

and friendliness for that matter.

It appears that our city's powers-that-be have rounded up the usual suspects and picked one for more of the same—that being information dribbled out on a need-to-know basis to city councilors and citizens when it is deemed by the king, aka city manager, that we need to know. Right now, 120,000 inquiring *Eugene Weekly* readers want to know: Who are you, Jon Ruiz?

Maybe where you hail from — south of the Oregon border down Fresno way — folks are cautious and conservative. But up here in Eugene, we're just a bunch of happy-go-lucky tree huggers. So, c'mon, Jon, open up and give us a big one!

Benton Elliott
Eugene

DIFFERENT ANSWER, TORREY

So we have a candidate for mayor who doesn't want to share his budget cutting ideas right now because it will anger some voters who might then mobilize against him. Democracy?

He doesn't hesitate to wave his proposal for \$7 million for potholes and police, though. How courageous.

As a member of the Police Commission (speaking for myself here), I recently was able to experience close contact with officers and listen to some of their concerns. I agree that we need more money for police — who are buried under overtime and unanswered community needs. But I also learned that police are just one part of the public safety system.

Jail space, prosecutors, addiction treatment, children and family services, 911 call capacity, homeless shelters, sobering stations, crisis mental health beds and more are also integral parts. I learned from members of the Police Department that upping officer numbers without similar investments in these other areas — addiction treatment in particular — would solve only part of the problem.

Our public safety system in Lane County is a mess. Programs that provide hope to desperate people are cut more and more, leading them to more desperate acts of crime. The police are always playing catch-up. We need sustainable investments in addiction recovery, in family safety, in economic opportunity, in mental health and wellness services, in true community policing.

I just don't think more cops in schools is gonna do the trick.

Tim Mueller
Eugene

BRO FOR PIERCY

On behalf of the more than 2,000 Basic Rights Oregon supporters who live in Eugene, I am proud to announce BRO's endorsement of Kitty Piercy for mayor.

Mayor Piercy has been a vocal champion for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality for years. In contrast, Jim Torrey has refused to fill out the most basic questionnaire stating where he stands on questions of discrimination and legal recognition for same-sex relationships. Why? Torrey knows that the only way he can win this race is if Eugene voters don't know who he is and what he stands for. One year he is a registered Republican; the next year he is an Independent. The only sure thing we do know about Jim Torrey is that he is a major contributor to George W. Bush.

We know that although Jim Torrey switched his party affiliation from Republican to Independent, campaign finance reports show that the same rich and powerful Republicans who have given him money in the past are filling his campaign war chest right now.

We also know that because of his backward-thinking notions about members of our community, Eugene has a human rights ordinance that offers less protection than Wasco County's.

During this critical time when Oregonians are threatened by out of state right-wing groups that want to roll back the clock on basic protections, we need someone we can count on — someone who is in step with Eugene values and will move us forward. That person is Mayor Kitty Piercy.

Becky Flynn
BRO, Eugene

SELF-RIGHTEOUS DOGMA

I'm grateful for the critical, watchdog scrutiny *EW* provides for us. I applaud the responsible and dogged pursuit given to those issues that could devalue or harm others and our town. Yet the occasional intolerance displayed within the pages of *EW*, especially the role Alan Pittman casts for himself, often has me cringing.

His latest "hit piece" maligns, insinuates dark intent and passes judgment on Eugene's new city manager, Jon Ruiz, even before the poor man is settled into his new position. The article welcomes him with a smug assurance that his military career, initial support for the Iraq War, political affiliation (Republican!), even his marriage ("Ruiz has been married for 27 years, but has no children"... what the hell does that insinuate?) pegs him not just suspect but obviously a malignant match for Eugene.

So here we go into the familiar territory. *EW* has set the tone and the stage for our next chapter, insisting on continuing the divisive, suspicious, noncompromising stance that has locked our community into rigid positions where very little moves forward and much stagnates under the banner of self-righteous dogma — on both sides.

I don't think I'm alone in being so very tired of the crippling stalemate.

Joseph H. Alsup
Eugene

VOTE FOR SINCLAIR

If you had a job opening and had a choice between an experienced, caring professional and someone who just needs a job — which would you choose? Both are willing to do the job at the pay you offer — you'd want the person with the knowledge and heart.

Lane County has had the blessing of an ethical, honest, smart, community-conscious Justice of the Peace in Cynthia Sinclair. From her own pocket, she provided hearing assistance devices and books on parenting; she has thoughtfully re-arranged hours to facilitate court appearances, and she uses everyday language for complete understanding of court proceedings. See more at cynthiasinclair.com

She has years of experience "on the bench" and in justice administration. You want the person who can do the job — you want Cynthia Sinclair.

Linda Wagner
Noti



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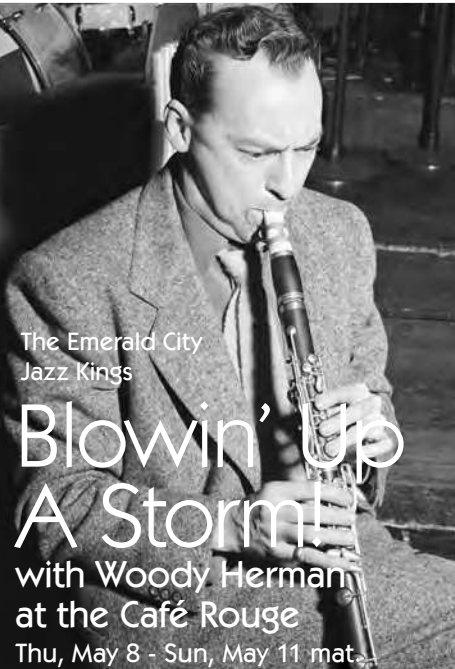
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