

A MUZZLE ON LCAS COMMENTS?

Animal advocates almost didn't get a chance to tell the Board of Lane County Commissioners what they think of the plans to make major changes to the way the county deals with its stray pets. The public was allowed to comment April 5 at a commissioners' meeting, but only after Commissioners Rob Handy and Pete Sorenson made repeated requests to have the animal control issue added to the agenda.

Both Handy and Sorenson requested that the public be able to comment on the proposal that would change the way Lane County Animal Services (LCAS) is run. Proposed changes to LCAS include turning the running of the shelter over to a private contractor instead of having it as a public agency and moving the two remaining animal services employees to the public works department. County Administrator Liane Richardson said she devised the changes to LCAS in response to city and county budget cuts.

Members of the No Kill Community Coalition have expressed concern that the county process is moving too quickly and has lacked opportunity for community input. They also question why a member of the LCAS Advisory Board has not been included in the process. At the April 5 meeting Commissioners Sid Leikin, Jay Bozievich and Faye Stewart voted against Handy's proposal to review the request for proposals that is being sent out to private agencies wishing to take over the shelter.

Prior to the meeting, Richardson balked at the commissioners' request for public input on the proposed changes to LCAS, writing in an email to the board that the public work session that was requested would "violate budget law."

Richardson wrote that she copied County Counsel Alex Gardner on her reply, because "a budget violation is a serious matter."

Under Oregon law it is "probably not" permissible "for the commissioners to discuss services and imminent budget reductions," according to Gardner, who is also the county district attorney. However, commissioners can discuss issues such as changing LCAS in ways that are

unrelated to the budget.

Sorenson responded to Richardson's email by pointing out the need for the board to hold public discussions of topics that affect the county: "The board has held many work sessions on many topics, most of which eventually get around to money, and I'm not aware that these work sessions are anything other than informational." He wrote, "No one wants to do business in secret and no one wants to violate budget law."

Handy concurred, "This is why I asked for this issue to be put on our agenda for next week — so that we can consider, in public view, what is best." He added, "This email conversation should happen at the board meeting: Addressing, in public, why a public hearing is inadvisable now but that a work session may make sense."

The county budget itself will not be discussed until May. According to Gardner, Budget Committee members (which include the commissioners) cannot discuss the county budget "until several things have taken place," including the reading of the budget message, which Gardner said, kicks off the public budget process. The reading of the budget message is scheduled for May 1. Richardson will release her proposed budget April 24. The full budget timeline is at wkly.ws/18t

— Camilla Mortensen

TALK DIRTY TO THE EARTH

Former prostitute and porn star Annie Sprinkle has come out of the closet as an ecosexual. Sprinkle, a leader in the sex-positive feminist movement, will be coming to Eugene and leading an "ecosexy walking tour" from 3 to 4:30 pm Thursday, April 12, outside the EMU at UO.

To be an ecosexual is to blend ecology with environmentalism; it's less about Earth as your mother and more about planet as your lover. Sprinkle and her partner Elizabeth Stephens have "married" the Earth, the sky and the sea in performance art weddings, and Sprinkle says she is out to make "the environmental movement more sexy, fun and diverse."

Hardcore sex-positivism will meet hardcore environmentalism, also on April 12, when a group of experts, including Earth First!er Kim Marks, will be available from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm outside the UO's EMU Fishbowl to answer your sex questions as part of a free sidewalk sex clinic. Marks recently launched an ecologically oriented online pleasure shop, As You Like It.

The shop (asyoulikeitpdx.com) sells gender-inclusive,

environmentally friendly items that let lovers be "green between the sheets," including Eugene-based Good Clean Love's organic personal lubricants and sex toys that are phthalate-free.

Marks says, "As You Like It will be open to talk about body-safe products" at the sidewalk sex clinic. She says the clinic, "gives us safer place for people to ask questions about sex that they rarely get the opportunity to ask."

And if the environment turns you on, then the ecosexy walk will teach how to find your "e-spot," and "25 ways to make love to the Earth and stimulate your senses," according to information from Sprinkle. If you miss the Eugene walk, then you can head up to Portland on April 15 for a full-on ecosexy hike along the Clackamas River. Go to wkly.ws/18s for more info.

Once the ecosexual activities get students and other Eugeneans in the mood for Earth Day, they can check out the UO's Sustainability Center's "Earth Week 2012" with six days of events leading up to Earth Day, kicking off on Monday, April 16. The theme is "activating collective energy" and events include a zero-waste fair on April 18 and talks on coal trains, bikes and sustainable businesses. Go to wkly.ws/18r for a full schedule.

