

Echo Down the Ticket

Obama ... mah ... mah ... mah

Welcome back students, new Democratic registrants; thanks for voting to ensure the election of Barack Obama.

I'm 59 years old, and I haven't felt such positive political vibes since the late '60s and early '70s.

But please, voters! Don't forget Oregon! Don't forget Eugene! Don't just complete the arrow for Obama on your ballot. We have a critical U.S. Senate race and a huge decision to make about Eugene in the mayor's race. Vote down the ticket.

In the old days, before vote-by-mail, we produced "palm cards," voter guides to help friends who, let's say, didn't want to read through all 12 goddamn ballot measures. So here are my three critical races and a few of the ballot measures, followed by the rest of the ballot.

• U. S. president: Barack Obama, community organizer. Sarah Palin makes even Karl Rove nervous!

• U.S. Senate: Jeff Merkley. I have a unique perspective on this race, having served with both Merkley and Gordon Smith in the Oregon Legislature. Jeff is everything that Gordon is not: he's forthright, he's thoughtful, he's intellectually honest. I'm sick of Gordon distancing himself from bad Republican leadership every election cycle. He's a 90 percent Bushie; he didn't come out against Iraq until polls showed 68 percent of Oregonians opposed it. With 60 Democrats in the Senate, we can prevent cloture and stalemate with President Obama.

• Eugene mayor: Kitty Piercy. What do Jim Torrey, John McCain and Gordon Smith all have in common? They all try to hide their Republican roots at election time. Kitty inherited this pock-marked, Aster-holed downtown from Torrey's reign as mayor. Torrey is a pawn of the land speculators greedy for government tax bailouts to artificially enhance their downtown properties. Sound familiar, Wall Street? Torrey has never supported Democrats who support education; he has never supported adequate funding for fire and public safety. He yaps about police support, but adequate oversight never occurred to him when he was mayor. Don't be deceived.

Ballot measures (Cliffs Notes version):

- 54 – YES – Legislative referral: standardizes school board elections.
- 55 – YES – Legislative referral: fixes problem with redistricted legislators.
- 56 – YES – Legislative referral: fixes "double-majority" tax elections. Supporters: teachers, firefighters, librarians, mayors. Opponents: Bill Sizemore and Gary George. Any questions?
- 57 – YES – Legislative referral. This is a lesser-of-two-evils crime bill proposed to counter Measure 61 created by Kevin Mannix. If both measures pass, the one with the most votes is enacted. Measure 61 would devastate our state general fund, thus killing higher education, K-12 and human services funding. So if you vote against 57, make damn sure you vote against 61.
- 58 – NO – Prohibits teaching in any language but English. In a word: racist.
- 59 – NO – Unlimited tax deduction for federal income tax on Oregon tax returns. Like Measure 61, this would devastate our state general fund – killing higher education, K-12 and human services funding to give the wealthy another tax break.
- 60 – NO – Foggy teacher "classroom performance" supercedes seniority. Sponsor: Bill Sizemore. Any questions?
- 61 – NO – Harsher minimum prison sentences, no mechanism to pay for additional prisons. See Measure 57.
- 62 – NO – Allocates 15 percent of lottery for public safety. Sounds great, but then how do we pay for gambling addiction and mental health services and parks and economic development? Robs Peter to pay Paul.
- 63 – NO – Exempts \$35,000 in home improvements from building permits. Really stupid. Sponsor: Bill Sizemore. Any questions?
- 64 – NO – Permits cheating the public while making money off the initiative process. Sponsor: Bill Sizemore. (You gotta read his third-person rant in the Voters' Pamphlet ... poor man; sniff, sniff.)
- 65 – NO – Changes general election nomination process. This is not a time to give more power to wealthy members of the Republican Party. Phil Kiesling ought to be ashamed of himself.

Other contested races:

