

A Crucial Decision

Difficult times call for careful choice in mayor race

The soul of Eugene is at stake.

Each day it becomes more obvious that the world and every main street is in crisis whether it is from the economic meltdown (which is a massive transfer of money from the public sector to the greedy, private sector), global warming, resource peaking and depletion, species extinction, loss of civil liberties, toxic tipping point, and overall fear and ensuing chaos. In these desperate times who we want to be Eugene's mayor is a crucial decision.



We know both mayoral candidates and their priorities and policies are well known.

Jim Torrey has a history of focusing on sprawl and development, supporting the business community without limits often to the long-term detriment of Eugene and Eugeneans, irrationally using the police to justify his own actions and priorities, and using as his modus operandi for being Eugene's mayor the unrealistic and intolerable idyll of 1950s paternalistic control.

Specific examples are:

- Torrey's never-ending lust for the WEP, which if built would enrich his cronies.

- Torrey's negotiations which netted Hyundai/Hynix tax breaks and ultimately the company's present "cut and run" tactics, which means Eugene will not receive the long-term benefit from those tax breaks

- Torrey's actual behavior on June 1, 1997: While non-violent treesitters were protesting the cutting of very stately and old maple trees to make way for development, their genitals were being pepper-sprayed by EPD. Then-Mayor Torrey sat safely in his car around the corner and sent his wife to witness and report to him about what was happening.

- Torrey's current and unfounded attacks on Mayor Piercy about her "disrespect of the police," when in fact during Torrey's tenure as mayor the city of Eugene paid out about \$3 million in lawsuits compared to about \$190,000 during Mayor Piercy's tenure. The obvious conclusion is that during Torrey's tenure some EPD officers and in general EPD oversight was out of control and Eugeneans have paid sorely for *that* level of management. Conversely, during Mayor Piercy's tenure, the establishment of our Civilian Review Board (CRB) and police auditor have created the oversight that if allowed to operate as designed does assert the oversight to keep us all safe and have a respectful and well-respected police force.

Piercy's well-known focuses are:

- Working with and listening to all sectors in our community and bringing together people from diverse backgrounds and priorities to work on common goals and objectives.

- Creating opportunities for sustainable and green businesses and jobs.

- Gearing development in Eugene towards infill and affordable housing rather than using up scarce and precious farmland for more suburban sprawl.

- Mutually supporting and respecting EPD, the police auditor and the CRB.

- Protecting our wetlands and headwaters.

- Taking care of *our* commonwealth such as our local environment, and revitalizing downtown, roads and other infrastructures, including finding workable solutions to Eugene's increasing traffic issues.

- Planning for community food safety.

- Addressing homelessness and disaffected youth.

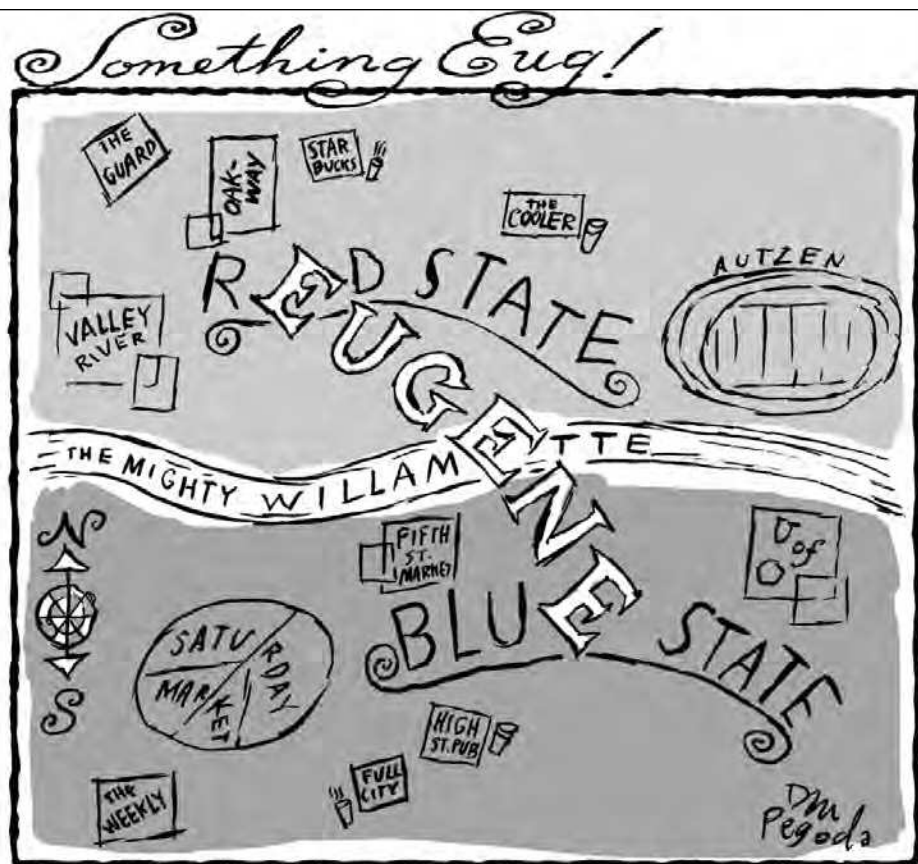
- Understanding the powerful and political machinations in Washington, D.C., and throughout the world and how those affect Eugene now and will affect us in the future; and uniquely preparing Eugene to face the future rather than acting as if outdated values and processes of paternalism will "save us."

