

## Jolin must face facts and pack her bags

Oregon politics grow more interesting every day. And though the characters we have elected are entertaining, they're not getting any work done.

If there was a poster child for being a disruptive element, the unanimous choice would be Sen. Peg Jolin, who holds the distinction of being the first convicted felon to serve in the Oregon Senate.

Jolin was convicted of lying to solicit contributions, but is appealing her conviction. Having added "convicted felon" to her resume, she was appointed as chairwoman of the Business, Housing and Consumer Affairs Committee. Who says crime doesn't pay?

Citizens of Cottage Grove, who Jolin now only marginally represents, have initiated a recall campaign after she refused to resign.

The recall campaign stands a chance of success, especially because Senate ethics rules prohibit members from raising campaign contributions while the Legislature is in session.

Meanwhile, Senate Republicans have proposed a constitutional amendment that would prohibit felons from serving in the Legislature. House Majority Leader Greg Walden supported the amendment saying, "The Capitol and the state penitentiary may be on the same street, but there ought to be only one building where you have to serve with felons."

Presumably, he means the penitentiary, but in Oregon politics you can never be too sure.

Jolin, for her part, is trying to turn this into a partisan issue, which in a way it is. Jolin, a Democrat, gives her party a 16-14 majority in the Senate, a slim margin that could be lost if she were recalled and possibly replaced by a Republican.

Jolin has accused Senate Republicans of being "extraordinarily vicious," and are not allowing her "due process that is guaranteed to every citizen of this country."

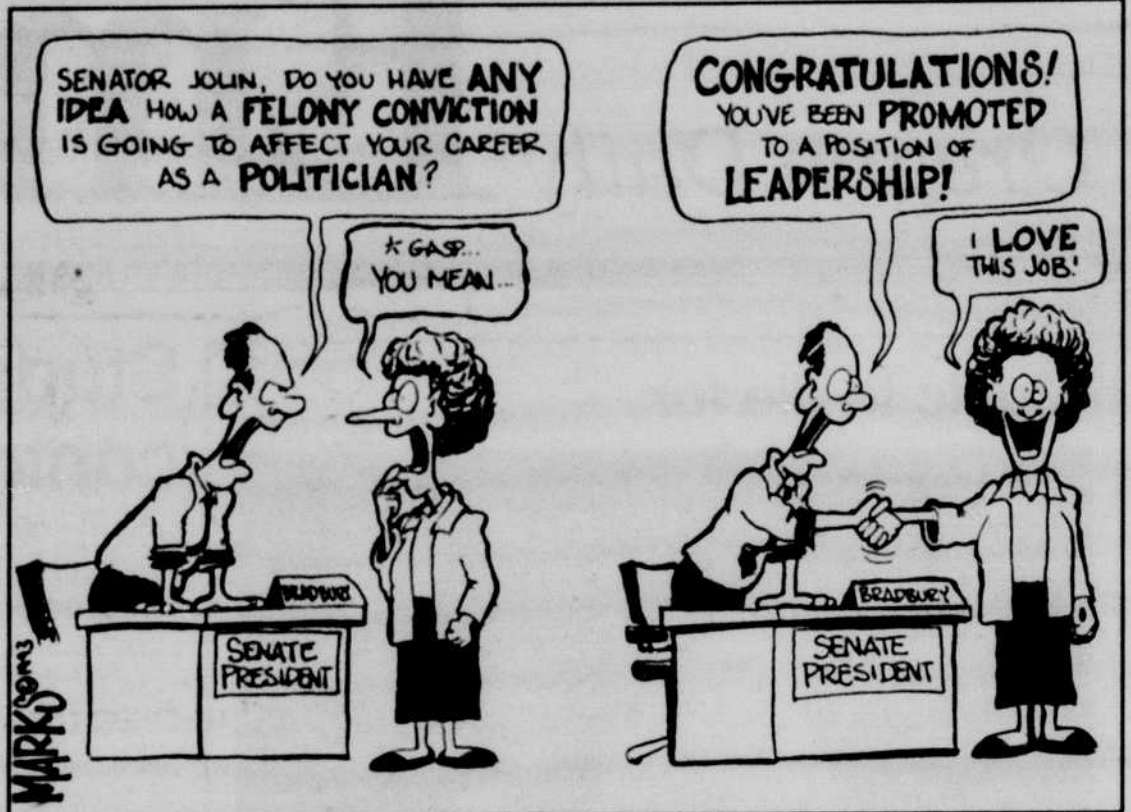
Jolin has apparently forgotten she already had her "due process" and was convicted. Although she is appealing, for now she is a convicted felon, a criminal, and should not be exempt from punishment because she is appealing her conviction.

