

# Grown-up

**Marty Trillhaase/Lewiston Tribune**

CHEERS ... to former Bonner County Commissioner Cornel Rasor. Of all the people caught up in the feud between establishment Republicans and Tea Partiers, Rasor is the first to act like a grown-up.

While serving as parliamentarian at the GOP state convention, Rasor made a mistake.

On June 14, convention chairman Congressman Raul Labrador pointed out the conclave was set to conclude at 3 p.m., even though no officers had been elected and no platform had been adopted. Without a two-thirds vote to suspend the rules, the convention would adjourn.

Asked Labrador: Where would that leave Chairman Barry Peterson and other GOP officials?

Replied Rasor: They would retain their offices.

The convention adjourned and the GOP has been fighting over it ever since.

But Rasor failed to read a rule that specifically limited Peterson's term to two years.

"I missed that," Rasor told the Tribune's William L. Spence. "I didn't read all the pertinent sections."

No shifting the blame. None of this stuff about "mistakes were made." Just a straightforward statement of accountability. Fancy that.

JEERS .... to Eagle attorney Christ Troupis. In contrast to Rasor's scrupulousness, the failed Tea Party candidate for Idaho attorney general has pushed and pulled a legal doctrine to justify Peterson's hold on the Idaho GOP chairmanship.

Peterson is disputing GOP attorney Jason Risch, Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loeb, professional parliamentarian Jesse Binnall of Virginia, Republican National Committee chief counsel John Phillippe Jr., and now Rasor.

No matter, Troupis says. Delegates relied upon Rasor's mistaken interpretation. The doctrine of equitable estoppel means Labrador's ruling stands.

Sounds pretty persuasive - until you ask a lawyer or two.

Then you'll get a lesson in Equitable Estoppel 101 - which boils down to this: Equitable estoppel applies to agreements or contracts between individuals in which one party knowingly misleads another and damages him.

How does Troupis get from a contract to a political convention?

With the wrong facts, the wrong forum and the wrong legal reasoning, Troupis is telling Peterson what he wants to hear.

JEERS .... to Peterson. The GOP chairman may want to attend remedial Sunday school.

Peterson has called for an Aug. 9 GOP Central Committee meeting to resolve his status as party leader. In so doing, he likened himself to King Solomon.

"It seems to me that much can be drawn from the story of the two mothers who brought their claims before King Solomon," Peterson said.

In the story, the two women competed for one living child. Solomon offered to split the child in two. The woman who found that abhorrent was indeed the child's mother.

Which part is Peterson playing?

Wise, impartial King Solomon?

Or the spiteful woman who would have been satisfied to take half of a dead child?

CHEERS ... to Washington initiative entrepreneur Tim Eyman's financial backers. Or, make that Eyman's former financial backers.

Eyman has made a career of lining up money to pay professional signature gatherers to put his measures before the voters.

This year, Eyman's got a real stinker: Initiative 1325 would drop the sales tax 1 penny. It pulls about \$1 billion from a state budget that is struggling to follow the Supreme Court's McCleary decision to add several billion dollars to public education.

Call this extortion. Eyman's measure will restore the money just as soon as lawmakers pass his constitutional amendment requiring all tax measures to get a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate.

The filing deadline is Thursday and, so far, Eyman hasn't raised the money he needs.

Not from Kemper Freeman Jr., the developer who bankrolled Eyman's earlier initiative to block light rail from crossing Lake Washington.

Not from BP, Tesoro or the Beer Institute, who backed earlier anti-tax measures.

Whatever the reason for their reticence, it keeps a truly awful idea off the ballot.

JEERS .... to David Estes of Lewiston. Chairman of Taxpayers Against Unfair Taxation, Estes ran an advertisement last week that gets inside the minds of Lewiston School Board members and advances six steps ahead.

He accuses the board of moving ninth graders into the high school with the goal of building "an \$85 million high school to accommodate the 9th graders."

Says who?

Not only is the board undecided about replacing or renovating the 86-year-old building, but it just tore up its 11-year association with Hummel Architects, Lombard-Conrad Architects and Castellaw Kom Architects.

That's literally going back to the drawing board.

JEERS ... to former Congressman Richard Stallings, D-Idaho. Running for his old 2nd Congressional District seat against Republican Mike Simpson, he's blasting Simpson for opposing a boost in the federal minimum wage.

So far, so good. Idaho has an abundance of minimum-wage jobs. Speaking in Twin Falls Tuesday, Stallings then asked why Simpson would support a minimum wage increase in 2006 and 2007 under Republican President George W. Bush, and oppose one now under Democrat President Barack Obama.

"I don't know if this is racial or whether (because) he has a Democrat in the White House," Stallings said.

There's not one scintilla of proof in Simpson's 30-year political career to even hint at a racial motive. Stallings should be better than this. - M.T.