

# More Than a Plan

Standing up for our environment together

**T**he 38th annual celebration of Earth Day was an urgent reminder that our planet is in peril. We're seeing record drought, famine and forest fires – and rising sea levels that could one day submerge cities around the world. For decades, politicians have promised Americans that they will tackle these problems. And yet, real reform has been blocked by the big oil and energy companies. It's time to do what's right for our nation and our planet, not what serves a corporate bottom line.

The people of Oregon understand this. You should be proud of your strong record on the environment, and you'll have a partner in the White House when I'm president. On the issue of county payments, I support enactment of a long-term solution to the payment program. I also applaud your state's leadership in Congress to find a meaningful, long-term solution that will provide Oregon with the resources you need to invest in a strong education system and create a sustainable economy.

Recently, there has also been a lot of discussion about the issue of liquid natural gas pipelines in this state. I have always believed that we need to give governors and local communities a say before siting natural gas facilities like pipelines in our communities. That's why I voted for this measure years ago and why I am also a co-sponsor of Senator Wyden's current bill to protect local interests in these important issues.

America needs to show the same kind of leadership as Oregon, and that's what we'll do when I'm president. I've been fighting to put the interests of our environment ahead of the special interests throughout my career. I fought to invest in renewable energy and improve energy efficiency. I opposed the Bush administration's pro-industry policies even though some were popular in my home state. And I went to Detroit and told a group of automakers that when I'm president, we will help their industry retool its plants, but they must raise fuel-economy standards. My bipartisan plan to raise fuel standards won support from people who'd never supported the idea before.

That's the kind of leadership I will offer as president. I was the first candidate in this race to propose reducing our oil consumption by a third in the coming decades. My plan to address global warming will set a hard cap on carbon emissions at a level that scientists say is necessary to curb adverse impacts to our environment – an 80 percent reduction by 2050. Under the cap-and-trade proposal I've outlined, no business will be allowed to emit any greenhouse gases for free – something I was also the first candidate to propose. And we'll also invest \$150 billion over 10 years to strengthen our green energy sector so we can build solar panels and windmills, and create up to five million new jobs – and those are jobs that pay well, and can't be outsourced.

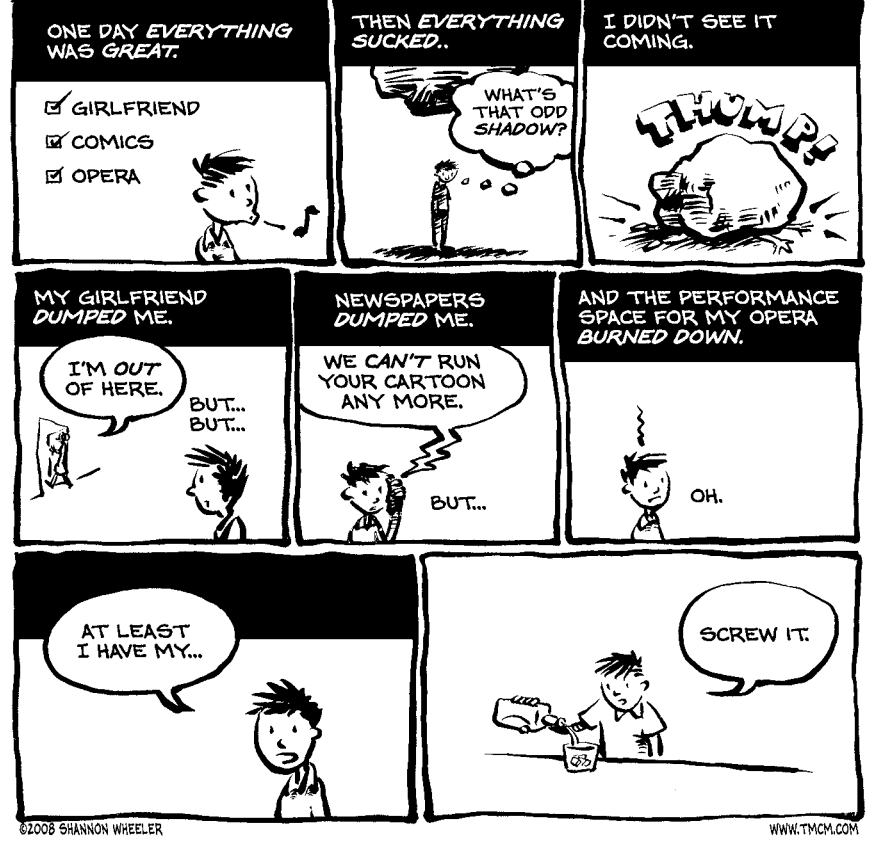
**T**o help us reach my goal of making America 50 percent more energy efficient by 2030, we'll ensure that our federal and local governments are working together on energy efficiency. We'll also create a special fund to get technologies from laboratories to the marketplace and help make energy-efficient households and businesses the rule, not the exception.