- Fostering working relationships with *the* key people I believe will be leading our nation.

Another way to assess Eugene's mayoral choice is to "follow the money" and contributors to each campaign to understand which candidate is responsive to a few or the many. Specifically, the majority of Torrey's more than \$454,000 in contributions are large donations from timber companies, developers, land speculators and construction companies. On the other hand, Piercy's contributors are from more than 2,400 people like you and me totaling about \$318,000.

The choice of which future Eugene you want to live in is in all of our hands. But like I tell my kids, make every choice today as if you are having a conversation with yourself in the future because in fact you are.

Amy Pincus Merwin is a Eugene media producer and activist.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

R-G OCTOBER SURPRISE

The Register-Guard has me confused. In May it editorially said: "Voters should re-elect Kitty Piercy" as Eugene mayor. But now, in October, it says: "Eugene voters should elect Jim Torrey."

The paper never even admits changing its mind from May, much less explain why! Was it a sign from Heaven? Or a signal from a higher power in the Chad Drive office? New insights written on the wind? Or on Chamber of Commerce stationary?

The October Surprise edit says Torrey could do a better job handling the bad economy. But in May the paper wasn't sure he could deal with "economic uncertainty" better than Piercy.

In May it said he probably couldn't do anything about a "divided City Council which controls the real political power in the city." Well, now it conjures his magical ability to "arrive at a compromise that would attract five or six votes," not those bothersome 4-4 ties.

Right, and he'll probably walk on the Willamette River en route to council meetings.

And the paper now says Torrey will be able to get Eugene cops to quit disobeying the civilian review law, in part because the police union gave his campaign big bucks. Isn't it usually the other way around? Contributors want politicians to do things the contributors' way.

Meanwhile, under Piercy's leadership: More streets are being fixed and potholes patched. (Nice that Torrey finally discovered potholes — for his potshot ads.) Headwaters of the Amazon are protected — for the whole city. (Torrey blew a chance to buy them cheap.) A deal with the county has kept more money in public safety for prosecutors, jail beds and keeping Buckley House detox open. The downtown pits are to be developed. Santa Clara will get parkland.

And that's just in the five months since the *R-G* endorsed Piercy.

The paper was right in May, woefully wrong in October. Voters should re-elect Piercy and disregard the *R-G*'s unexplained and inexplicable surrender of its editorial soul.

*Don Bishoff
Eugene*

CORPORATE MOUTHPIECE

I suspect any right-wing endorsement from our city's daily newspaper may anger more people than it pleases. That should be the case with its support for mayoral candidate Jim Torrey, the mouthpiece for corporate money.

It's important readers be exposed to the political wisdom that results in *EW* supporting a vastly superior candidate, Kitty Piercy.

Urge your friends to vote, and to not be deluded by the self-serving who want Torrey to ignore the public, and to do only their bidding.

*George Beres
Eugene*

CONNECTING THE DOTS

I have noticed on the *R-G* editorial pages lately that somebody has written lavish endorsements for both Bobby Green and Jim Torrey. Perhaps they are sincere but let us not forget that both Green and Torrey are pro development at any cost types. Local developers and wannabe developers back them both with big bucks. The *R-G* owns significant real estate holdings at the end of Chad Drive and along Old Coburg Road. Is there a connection? You decide.

This letter most likely won't see the light of day on the *R-G* ed page.

*Norm Maxwell
Lorane*

EUGENE IS FORTUNATE

Through my work on sustainability and climate protection, I have had the opportunity to work with elected officials nationwide. What always stands out to me is how lucky