

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

is a former public school teacher. Piercy is an intelligent, college-educated woman whose main interests are inclusiveness and fairness. She doesn't do bullying and she doesn't do ass-kissing.

Torrey was "effective" for his buddies and beneficiaries (rich business people and big land owners) because he is one of them, and the managers in City Hall also belong to this group. The managers do what Torrey wants because Torrey wants the same things they do.

The reasons Kitty Piercy had difficulty winning re-election are 1) UO students, who voted overwhelmingly for Obama, did not vote in down ballot races, especially way down ballot where the mayor's race was, 2) Torrey's campaign controlled the media, in part because his supporters control the media, and in part by spending more than half a million dollars, and 3) Torrey lies about his record and makes false claims about his opponents.

Ann Tattersall
Eugene

up in a culture of playing sports. Many of my lifelong friendships developed playing sports. I learned the importance of teamwork and 100 percent effort. Issues of fairness and justice are dealt with. Playing sports requires cooperatively working with all sorts of people and personalities. And then there's the thrill of performing well if it's even for just one moment in a game.

As to Steve's implication that there's something "perverse" about sports, and that sports might be somehow responsible for gender politics, our bizarre political system and our military, let me point to two lives that contradict this notion. First, my own life: I had varsity letters in three sports in high school, and yet I became a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War facing two courts-martial. And second, Barack Obama greatly enjoyed playing pick-up basketball several times a week even throughout his incredibly busy campaign schedule. There is nothing perverse about sports or the people who play them.

Jack Van Dusen
Eugene

CULTURE OF SPORTS

A world without sports, as Steve Downey fantasizes (letters, 11/6), makes about as much sense as a world without music. Music is wonderful and mysteriously resonates deeply with human nature, but music is not without its sometimes-cutthroat competition and assorted jerks.

But I'm writing to sing the praises of playing sports. I was lucky to have grown

NO BLANK CHECK

I believe trust is earned. With what little trust the public has in our local county government, maybe it is time to remove some of the variables. People are tired of the annual sky is falling rhetoric, the idea that we must cut police and schools unless we raise taxes. This putting feet to the fire threat doesn't work.

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