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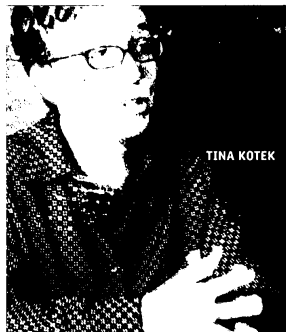
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COVER STORY



BEV BACKA



TINA KOTEK

**BEV BACKA**

**Democrat**  
**District:** South Lake Oswego, West Linn, Tualatin  
**If she could live another life, she'd be:** Penny Marshall.  
**Biggest donation:** \$2,500 from the Women's Investment Network.

Although incumbent Republican Scott Bruun earned only middling marks on our 2005 "The Good, the Bad and the Awful" survey, we found him to be charismatic, articulate and more willing than many to vote his conscience even if it irks his party—such as his stand for tougher car emissions standards. But he had a tendency to give long, less-than-specific answers to straightforward questions.

Meanwhile, Democratic challenger Bev Backa, a former marriage counselor, came to the interview well-prepared with a firm grasp of health care issues likely to be a major topic in the 2007 Legislature. She is a well-rounded candidate whose background includes real-estate development and helping her husband run a telephone and data-equipment installation company.

Libertarian David Akin, who refers to himself as "Joe Sixpack," was witty, affable and had no compunction about probing both his opponents on their views—but does not strike us as a viable candidate.

**House District 38**



GREG MACPHERSON

**REP. GREG MACPHERSON**

**Democrat**  
**District:** Lake Oswego and lower Southwest Portland  
**Biggest donation:** \$1,000 each from the Oregon Health Care Association and Oregon Soft Drink PAC.  
**Hidden talent:** Plays the bagpipes.

Macpherson might have sported the most expensive-looking suit in our rounds of endorsement interviews, but he's not just a pretty boy. He's proved willing during two terms in the House to tackle unglamorous tasks, such as reforming the state's pension system.

The Harvard grad and employee-benefits lawyer is also uniquely poised to address continuing land-use issues in Oregon. Raised on a dairy farm, Macpherson is the son of former Republican state Sen. Hector Macpherson, co-sponsor of Oregon's most important land-use legislation, Senate Bill 100, which established statewide conservation and development regulations.

Macpherson's Republican opponent, Fred Bremner, is an amiable sort (he handed his camera to our photographer so he could get a snapshot of him and Macpherson) who says Macpherson's support for putting pseudoephedrine behind the counter is simply "feel-good



MIKE CAUDLE



DIANE ROSENBAUM

**House District 39**  
**MIKE CAUDLE**

**Democrat**  
**District:** Canby, parts of Oregon City  
**Biggest donation:** \$6,000 from pollster Joel Wright.  
**Hidden talent:** Fantasy football. Caudle's campaigning interferes with his "team," but he brags that he's still 4-1 and trouncing tough competition.

Incumbent Republican Wayne Scott's been in Salem for only two terms, but he sure knows how the place works. He's the go-to guy for Philip Morris and the beer distributors, and he has been the recipient of more than \$50,000 from payday and title lenders in the past two years.

Scott screamed in outrage during a special legislative session this spring that placed new limits on payday lenders, and his most recent contribution reports show him raking in more than \$30,000 from the utilities, who are looking to roll back tax reforms.

Voters are lucky in this district that Scott's opponent would be a solid replacement: Caudle, an academic adviser at Clackamas Community College (he also was two-time student body president there before going on to be student body president at Oregon State). A pugnacious former high-school wrestler who coaches the sport at Gladstone High School, the 30-year-old Caudle also has a lengthy record of community volunteerism and has spent much of

the past two years exploring the vagaries of the healthcare system with a daughter who was born prematurely.

There's little doubt he's more in touch with the district than Scott, who acts as if he thinks his real constituency is the business lobby.

**House District 42**  
**REP. DIANE ROSENBAUM**

**Democrat**  
**District:** Inner Southeast Portland  
**Biggest donation:** \$2,000 from Oregon Health Care Association.  
**If she could live another life, she'd be:** Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Rosenbaum faces a contest in name alone. The Pacific Green Party's Jeff Cropp remains on the ballot but says he's too busy with his business to run an active campaign.

Cropp says Rosenbaum is "an intelligent person with good values." True. The four-term incumbent ranks high in our "The Good, the Bad and the Awful" survey for brains, integrity and diligence.

A self-described "unapologetic strong supporter of unions," Rosenbaum was justifiably proud last session of making sure mammograms continue to be covered by health insurance.

And don't be fooled by her low-key demeanor. When Cropp said in their endorsement interview there was little difference between the two major parties, Rosenbaum pushed back by noting that the last time the Democrats controlled Salem, the Oregon Health Plan was passed. Just listening to her made us nostalgic for an FDR fireside chat and a chorus of "Happy Days Are Here Again!"

**House District 44**  
**TINA KOTEK**

**Democrat**  
**District:** North Portland  
**Biggest Donation:** \$1,000 each from Oregon Nurse-PAC and Coalition for a Healthy Oregon.  
**Hidden talent:** Thanks to a blue-collar upbringing in Pennsylvania, Kotek is a serious kegler who owns her own ball, bowling shoes and, most impressively, a 180 average.

CONT. on page 34