

POLICE ATTACK CITY COUNCILOR

The Eugene Police Employees Association has put back up on their webpage a caricature of Councilor Bonny Bettman – a leading proponent of police accountability.

The webpage also includes a counter for the number of days until “Bettman’s Reign of Terror Ends.” The police union took down the caricature and counter after *The Register-Guard* asked about it, but then put it back up.

The cartoon now also includes a caption, “She’s Baaaaaaack!” The quote is a reference to an incident two years ago in which city executive Jim Carlson wrote an email using the quote to invoke the horror film *Poltergeist II* in reference to the progressive city councilor.

Former City Manager Dennis Taylor reprimanded Carlson for the email. “I will not tolerate any unprofessional or disrespectful communications from you, or any city employee,” he wrote.

Current City Manager Jon Ruiz hasn’t spoken out about the union website.

Mayor Kitty Piercy wrote an email calling it, “completely disrespectful of Bonny and of her council position. I know it makes her worry for her personal safety.”

Piercy wrote, “This kind of mean spirited depiction is damaging to the individual, our city, and certainly our police ... it makes our police department look very, very bad.”

By posting the attack, police officers could face disciplinary action. The city’s Police Operations Manual states that officers, “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.” Officers who knew about the website but didn’t report the potential misconduct to superiors could also face discipline under police rules.

Piercy wrote, “I have to believe that the vast majority of our officers would not approve of this because they serve our community with compassion, commitment and distinction. I hope they will speak up.” But so far, none have.

The cartoon was apparently cut out of a 2001 ad by “The Gang of 9” that development interests ran in *The Register-Guard*. The string of ads, largely funded by Arlie developer John Musumeci, featured unflattering caricatures attacking anti-sprawl councilors.

The ad the image was taken from referred to a class action lawsuit by developer John Hammer which was thrown out on appeal last year. Hammer has donated \$2,500 to the mayoral campaign of Jim Torrey. The police union gave Torrey \$10,000, his largest single contribution.

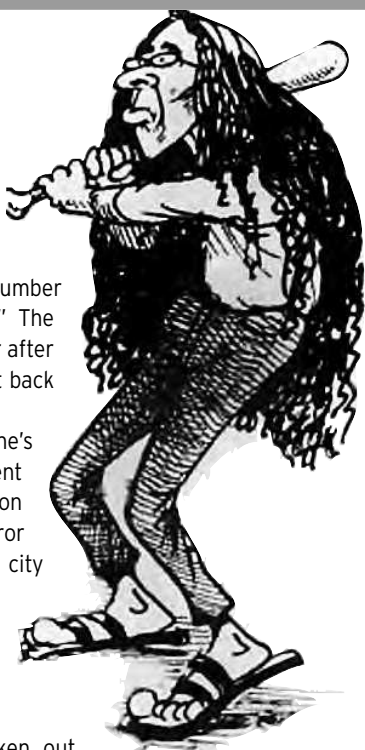
Torrey has campaigned for adding civility to local politics but told the R-G he had no problem with the union attack on Bettman.

Bettman said the personal attack by the police “gave me a really sick feeling in the pit of my stomach.” She wrote in an email, “You would think the city would insist on more mature judgment from employees that are permitted to carry guns.”

“I believe their hatred stems from my role in creating the Independent Office of the Police Auditor, which the police openly and aggressively oppose,” Bettman wrote. “Given the police union’s powerful role in local campaigns (in the form of record-setting contributions), I fear their extreme opposition is a threat to maintaining a fully functioning and effective Police Auditor’s Office.”

Bettman said if Torrey is elected, he could effectively abolish the police auditor and review board that voters passed by cutting its budget or appointing a police union crony as auditor. Bettman said she’d like the council to refer a charter amendment that would offer the function more protection.