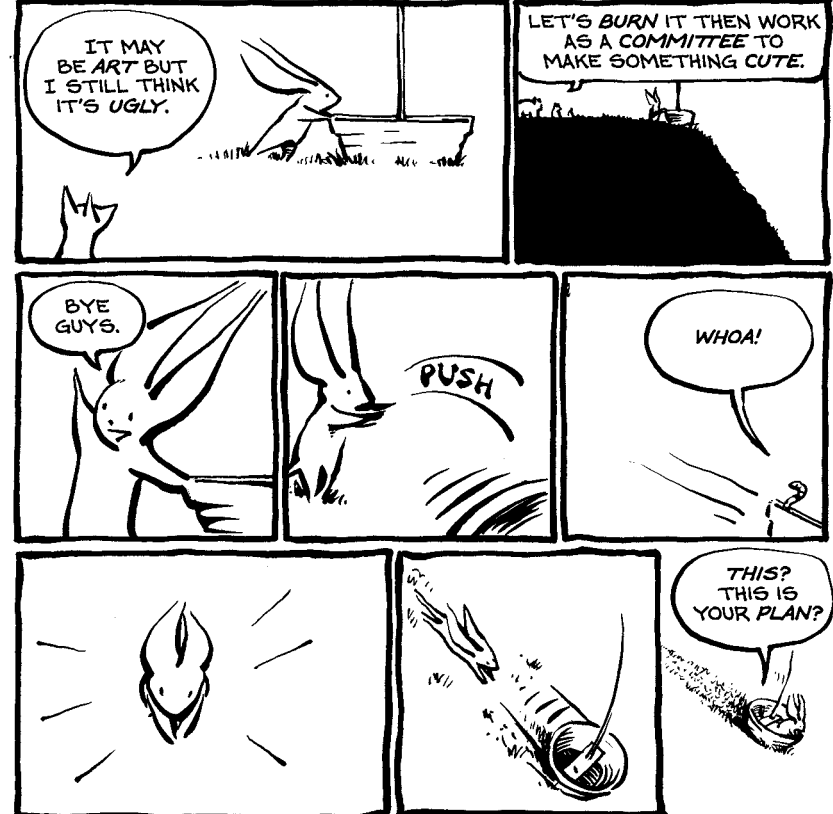
U.S. Congress, 4th District: Peter DeFazio. I've never been prouder of my friend than when he voted against the Wall Street bailout – even with the county timber money attached. A principled man.

Secretary of State: Kate Brown. State treasurer: Ben Westlund. Labor Commissioner: Brad Avakian. State Rep., District 7: Don Nordin. State Rep., District 9: Arnie Roblan. State Rep., District 12: Terry Beyer.



Tony Corcoran is a member of the state Employment Appeals Board and co-founder of the Hot Air Society of South Lane, Eugene, and Springfield (HASSLES). The views expressed herein are those of a private citizen of Oregon.

How to Be Happy (CUTIE ISLAND) by Shannon Wheeler



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ECONOMIC PROGRESS

Whoever says that environmental issues and economic progress do not go hand-in-hand just do not have the facts.

Fortune's "2008 Guide for Small Business" lists Eugene in the top 100 places to live and to start a small business.

The venerable magazine *Forbes* has listed Eugene 36th out of 200 best places for business and careers.

National Geographic's "Green Guide 2006" named Eugene as "America's number one Green City" being focused on sustainable business development.

No such honors came our way prior to the leadership of Mayor Kitty Piercy. Since taking office, Piercy has created an environment that brings all stakeholders to the table to build a healthy community with sustainable growth.

National recognition is proof of what we already know. Let's keep the momentum going by re-electing Kitty Piercy.

Frank T. King
Eugene

TORREY CARES

The Jim Torrey I know is a gentleman who is patient and compassionate towards the disenfranchised. He cares deeply for Eugene and the environment and is a balanced leader. This patient gentleman who understands "turning the other cheek" finally had to stand up and confront the opposition in a recent mayoral debate. Of course they have differences, but Torrey had enough of being called a liar and misrepresented in some ugly ways. He definitely stated his opinions and clearly gave his directions for our city as well as challenged Kitty Piercy. It was quite the spirited debate! It seemed odd to me that she needed to read her notes but Torrey spoke from his heart and head.

Once again I know why I will vote for Jim Torrey for mayor. His history of being a public servant is remarkable. Torrey's experience as a small-business owner, coach and mayor and reputation of working well with both sides of issues will help Eugene

through tough economic times ahead. People in the opposition have tried to portray Torrey as "Big Business," not concerned about the environment, wanting Eugene to "sprawl," and is swayed by money. Not true! Go to his website, visit his headquarters and talk to him. Unlike Piercy, who hired a consultant from Portland and had a fundraiser in Portland, Torrey is all local although many Lane County mayors endorse him. Torrey is a leader who will bring different groups together to move Eugene forward in a balanced and progressive way.

Nancy Harvey
Eugene

R-G SUCKS HOPE FROM LIFE

While local residents cling to the brink of hope for a better future with the probable election of Barack Obama, *The Register-Guard* extinguishes our hopefulness for a livable local community by endorsing candidates Jim Torrey and Bobby Green. These candidates stand for the same principles locally that the Bush administration imposed nationally: cronyism between corporate entities and politicians.

Mayor Kitty Piercy has led our city with integrity, graciousness and wisdom — making alliances across the broad community to foster efforts toward the common good. Piercy worked to resolve long-standing problems with long-term solutions, balancing people needs over pothole greed: homelessness; triple-bottom-line jobs to protect the environment, economy and family wage jobs; traffic problems; and dispute settlement (e.g., LTD).

Rob Handy has an enthusiastic citizen-powered campaign that is being ethically waged to elect him as the north Eugene county commissioner. He will change the direction of our county to meet our basic human needs.

It is clear that the big business community is fearful that they will no longer be able to get their policies passed when Piercy is reelected as mayor and Handy is our new