

and separated.

Nationally, Obama is the man to lead us away from fear and into courage that embraces all of us. He believes in — and will invest in — we, the people.

Locally, Piercy is the woman to continue creating a Eugene that is inclusive and moving forward. She believes in Eugene and its people. She has a positive vision that offers a blueprint to bridge our divisions. We need hope, not fear; belief in ourselves, not criticism; and pride in Eugene, not debasement. We need Piercy!

*Judy Moseley
Eugene*

CONCEALED FACTS

Joseph Lieberman's "Guns on Campus" article in the Oct. 9 issue is an editorial, not news. His implication that a concealed handgun license (CHL) makes one no less prone to violence is false. Numerous studies have shown that concealed license holders are five times less likely to commit a violent crime than nonlicensed individuals.

Also, the author fails to mention that it is legal for a CHL holder to carry concealed in any Oregon public school. That brings his deceptively low number of colleges permitting concealed carry up quite a bit.

Emergency/contingency plans are all well and good, but the facts remain that campus officials and police have a dismal success rate when it comes to stopping a shooting once it starts. On the other hand, the school shooting in Pearl, Miss., was stopped by an armed civilian.

If we're going to seriously discuss what will and will not make our children safer, let's at least have the decency to use facts, instead of opinions.

*Nick Chase
Eugene*

OUT OF TOUCH

"County picks and chooses which rules to enforce" (R-G, 10/12) notes that Bobby Green was one of the commissioners who forced a Junction City homeowner to remove a \$6,000 fence, even though it was safely set back from the roadway. What a waste of government time and money to pursue this issue! I want a county commissioner who will interpret county rules with the bottom line in mind: health, safety and welfare. To follow rules that make no sense is a waste of taxpayer money.

Bobby Green has been in office too long — he's lost touch with what really matters in government. In this election, I support Rob Handy for County Commissioner: he offers a new voice, one that understands that government should maximize resources by representing the people with compassion and understanding.

*David Simone
Eugene*

FEMININE QUALITIES

In several key races, candidates present fundamental choices regarding feminine versus masculine expression. This is far more important than we might think.

My reading of Sarah Palin is that she is almost entirely masculine. McCain is a close



second on the male scale. On the other hand, Obama expresses the most archetypically feminine qualities since Jimmy Carter: He listens, projects caring, is not afraid to ask for direction yet is not unduly subject to the male-values peer pressure of his handlers. Biden demonstrates these as well.

At such a crucial time, we should not be confused by apparent gender, by external packaging. The past 10,000 years have been dominated by patriarchal values bringing warfare and environmental destruction. Feminine qualities like persuasion, nurturance, ability to listen, responsiveness and life-promoting stamina — these have all been subject to ridicule and suppression when it comes to the "business of running things." Instead we have predominantly had leaders whose ideas of power and effectiveness are marked by verbiage such as "surge" and "bring it on."

Locally we have a sitting mayor whose actual abilities to work with all sides and sectors seem to have disoriented some traditional voters. Her opponent left a big mess after his two terms and belongs to the Good Ol' Boys network. Kitty Piercy, on the other hand, is in nobody's pockets.

Communication with un-moneyed constituents does not seem that important to Commissioner Bobby Green. I don't think contender Rob Handy ever played football, but he knows how to look you in the eye and be responsive. And he's a forward thinker.

*Vip Short
Eugene*

CHART A NEW COURSE

Where's your political compass?

The autumn sun casts long shadows pointing north. They stand out clearly against the harvest colors and remind me of the challenge we face as a people. We must find our north, again — or at least a political compass to chart a path out of this morass.

Our nation has an uneven history, "We the people hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal ..." was an inspired beginning. We have made progress, yet history records our own failings to steadily respect that maxim at home and abroad. The Bush years have now pulled us as far off course of our ideals as we have ever been. Torture and pre-emptive war stand as the epitome of our waywardness internationally. Widespread

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