“We wouldn’t have a police auditor at all if we didn’t have Kitty Piercy as mayor,” Bettman said. “It wouldn’t have happened with Torrey.” –Alan Pittman



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



news Briefs

CIVIC STADIUM GROUP MEETS

Two meetings were held in May to talk about the future of Eugene’s historic ballpark. The group Save Civic Stadium (SCS) drew a crowd of about 60 at its first meeting May 14, which was followed by a Steering Committee meeting May 22. Future meetings are being planned. For more information, visit savecivicstadium.org

Scott Landfield introduced the “umpires” at the first meeting, Tony Corcoran and State Sen. Floyd Prozanski. The two laid out “ground rules” for the meeting, trying to keep the discussion positive, and “not berating either public or private organizations or people,” says Landfield.

Natalie Perrin presented a PowerPoint slide show on “Historic Preservation of Civic Stadium” and talked about her efforts to place Civic Stadium on the National Historic Registry.

Dennis Hebert outlined the history of the Save Civic Stadium organization, which began collecting signatures two years ago to support the stadium. The organization has contacted School District 4-J (which owns the property), city of Eugene officials, UO Athletic Department, Eugene Emeralds management, Chamber of Commerce, YMCA and other business and baseball associations locally and around the country and globe in its efforts. SCS is now in contact with other public and private ventures to seek information and guidance on this project.

Dave Hauser, president of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, said the stadium is worth saving with or without the Ems. Tom Halferty introduced the brainstorming session,

encouraging discussion of a “myriad of possibilities.”

Among the ideas tossed out were: creating a nonprofit organization, continuing the baseball tradition, creating a public-private partnership, involving the city, examining potential state and federal grants, contacting Cooperstown, working with the neighborhood association, looking at multiple uses for the land and facilities, and requesting a city public hearing on the stadium’s future.

GROUP FORMS TO PUSH IRV

A new Lane County group has formed to promote instant runoff voting (IRV) for Lane County elections. IRV gives voters the option of ranking candidates in order of preference. The idea is to make the winners of elections more closely represent the will of the voters.

In the recent primary elections for example, four candidates ran for county commissioner. Under IRV, voters would be able to designate not only their first choice, but also their second or third choice. If no one candidate gets a majority of the votes, the candidate with the least votes is eliminated and the results are recalculated. The process is repeated until one candidate gets a majority of the votes. This system “eliminates the need to go through the process of campaigning and voting a second time,” according to a description provided by Alan Zundel and Bob Cassidy.

Zundel and Cassidy, along with Ken Tollenaar, Len Hockley and Don Schneider are founding members of IRV-Lane County (www.irv-lane.org). The new group envisions launching an initiative or referendum in the next election cycle.

Efforts at establishing IRV are also ongoing on the national level. In the infamous presidential race of 2000, for example, Ralph Nader supporters worried about whether voting for him would take votes away from Al Gore. Under IRV, Nader supporters could have voted for their candidate and designated Gore as their second choice. In such a close election, the second choices would have counted. And third-party candidates would not be considered spoilers.

END OF EUGLENA?

Euglena Academy founder and dean Alder Fuller may call it quits in Eugene, he says, and move his systems science-oriented institution to Portland or another community.

After seven years in Eugene the academy, which offers classes in Eugene from a unique systems sciences and geophysiological perspective is “still barely breaking even,” Fuller wrote in an appeal for support for the school. Euglena has been focusing on climate change and the idea the earth has passed the “tipping point” for global warming (see story, p. 11). Fuller has recently revamped Euglena’s program, which covers topics from Gaia theory to non-equilibrium thermodynamics.

Fuller says he will make a decision about whether to continue Euglena in Eugene by Aug. 1. Like the climate, he writes, Euglena too is at a “tipping point.” Until then he is planning a series of gatherings at Euglena’s studio in west Eugene. He is also preparing “a collaborative online document to explore ways to support the academy.”

Fuller says he will begin some operations in Portland this summer, but that he won’t leave Eugene “without a fight.”

Go to euglena-edu.net for more information on the classes at Euglena and Fuller’s plans to save the program. – Camilla Mortensen