

efforts with Lane County is intriguing and might deliver multiple benefits including cost-savings and measurably better outcomes from better alignment between city and county priorities.

In establishing a new position to build community trust (sorely lacking lately at every political level, alas), the devil is always going to be in the details. How we do it will be critical to the success of this important venture.

We should be careful to avoid a rush forward willy-nilly to implement any one person's idea of how this should be structured.

I look forward to learning from other communities what has worked well (and hasn't), and exploring our community's options so I can participate in a rational discussion to select the best way forward for Eugene.

*Dawn Lesley  
Eugene*

### NO CITY PROBLEM

As far as I can tell, Bonny Bettman McCornack (Viewpoint, 6/29) is offering a solution to a problem we don't appear to have. She claims that there is escalating community distrust of city government, a claim backed up by nothing. This is the opposite of what I hear. In my experience most everyone I know is proud that our city government is so untainted by the kind of corruption that plagues other cities in our country.

This initiative only adds to the city bureaucracy and an already strained budget, and sows seeds of distrust and division in the community. This is an issue that needs to be discussed publicly and without rancor to determine if we really need an independent auditor or if there are other ways to proceed if we do need one. Narrowing the discussion to only one option is not good policy.

*David Funk  
Eugene*

### FOLLOW THE MONEY

We are getting wonderful news about the proposed civic performance auditor. The proposed initiative plans have undoubtedly caused this.

And thanks to the mayor's comments and the public meeting with Gary Blackman, the past elected performance auditor from Portland, many are recognizing the value of this service to the community.

We were close to getting that service 15 years ago from the city charter review committee. Apparently the independence of the auditor was still too threatening to certain key people in the decision making position.

Independence is the key word for the description of this office, as Lane County has discovered with the past three performance auditors. As with the police auditor of the city, the important issues are who will hire, fire and direct the research and recommendations of the auditor? Will the results

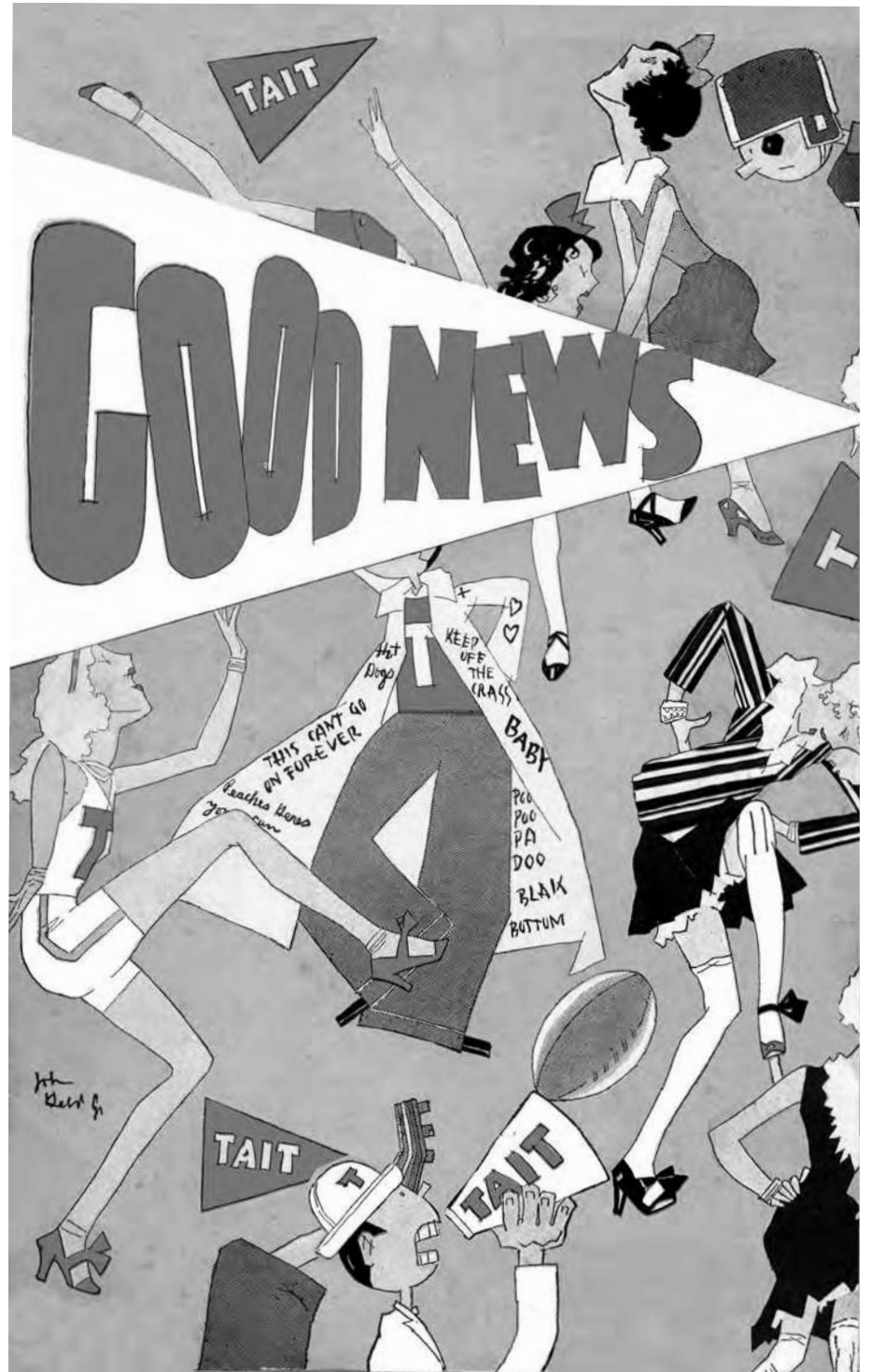
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