two terms. When progressives threatened to take over the council in 2000, the *Guard* published a one-sided front page story just before the election with Torrey predicting a "train-wreck." More recently the paper published a one-sided speculative front page story shopping for candidates to oppose Piercy.

• **Unfunded rhetoric.** Torrey has said he wants more spending on roads and police. But he hasn't said how he'll specifically pay for it through higher taxes or cutting other city spending. Torrey made similar vague and unfunded calls for more spending in his campaign against Walker. "We don't have to get any more money," he said. "We need a marriage of business and government in order to pay the bills." — *Alan Pittman*

## WOLVES, WOLVERINES AND BEARS, OH MY!

So far 2008 is turning out to be a bad year to be a predator. Wolves have recently lost their protection as an endangered species, the recommendation to protect polar bears has gone ignored and the Bush administration has now denied protection for the wolverine.

The decision to deny protection to the wolverine came on the heels of the release of the first photo of a wolverine in California in 90 years. Wolverines are elusive, and according to Joseph Vaile of the Klamath-

Siskiyou Wildlands project, this largest member of the weasel family "really avoids any sort of human settlement." This includes anything from snowmobiling to even quiet backcountry skiers, he said.

The photo, taken by a remote control camera set up by Oregon State wildlife biology student Katie Moriarty, gives hope of someday having a confirmed sighting of a wolverine in Oregon's Cascades, said Vaile. There have been sightings in Oregon, but none has been confirmed, he said.

The decision not to protect the wolverine didn't take the effects of global warming into account, said Vaile. The large weasels tend to den in deep snow that remains until spring, which warmer temperatures are reducing.

Polar bears are the poster child for global warming, and the Bush administration is now over two months late in making a decision on their endangered status. Greenpeace, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Center for Biological Diversity sued the Department of the Interior over the delay on Monday.

Also heading to the courts is the recent decision to delist the gray wolf from endangered species status. Local environmental group the Cascadia Wildlands Project recently joined 11 other plaintiffs in filing a 60-day notice of intent to sue over the decision.

The decision not to protect the wolver-



An elusive Canadian wolverine

ine was partly based on the fact wolverines are found contiguously in Canada. According to Vaile, that decision "doesn't

## Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

### DOROTHY MOREY

After high school in Minneapolis in 1950, Dorothy Morey signed up for the U.S. Air Force. "It was the only service that admitted women," she says. "The others had a women's auxiliary." During the Korean War, she served in Japan and met her husband, a native of Salem, who enrolled at the UO on their return. "I helped out with a new baby before finals each spring," says the mother of four. "I started UO classes when the third was three weeks old. It took 10 years to graduate." She taught first grade in Cottage Grove for nine years and negotiated for teachers when the school budget failed in 1974. "I've always been an advocate," says Morey, who divorced in 1975 and entered the UO Law School in 1979. "I'm starting my 26th year as a criminal defense lawyer," she says. Despite bypass surgery two years ago, she is also in her 25th year as a volunteer with Senior Law Services, offering legal assistance in Saturday sessions at senior centers, and in her first year at New Roads School, counseling homeless youth. "My brothers and sisters ask me when I'm going to retire," she notes. "I say, 'It does not compute.'"



• The Eugene City Council is looking this week at a process to deal with **complaints against the police auditor**, but why? Any such incidents should logically be handled by the Civilian Review Board and then perhaps appealed to the council. Meanwhile, what action is being taken against the complaining officer who apparently filed a false and defamatory complaint against Auditor Cris Beamud? Acting City Manager Angel Jones has reportedly said she doesn't plan any disciplinary action against Sgt. Ron Swanson. Why not?

The EPD Operations Manual lays out a code of ethics and behavior for police officers and includes specific language about integrity, honesty, and good judgment. It states, "You may not publicly criticize or ridicule the department, its policies or other employees," and, "You will not be allowed to discredit the department or the city." Does Swanson's unfounded and potentially libelous complaint clearly violate the EPD's code of ethics? By not seriously investigating Swanson's actions, the city manager and police chief are reinforcing Eugene's decades-long dearth of police accountability.

• Speaking of Eugene cops, why all the fuss and bother over **naked bicyclists** last weekend? In a more tolerant and enlightened city, police might show up to escort a semi-spontaneous procession instead of trying to quash it. Our hats (and pants) off to the goose-bumped crowd of pedal-pushers who firmly held their own against police interference in a good-natured and peaceful event. Last time we checked, being female and topless is not illegal in Eugene, and neither is riding a bike.

• **So long, Anna Morrison.** We heard from Tami Sakany of the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce that the conservative former Lane County commissioner has moved to Texas to "pursue an opportunity to own and operate her own small business." Morrison lost her commissioner post to Bill Fleenor in the 2004 elections and since last October has been working with the Fern Ridge Chamber as its full-time economic development officer. Morrison was known as a staunch advocate for unrestricted logging, sprawl, polluting industries, cuts in social services and other conservative pursuits. She consistently earned a zero rating by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, but she's drawn praises from the homebuilders and land speculators for her efforts to grow Veneta, Elmira and other small towns out west. Now we hear the housing downturn is hitting there as well.

What's next for the Fern Ridge Chamber? The group representing eight small towns has only had a real office and staff since late last summer, and now they have only a part-time executive assistant. The Chamber's board is meeting in executive session this week to figure out what to do. They didn't expect Morrison to bail so soon.

Land speculators and developers have a vested interest in turning these sleepy little towns into bedroom communities, paving over productive farmlands and wetlands while raising property values and taxes in the area. Who's behind the expanded Fern Ridge Chamber? Sakany won't say, other than some "additional funding partners" are involved, but word on the street has support coming from Greg Demers' Frontier Resources, the McDougal brothers and maybe Arlie & Co.

• We've sent a reporter to a couple of **Pacifica Forum** meetings and chatted with folks involved in the meetings, and we're left scratching our heads. The conservative student paper *The Oregon Commentator* asked a basic question that's never really been answered by the group. CJ Ciaramella in an editorial in January wrote, "I don't understand why the Pacifica Forum allowed themselves to be overrun by complete assholes in the first place." Ciaramella was referring to a PF lecture by Jimmy Marr in which Martin Luther King Jr. was called a "moral leper and community dupe." Marr's outrageous rant on MLK's character, the Civil Rights Movement and Jewish communism might have been an aberration in a long series of more intelligent and insightful talks, but it appears Pacifica Forum has slipped over the years from its original efforts towards building peace. We're all for free speech and the pursuit of truth, but we don't see a lot of community goodwill and reconciliation arising out of PF's recent focus on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

• Has **Jim Torrey hired a San Francisco consultant** to help him in his campaign to unseat Mayor Kitty Piercy? Our readers pass along all kinds of rumors, but this is one is from a very reliable source. The rumor is unconfirmed as we go to press, but we wouldn't be surprised if it's true. Big checks from special interests can buy all kinds of campaign expertise, from polling and focus groups to slick TV ad campaigns.

• **New venue for Science Pub?** In our News Briefs Feb. 28 we reported that the Science Pub lecture series sponsored by OMSI, UO and the Science Factory was looking for a new venue, and it looks like one has been found. Cozmic Pizza will host the free lectures starting in April. The final lecture at Luna will be at 7 pm Thursday, March 13, with Ted Fremd, chief paleontologist at John Day Fossil Beds.