— Camilla Mortensen

RACISM IN THE KITCHEN

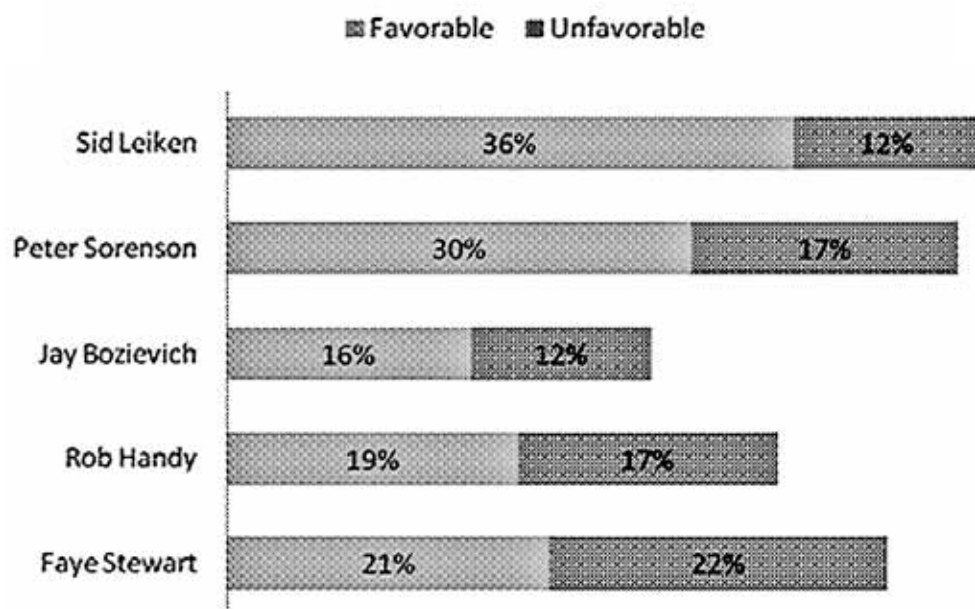
"If you've ever been on the receiving end of a speculum — it sucks," Breeze Harper said to a predominantly twenty-something audience at the UO on April 7. "But the speculum is this commodity that came out of the suffering of African American slavery."

The UC-Davis doctoral candidate, author, vegan and self-described black feminist scholar came to give the keynote address about food justice *à la* decolonial vegan politics and revolutionary black feminism for the 17th Annual Grassroots Environmental Justice Conference sponsored by the Coalition Against Environmental Racism (CAER).

Harper is the author of *Sistah Vegan: Black Female Vegans Speak on Food, Health, Identity & Society*, published in 2010. In her doctoral work she asks, "How is veganism as food justice affected by the lived experience of being a black, racialized, sexualized subject in the USA?"

Harper discussed the commodification of the black female body 200 years ago by Dr. J. Marion Sims (considered the father of American gynecology) who

Lane County Commissioner Favorability Ratings



COURTESY LINDHOLM COMPANY

POLL EYES COMMISH POPULARITY

Not only do Lane County residents know who most of their county commissioners are, they like the ones they know, according to a survey done by the Lindholm Company. Commissioners Rob Handy and Pete Sorenson, who are up for re-election, both scored well in the survey.

Sid Leiken, a former Springfield mayor and now county commissioner for Springfield, topped the list both in name recognition, 70 percent, and in favorability ratings, 36 percent favorable, 12 percent unfavorable. Leiken is not up for re-election this cycle and is the current chair of the board.

Sorenson also had a high score with a 68 percent approval rating and the second highest approval rating of 30 percent favorable and 17 percent unfavorable. Faye Stewart, who represents east Lane County, home to the controversial Parvin Butte gravel mine, had the third highest percentage in favorability ratings — 21 percent, but he also had the highest negative rating at 22 percent.

Rob Handy had more name recognition than Stewart — 62 percent to Stewart's 57 percent — and a 19 percent positive rating with 17 percent unfavorable.

West Lane Commissioner Jay Bozievich trailed the pack both in name recognition, 45 percent, and in approval ratings, with a 16 percent favorable rating and 12 percent unfavorable.

The survey consisted of 200 telephone interviews of a random sample of Lane County residents likely to vote in the 2012 General Election. The survey was conducted from Feb. 29 through March 2. The survey, and other surveys on local topics, can be found on the Lindholm Company blog at wkly.ws/18u

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