

course of insubordination," getting drunk, screwing off and graduating 894th out of 899. As a pilot, McCain once again had to use his bloodline to keep his wings after a "daredevil clowning" stunt in Spain that endangered citizens and destroyed power lines.

After his jet blew up the deck of the USS Forrestal, McCain ran below into the safety of his "ready room" while his fellow pilots gallantly fought the fire above. As the ship with its dead and injured limped into port, McCain flew off for R&R.

Soon after being taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese, McCain told his captors, "I'll give you military information if you will take me to the hospital." Once the Vietnamese realized they had captured the man they called the "crown prince," they had every motivation to keep him alive. "Thanks to my prisoner-of-war experience," McCain writes in his book, *Faith of my Fathers*, "I had, as they say in politics, a good story to sell."

Buyers beware. We need a leader that will put his country before his own selfish Napoleonic desires to be greater than his father.

Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain

MERKLEY GETS IT

How Americans vote in the upcoming election will probably determine whether global warming can be addressed quickly enough to avoid catastrophic change.

The choice in the senatorial race is clear: Jeff Merkley is the candidate to support. He has a solid record in the state Legislature of getting legislation passed that addresses climate change by improving fuel standards, expanding tax credits for renewable energy investments, improving efficiency standards for construction and renovation, and supporting energy standards that favor electrical power from renewable sources.

Gordon Smith, on the other hand, has voted 90 percent of the time with the Bush administration. Smith has opposed fuel-efficiency standards for vehicles, opposed windfall profits taxes on oil companies, and voted for tax breaks for the oil and gas industries. He has voted twice in favor of drilling for oil in ANWAR, and once in opposition. His opposing vote was recent, and probably reflects election year politics more than conviction.

Merkley deserves our votes.

Climate Crisis Working Group members Linda Kelley, William D. Merris, George Gessert, Bryna Livingston, Mary Addams, Jacque Travis

SAVING THE HEADWATERS

This summer Mayor Kitty Piercy and the Eugene City Council worked successfully to preserve the beautiful Amazon headwaters forest in southeast Eugene. The 40-acre forest is now open to the public for education and recreation and will become part of the Ridgeline



Trail system enjoyed by tens of thousands of families each year.

Kitty Piercy was instrumental in the campaign to save this special area. Recognizing the ecological significance, the importance of the watershed and the recreational value of the forest, Piercy supported Eugene's Southeast neighbors in their hard-won victory to purchase the property for an affordable price of \$1.6 million. Piercy helped snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, turning around the decision of previous Mayor Jim Torrey in his refusal to support acquisition for the property when the former owner of the property expressed a willingness to sell the 40-acre parcel for only \$325,000.

Piercy's willingness to work with concerned citizens to seal the deal once again showed her responsiveness to community issues and her deep concern about environmental protection. Way to go, Kitty Piercy!

Gary Kutcher
Eugene

LACK OF OVERSIGHT

Jim Torrey does not believe that the EPD's job is to "protect and serve" all the citizens of Eugene. His lack of oversight of EPD during his two terms as mayor is evidence. The police union supports him because he does not hold the police department accountable for its behavior. The proof is their \$20,000 campaign donation.

First and foremost, the police union does not believe they need to honor the voters' decision to have an independent police auditor and civilian review board. The union supported the police chief in defying the auditor law when he refused to give information to the police auditor as required by law.

During Jim Torrey's two terms as mayor, many questionable police actions took place that demonstrated disregard for the principle of equal protection under the law. For example, officers bragged about the "Southtown Beat Down," when two Saudi foreign exchange students were severely beaten by police after an altercation with two Latino suspects at

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