

RACIST CODE WORDS

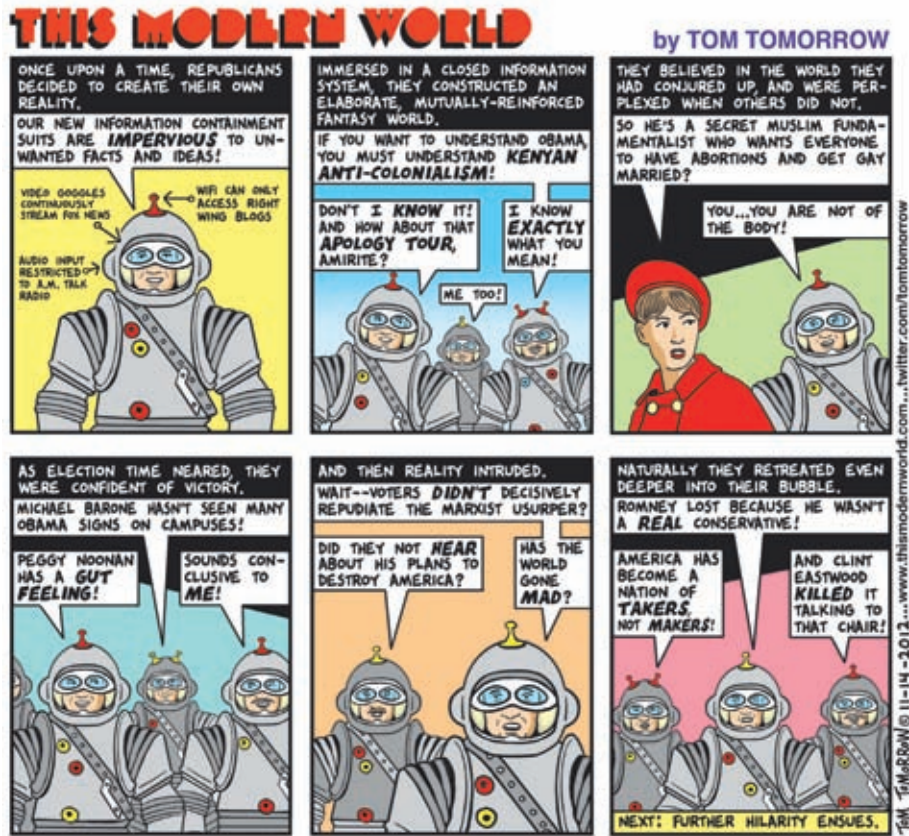
The election brought good news, not only because the candidates whom I supported did well, but because the process speaks well of us. The biggest money didn't always carry the day. And a campaign of racism, misogyny, gay-bashing and persecution of immigrants and the poor got its ass kicked.

See, my whole life I have thought that racism was fading away, that left alone it would decompose like dead leaves. So the "rebirth of American racism" we've seen in the last few years has been a shock. As Fran Leibowitz pointed out, "He's a Muslim," "He's a socialist," "He's not a U.S. citizen" are code words. They all mean "He's different, he's not 'one of us,' he's colored."

The effigy lynchings, the monkey pictures, the threats of violence are dangerous symptoms of a dark disease. The Republican campaign did nothing to challenge this, nothing to discredit it, and, in fact tried to cash in on it. But it didn't work.

NPR is complaining that after all that money spent, all that work, that nothing has changed, we have all the same players. I beg to differ. We have 20 women in the U.S. Senate. It's not parity, but it's closer than we've ever come before. Three states legalized universal marriage and another beat off a gay-bashing amendment. Welcome to the future. Starts now.

*William (Chico) Schwall
Eugene*



KNEE-JERK ASSUMPTIONS

As I was filling out my ballot, I did what I always do and checked EW's endorsements. While looking through the article on the Taylor/Valle race, I encountered two paragraphs that made me wonder if I should read anything else. I reproduce them here so that they

can be carefully examined with some commentary:

"Valle's campaign manager is former progressive councilor David Kelly, and his largest contributor (\$4,238) is Kelly's wife, Jane Kelly, but other donors contributing to his campaign are far less progressive.

"Development and real estate-related interests that have donated to

Valle include the Eugene Association of Realtors, developer Dan Neal, Anslow & DeGeneault, Inc., Bennett Management Company (commercial and large-scale apartment management), Jean Tate of Windermere Real Estate and real estate consultant Hubert J. Prichard."

The last clause in the first paragraph indicates clearly that what follows is a listing of the "far less progressive" donors to Valle's campaign. I guess we have to assume that anybody who owns or develops property is automatically "far less progressive" than somebody or other.

And yet, of the people listed that I know or have had contact with, Dan Neal produces some of the best built, most attractive, and most environmentally appropriate housing in the area. Bennett Management is headed by Rob Bennett, former city councilor, founding member of the Intergovernmental Housing Policy Board, forever an advocate and activist for affordable housing, and one of the prime motivators for the revitalization of downtown Eugene. Jean Tate has too many progressive involvements and good deeds in her career to even begin to list them, and is a founding board member of Metropolitan Affordable Housing, one of the primary nonprofit housing companies in our area. And then there's Hubert J. Prichard, who, I assume, is the same person everybody else on the planet knows as Hugh Prichard, longtime advocate for affordable housing, sensible urban planning and general progressive good

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