

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

and in the chapel. Enough of 50 million uninsured. Enough.

When the time comes for the curtain to be drawn, or the pen to meet the oval, forget those millions of words forests were felled to bring. At that moment, there's just one word need be remembered: Enough.

*Todd Huffman
Eugene*

DISSING DERVISHES

Excuse me, Bob Weiss (10/2), but you have indeed shown your ignorance to put Jim Torrey's name in the same sentence with reference to whirling dervishes. The path of the whirling dervish is one of balance, surrender and service. We are not dizzy spinners. You can just go practice your prejudicial ignorance on some other minority group or belief system.

However, I forgive you. Not many really have any direct experience or knowledge of whirling dervishes. Still, you could have said gnat or spinning top or twirly brained or hamster wheel or roulette wheel or dizzy-joe-bob. There are lots of possible spins to put on fault finding without picking on us poor dervishes!

Your scurrilous attack on a very deep and personal path is sleazy. There are plenty of ways to point out faults and shortcomings without demeaning, invalidating attacks on faiths and practices not understood by predominant cultural programming.

Other than that, I pretty much agree with you.

*Gulistan Machacek
Eugene*

COUNTY LEADERSHIP

As longtime residents and business owners, we voted for Bobby Green in the past and appreciate his service to Lane County. But times change, and so have the needs of our county.

When Green was first voted into office 13 years ago, ideas like protecting our environmental resources and recycling sounded radical. Now it's just good business sense. Green's voting record shows that he has not adapted to current conditions.

In contrast, Rob Handy is a breath of fresh air: He embraces new ideas; he's in touch with the people; and he's got the energy to solve the many economic challenges that lie ahead. Rob Handy is a small business owner who finds time to give back to his community. We have worked together for years on neighborhood issues through the River Road Community Organization.

Sperry Tree Care works with other local businesses to create a diverse, vibrant and sustainable Lane County. We are confident that all businesses whose success relies on current ideas, creativity, and innovation will benefit from Rob Handy's leadership. Join us in voting for Handy for Lane County commissioner!

*Nathaniel Sperry & Teresa Damron
Eugene*

OBAMA NEEDS CONGRESS

As election day moves closer, it's important to remember that there is another race on the ballot that will affect the quality of change as we move past the disasters of the Bush administration. When Barack Obama makes history, his success

in creating change will depend on the balance in Congress. Oregon has the closest Senate race in the nation, and Democrat Jeff Merkley is the right person to take that seat.

Gordon Smith has been running ads in Eugene and Portland claiming progressive views, including his support of the LGBT community. Although Smith was the first to call for Federal Hate Crimes legislation in the aftermath of the murder of Matthew Sheppard, his votes on every other LGBT issue have been a slap in our faces. Smith voted for a national constitutional amendment to define marriage as between one man and one woman. Gordon Smith actively led the charge in the campaign for Measure 36, which made LGBT Oregonians second-class citizens.

After the heartbreaking passage of Measure 36, Jeff Merkley took up our battle in the Oregon Legislature. As the Speaker of the House, he led the fight to ensure that LGBT Oregonians would finally have protection in employment, housing and public accommodations, and that same-sex couples could have the basic rights and responsibilities of heterosexual couples.

Electing Merkley to the Senate would send an ally we can really count on.

*Carol Horne Dennis
Eugene*

FORUM INFORMATIVE

In these uncertain economic times, I'm glad to see that some leaders in Lane County are taking the recession seriously and investigating solutions. I attended "The Future of Lane County: Jobs and Economic Development" Oct. 7 and was impressed to see a collaborative discussion on sustainability issues by Ed Whitelaw and Rob Handy, among others.

I also learned that three of our County Commissioners, including Bobby Green, did not support the recommendations by the City of Eugene task force on sustainable practices. The task force represented a wide diversity of business owner, including Rusty Rexius of Rexius Forest Products and Mike Miksis of Arlie & Co. and Jack Roberts of the Lane Metro Partnership.

It is clear to me that our future depends on a diverse economy that is as self-sufficient as possible, and I believe that Rob Handy will work hard toward that goal. Handy is supported by local businesses, which are the backbone of a resilient and robust Lane County economy. I'm looking forward to casting my vote for Handy in a few weeks.

*Matthew K. Sprecher
Eugene*

SMITH LIES

Republican Gordon Smith has stooped to an unprecedented low. His ads are beyond misleading; they are outright lies. Jeff Merkley's record in the Oregon Legislature reveals the real story: As Speaker of the House, Merkley repeatedly voted to double the statute of limitations for sex offenses, and he supported mandatory life imprisonment for repeat sex predators. Merkley also fought to keep sex offenders away from our kids, making it illegal for predators to lure children over the Internet.

Why is Smith set on distorting the truth



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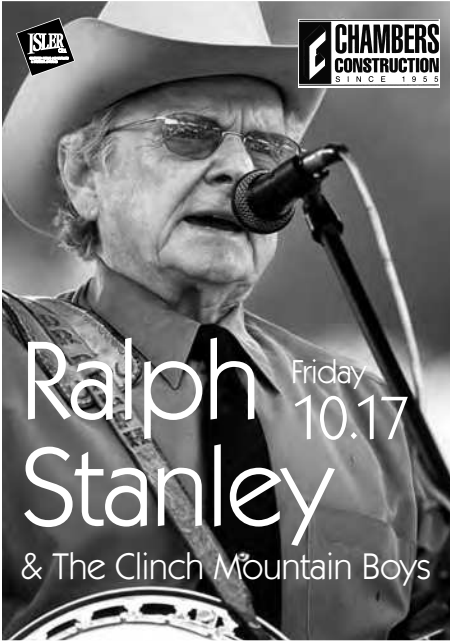
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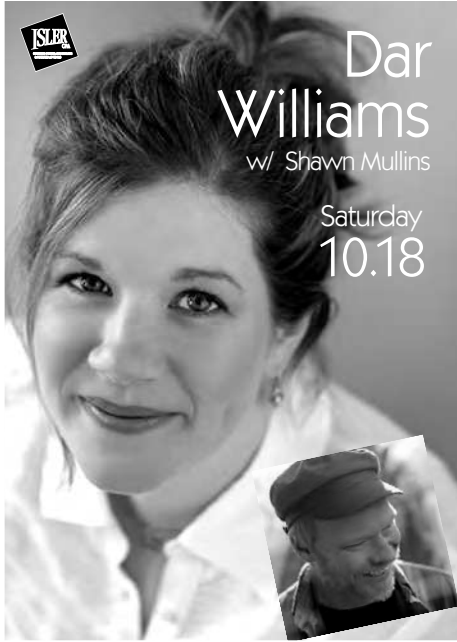
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