

the Southtown Bowling Alley. The Saudis thought the police had come to their rescue. As far as the public knows there were no disciplinary actions taken against any officers involved in severely beating the Saudi students.

There were many other complaints regarding questionable police behavior concerning their treatment of minorities, often taking the form of being guilty of driving while black or brown. There were also the many questionable uses of force by police officers during political demonstrations. Of course, the worst case was the six years the police department allowed uniformed officers to sexually assault women, despite many complaints against the officers. As far as the public knows, not one officer has been called to account for ignoring all those complaints for six years. More important, Torrey is not curious as to how that happened. Apparently, Torrey does not think any officers need to be held accountable for those six years of negligence.

Torrey seems willing to accept this behavior from the EPD as well as their money. Clearly, Torrey values property rights more than human rights and civil rights, considering his concern over potholes.

Charles Dalton
Eugene

NONPARTISAN FALLACY

Hereabouts, “nonpartisan” races exist so Republicans can get elected. Jim Torrey is a Republican, supported Bush and the war(s) and ran for state senate as a Republican four years ago. I know and like him personally, but the idea that this mayor’s race is “nonpartisan” is no more than a pleasant fiction.

And I remember both Torrey terms clearly: Since the mayor only votes to break ties, you’d think that Torrey would have been a mere figurehead. Instead he proved a highly effective manipulator and Machiavellian back-room politician.

Case in point: I voted for a new library twice while Torrey was mayor. And twice, the issue failed at the ballot box, the last time by 12 votes. Almost immediately, Torrey and his allies announced that they had “urban renewal” funds and built the library anyway. This is “democracy”? When they hired Vicki Elmer as city manager, then decided to fire her, they

hired a Portland Ph.D. “facilitator” because they didn’t have the guts to fire her directly; instead they blew \$18,000 of my tax dollars to do it.

The Hyundai (now Hynix) tax giveaway engendered the biggest protests I’ve seen in Eugene (outside the war). Torrey’s side listened politely and then went ahead anyway. Ditto the hospital fight (still going on), tree riot, etc.

Torrey got his way more often than not. Unfortunately, more often than not, the highway to his way was a food fight, and the results were disastrous. No, I’m not voting for the Republican for mayor.

Hart Williams
Eugene

A WISE WOMAN

We need Kitty Piercy as mayor because she’s a wise woman, a grandmother and a true leader.

I’ve known Kitty Piercy for 20 years. Like a recipe you want to share with everyone, her ingredients to continue serving us are not a secret: She listens (to everyone). She uses a balance of opinion to solve problems. She involves all citizens — from students to seniors — not just an inner circle. She participates in an endless number of community meetings, as well as setting the city council agenda. She rises above power struggles and criticism to create the best possible policies for the city.

My issues, such as wanting superior schools for my grandchildren, are her issues. She is sensitive to the needs of all students, whether they are new to the area or their family has been here for generations.

Please join me in re-electing Mayor Kitty Piercy.

Betsy Steffensen
Eugene

MORE DIRTY TRICKS

This city is undergoing a crisis of confidence equal to the national economic crisis of confidence, locally and nationally brought about by Republican dirty-tricksters for whom an October surprise is standard operating procedure. All they can come up with locally is some lame, immature provocative nonsense that flies in the face of reason.

We live in a city that is blessed by nature and blessed with an active civic

culture, where the people care a lot about their amenities. In perspective, all that is required for these troubles to fade away is the sound defeat of Jim Torrey. Then all these apparitions will crumble like a cookie in the rain. And then we residents can continue to enjoy each other’s company as it is meant to be.

The opponents of change want fear and intimidation to dominate this election because they are desperate for votes. They’re doing all this, including the Exclusion Zone “crisis” and the EPD Taser policy “crisis,” to sway undecided voters; in other words, as a political campaign strategy.

The question is, are we going to let them get away with it? My answer is a resounding NO! Vote for Kitty Piercy for mayor.

Paul Prenskey
Eugene

REACHING OUT

I may be the only contributor to these letters who likes Jim Torrey. I think he is a sincere advocate for children. However, I am voting for Kitty Piercy because she is the type of leader we need.

In an age of hyper-partisanship, partisanship that paralyzes government, she reaches out to all sides.

Kitty Piercy has brought business interests, neighborhood leaders, experts and environmentalists together on issues including environmental protection, workable alternatives to transportation problems, downtown renewal, locating a hospital and bringing good jobs to Eugene. In other words, she is tackling head-on the complex issues facing our city.

She has been unfairly criticized and obstructed in much of her efforts, but she never stops reaching out, plugging away and making progress despite the obstacles thrown in her path. She has shown that we can rise above power struggles and address problems.

She is a leader of utmost integrity, and we are lucky to have her as our mayor.

Joy Marshall
Eugene

CONSENSUS WRECKER

Anyone considering voting for Jim Torrey doesn’t need to speculate about what a Torrey administration would do — because we’ve already had one! Torrey

is spinning fanciful webs in his current campaign, but I know better because I was there.

The first six of my eight years on the City Council were during the previous Torrey administration, and Torrey was the opposite of a consensus builder.

Funny that Torrey is bringing up street repairs, downtown revitalization and the police department as campaign issues now. Those issues were hot during his time as mayor, and he didn’t have a significant impact on any of them. Sorry, Jim, you had your shot at it.

David Kelly
Eugene

SCARY SCENARIO

I fear the following: Jim Torrey for his first week in office as mayor would grant: Delta Sand and Gravel permission to ruin some of our best farmland by increasing their dig by the river and Seneca Lumber permission to construct a huge air-polluting slash burning plant in the middle of Eugene. The city budget would be devoted to hiring more police, eliminating health and human services; ugly billboards would line the streets like Coburg Boulevard; developers would build 10-story buildings to obscure views of green hills; we would see crowded cement freeways and sprawl everywhere.

Does this scare you?

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

HUMAN RIGHTS

A lot of us in the progressive community wish that Kitty Piercy would relentlessly push forward progressive causes — no kissing up to developers. But I have to keep reminding myself that Piercy ran her first campaign as “The Mayor for ALL Eugene.”

I vividly remember Jim Torrey and his gavel at the City Council meeting on Nov. 25, 2002, when Eugene became the 16th community to pass a human rights resolution opposing the PATRIOT Act. Torrey said he would not sign the resolution. The council unanimously passed it anyway (Pat Farr was absent). I was tickled when the city attorney told Torrey that a mayor doesn’t sign resolutions. So he could not stop the will of the 300 people who jammed city council chambers. In February 2005, the council

The authors of the award-winning book ***The Miner’s Canary: Enlisting Race, Resisting Power, Transforming Democracy*** visit the UO to discuss their new project. Guinier and Torres continue to examine ways to revitalize democracy through participation of all citizens.

Lani Guinier was the first woman of color appointed to a tenured professorship at Harvard Law School in 1998. Her distinguished legal career includes work as a civil rights attorney.

Gerald Torres is a professor of law at the University of Texas at Austin. He is former president of the Association of American Law Schools and a leading figure in critical race theory.

Wayne Morse
WAYNE MORSE CENTER FOR LAW AND POLITICS

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AUTHORS OF *THE MINER’S CANARY*

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