But it's going to take more than just a plan to address the environmental challenges we face. We'll have to put partisanship aside, bring Democrats and Republicans together and tell the oil companies and their armies of lobbyists that their brand of special-interest politics is no longer welcome in our nation's Capitol. We'll have to be honest with the American people – and call on them to make the sacrifices that are required to protect our planet for our children. And we'll have to lead a global effort to stop climate change once and for all. That's the future Earth Day calls on us to work towards. And that's the vision I will fight to make real as president.



TODD COOPER

## How to Be Happy (OPERA ORIGIN) by Shannon Wheeler



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### HERBICIDE UPDATE

The Lane County Board of Commissioners in their capacity as the Board of Health recently took comments regarding the Department of Public Works' request to use herbicides along county roadsides. The official comment period ended March 10, and by our tally as listed on the website, there were 42 comments generally in favor of the herbicide use plan and 96 opposed. In addition, 213 petition signatures were submitted opposing herbicide use.

Individual responses supporting herbicides were often favoring very limited applications such as spraying the most invasive weeds. Government agencies also submitted support, including the BLM, Army Corp., several eastern Oregon counties, Oregon Department of Agriculture and employees and the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife as well as employees of OSU and timber companies or their representatives.

Those opposed to herbicide use were mainly individuals. Groups listed on the website as opposed to the Public Works plan were Lane County Public Health Advisory Committee, Oregon Toxics Alliance, Cascadia Ecosystems Alliance and the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP). NCAP thought the 2008 plan was premature, without specificity about details such as alternatives to herbicides tried. Petition signatures were gathered from individuals and meetings including Health Care for All, Lane County Beekeepers Association, the local chapter of the North American Butterfly Association and the Grower's Market.

The Public Works roadside manager announced at the April advisory committee meeting that he would discontinue plans to use herbicides this year. The commissioners have not yet made a decision whether or not to approve the use of herbicides in the future. The herbicides requested would include Aquamaster (same active ingredient as Roundup) from Monsanto, Habitat from BASF, Garlon 3A from DOW, Milestone

from DOW and Oust Extra from DuPont. These products are typically mixed with other chemical ingredients which are not reported. If new information regarding any of these herbicides shows harmful effects listed in the "Last Resort Ordinance," it may be excluded from consideration.

While the official comment period has ended, citizens are always encouraged to contact elected officials, county staff and VMAC regarding their concerns.

*Michael Koivola & Jan Nelson  
Lane County Vegetative  
Management Advisory Committee  
(VMAC)*

### ANGRY, MYOPIC BOYS

I was saddened to see the way the *Weekly* portrayed Eugene's new city manager on the cover of the April 24 issue. I am also now convinced that the *Weekly* is run by angry teenage boys. Clearly you were trying to imply he is an emperor and are hoping to sway the public against Ruiz before he even has a chance to start.

I know you want to advocate for change in many circumstances, yet you seem unwilling to see any person, position or topic in a new light.

Typically in communities where I've lived, I wanted my out-of-town visitors to have a copy of our local lefty weekly paper so they could find out about local interests, music, dining, etc. While I do pick up the *Weekly* for those reasons, I am too embarrassed to let any visitor take a peek at your short-sighted world view.

Please grow up. You have adults reading your paper. Some movement in that direction would be nice.

*Kristine Nelson  
Eugene*

### WHO ARE YOU?

I was shocked ... SHOCKED to read that new Eugene City Manager Jon Ruiz refused to give reporter Alan Pittman his business card during an interview (4/24), instead offering up a PR flack for future enhanced interrogations. So much for openness and accessibility —