Perhaps even more interesting is the reaction of Oregonians to Jolin compared to Sen. Bob Packwood. Packwood, who has been accused of sexual harassment, has not been convicted, or even charged, with any crime. Yet people feel obliged to demonstrate vigorously for his resignation.

At the same time, Jolin is virtually ignored by demonstrators who claim to want integrity in government, such as those who protested Packwood. Yet Jolin is a convicted felon, with emphasis on "convicted."

Could there be a partisan standard of conduct being applied here? It's acceptable for a Democrat to serve, even though she's a convicted felon, but it's not all right for a Republican to serve, regardless of the fact he's been convicted of nothing.

Whatever the reason, Jolin's presence has prevented the Legislature from getting on with its business. All cynicism aside, the Senate is truly no place for a convicted felon. Period.



## COMMENTARY

# KWAX needs community base

by George Beres

**K**WAX, the University's powerful radio voice, is a mixed blessing, even for classical music buffs.

The University public radio outlet is an island of classical music in a contemporary music country. Even as an oasis for the thirsty classical ear, KWAX is in danger of playing nothing but redundant classical Muzak that creates as much disappointment as satisfaction in listeners.

The latest evidence was the station's Christmas announcement that in 1993, it no longer would carry one of the rare programs in its packaged repertory having an Oregon link. "St. Paul Sunday Morning," hosted by former Eugene Symphony conductor Bill McGlaughlin, had to be dropped.

One can't argue with the reason: The money isn't there to maintain network affiliation for the show. But implications go beyond money. They suggest station management and the University are increasingly content to be part of the jungle of depersonalized network music.

The skills of announcer Caitriona Bolster can only go so far. Her voice and understanding of classical programming is the sole buffer between KWAX and complete personal sterility. Her value was reflected by her selection last year by Robert Conrad, of the Cleveland Orchestra, to be the National Public Radio "voice" for a national series of Mozart concerts.

There's irony there. Because of Bolster's voice — albeit supplied by satellite from a distant point back East — the packaged network series on Mozart had a local identity when broadcast over KWAX, as once did the McGlaughlin program.

But the balance of the KWAX broadcast schedule depends on the music library and computerized programming — good to listen to up to a point, but lacking the personal character a self-respecting radio station owes its audience.

But when it comes to steering

an intelligent course through classical programming, Bolster is a minority of one on the KWAX staff and in the administration that oversees it.

These are tough financial times for KWAX, as elsewhere. The University's most attractive outreach into the community, it has to generate its own funds through listener support. Does a full schedule of network shows enhance these efforts? Doubtful. As canned programming dehydrates its image, it restricts its fundraising options.

There's no argument that classical music should be its focus. But the great problem with KWAX is its failure to exploit its location, to develop public affairs programs that tap expertise of the University's top professors.

A one hour public affairs program out of a weekly broadcast schedule of 168 hours would enable campus authorities to comment on relevant issues, giving KWAX some variety and national significance.

For example, Jim Klonoski, in political science, and law school Dean Dave Frohnmayer could express lively insights into the Sen. Bob Packwood controversy, and on implications of ex-President George Bush's Christmas Eve pardon of figures in the Iran-Contra scandal.

Ron Wixman, of the geography department, could give listeners an understanding of Eastern Europe and the Balkans in ferment that he has long shared with the federal government. John Baldwin, in Planning, Public Policy and Management, started the new year with another trip to Chernobyl and could provide perspectives on how that peacetime nuclear tragedy might have potential parallels in the United States.

Music Dean Anne Dhu McLucas is a potent new resource who could light up the airwaves with comments on a Eugene music scene currently in a state of major transition. Many others on campus are qualified and articulate enough to reach out

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and stimulate the community over the airwaves.

The potential for good — and for a good sound — also can be fed by experts in the community who often share their insights on campus. Among them: Paul Slovic, head of the Decision Research think tank; Reza Behnam, director of Eugene's Institute for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies; and a wide spectrum of internationally known athletic figures such as jogging guru Bill Bowerman.

That programming could help foster significant new financial support from listeners.

It also would fill another important role — meeting public service responsibilities implicit in a campus having a radio frequency. That commitment has received only lip service at KWAX.

"Read my lips" may have been the byword of a retiring president, but as a new administration is likely to graft fangs onto a Federal Communications Commission Bush and his predecessor made toothless, KWAX may be forced to give higher priority than lip service to public affairs, as well as to music with a local identity.

Better that the change come from enlightened self-interest and concern for the community than because the federal "big daddy" says so.

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