



again did not include anything about vocal music. Perhaps you are not aware that Divisi, a prize-winning a capella group of a dozen UO women who can be heard around the nation and, most every Friday afternoon, on the UO campus. If you decide to list other winners, you can pick On The Rocks, the men's equivalent of Divisi, any number of church groups in town or the Cascade Chorus.

*Gil Campbell  
Eugene*

**TO BARACK**

I congratulate you and this country. This is an important moment preserving our government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Thank you for opening the doors of the Oval Office to all persons. Gone are the days when only an old white man has the chance to serve as president of the U.S. Thank you for providing us all with the opportunity.

I truly admire your courage, dedication, and perseverance, as well as that of the countless people who believe in you and your message of hope and change. Now that the election is over, the truly hard work begins — for you, for myself and my community, for all of us and our communities across this nation. May we all unite on that which brings us together, rather than focus on that which draws us apart. It is up to us all to create the change we seek. You cannot do it alone, but we can all do it together. Yes we can. We live in amazing times, difficult times, beautiful times, tragic times. And, there is hope.

My 2-year-old son said on his own accord, "Barack won." He is our hope. Your girls are our hope. All the children are our hope. Let us all strive to make this country great, this planet great for the children, their children, and for countless generations of children into our collective future. I hope your win is conformation of a new revolution, r-evolution, our evolution; one of love, peace, hope and prosperity for all.

*Indigo Ronlov  
Eugene*

**STUDENT ARREST**

The California branch of Change for Equality (a women's rights group in Iran) now has an opening for a researcher in Tehran. The former student vacated the position at the request of the state and was escorted to a notorious prison along the beautiful desert shores of central Iran.

There were no warrants and no charges, but her house was searched and she was relieved of some of her personal, you know what I mean, things. I don't understand how a people would tolerate such abuse on their visitors much less their own. It can't happen here, can it? After all we live in the land of the free ride and the home of the bravado.

*Vince Loving  
Eugene*

**TOO EARLY TO CELEBRATE**

I hear some Democratic pundits say that we should celebrate Democratic victories because real change is on its way. I think they really mean Americans should go back to their couch potato positions and sleepwalking lives so our new Democratic representatives can shirk their responsibility to enact real change.

I will celebrate when the new Congress and President Obama spend hundreds of billions of dollars on new passenger rail infrastructure throughout the nation instead of voting in 2009 to waste hundreds of billions on expanding petroleum dependent freeway systems.

I will celebrate when the federal government stops funding the logging and bulldozing of our publicly owned forests. These forests are the last best hope to curtail extinctions and slow global warming.

I will celebrate when governments abandon subsidies for food crop and forest bio-fuels as well as fuels from tar sands and "clean coal." The creation of these fuels is far more destructive than the benefits derived.

I will celebrate when our government spends more money on conservation and renewable energy infrastructure than is spent on building weapons of mass destruction and war.

I will celebrate when corporate lobbyist are outflanked by citizens demanding changes to assure American and the world's children that they will inherit a steady state economy and livable planet.

The only road to this reality is if average citizens force Senators, Congress, mayors, agencies, governors and President Obama through their collective shouting voices for real change starting now and for the rest of our lives.

*Shannon Wilson  
Eugene*

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