



Rosenthal, author of more than a dozen books on marijuana, was convicted in February in federal court of cultivating marijuana in a controversial case that has attracted national attention. Rosenthal was operating legally under California's medical marijuana law passed by voters in 1996. He had authorization from city officials in Oakland California to provide marijuana for medical patients through local dispensaries.

During his trial, U.S. District Judge Stephen Breyer would not allow any evidence of medical use to be introduced. When the jurors in the case discovered, after the conviction, that Rosenthal had been providing medical marijuana for patients, they apologized for convicting him and demanded a new trial.

Rosenthal and his team of attorneys are still fighting to get a new trial or to appeal the original verdict. Rosenthal faces a mandatory five-year sentence.

**GLOBAL MIDWIFERY**

The U.S. has a high infant mortality rate and a low reliance on midwives. Is there a connection?

Elise Hansen and Georganne Clark, both direct-entry midwives practicing in Eugene, will give an informational talk in honor of International Midwives' Day, Sunday, May 4, from 2 to 4 pm at the Eugene Public Library. Hansen and Clark have been involved in the birth community here for the last five years.

"The idea of a day to honor and recognize midwives first came out of an International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) conference that occurred in the Netherlands in 1987," says Clark. "The day was first observed on May 5, 1991 and has been recognized ever since in over 50 countries around the world."

Clark explains that midwifery has a greater following internationally than it does here in the U.S. "Worldwide, greater than 80 percent of babies are born into the hands of midwives," she says. "In the U.S., this number is dramatically less — about 8 percent. We have significantly fewer numbers of midwives practicing, which in turn reduces the number of women who have access to midwifery care."

Currently the U.S. is 27th in the world with relation to infant mortality (compared with other developed countries). Clark says, "Maternal mortality rates in the U.S. place us 15th in the world overall, and these rates have not improved in the last 20 years, despite increasing amounts of technological involvement in birth. Many of the nations that have much lower rates of infant and maternal mortality rely heavily on midwives."

For more information, contact Clark at 242-3601. — *Bobbie Willis*

**WENDOVER UPDATE**

The Eugene Planning Commission is expected to vote this week to approve a new 19-unit housing development at the end of Wendover Street in north Eugene. Neighbors have been fighting the development, objecting to the destruction of trees, riparian wildlife habitat and fertile farmland.

Half of the nine-acre parcel owned by the Huling family has been earmarked for purchase by the city for parkland, says neighbor Kevin Jones. Part of the land "was two feet under water in '96 and six feet under water in '64, and the additional runoff of a road and 19 large roofs and driveways is of great concern to the neighbors," says Jones. "If there weren't a win-win solution in sight, I'd save my breath, but there is."

Jones and other members of the Seacon Park Neighborhood Association are calling for a smaller "clustered subdivision with less paved surface, and leaving the majority of the land open for growing food for our county's residents." Jones says the group can raise \$300,000 to buy the developable land.

For more information, call 461-3798 or see *EW* archives for Sept. 19, 2002. — *TJT*

**FIRE SALE**

The city of Eugene has three old fire stations up for sale. Bids are due by May 30. You can walk through the stations May 7. Call Jeff Norman at 682-5072 for information.

**THE ROOZIES**

**CINCO DE MAYO**  
John Henry's • 9pm • \$4 cover  
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I Can Lick Any SOB. in the House  
Los Pistas Mexicanos Del Norte

**SLANT**

• Dennis Taylor, Eugene's new city manager from Billings, Mt., showed up for work in April. Will he last longer than Vicki Elmer, the only other outsider hired to run the city bureaucracy in three decades? Taylor will have smooth sailing until he tries to tackle some of the city's serious issues such as sprawl, pollution, downtown dol-drum and contracting of city legal services. We wish him well in the challenges ahead. His first big chance to shine or flop will be in hiring a new police chief – will we get true community policing or a continuation of the heavy-handed, intimidating and alienating police tactics that have plagued the EPD for years?

• President Bush has shown little finesse dealing with foreign policy, burning diplo-

matic bridges around the world. Looming ahead are complex challenges in reconstructing Iraq, leftover issues smoldering in Afghanistan, the unresolved Palestine issue, and staggering economic and social problems at home. Alas, we can look forward to more simplistic policies that defy logic as they advance an ultra-conservative agenda. Let's hold accountable progressives and moderates who go along with this agenda, and campaign to dump Bush and the GOP in 2004.

• Conservatives have been saying for years that we're taxing ourselves to death. They're wrong, according to an Oregon Center for Public Policy study showing that state taxes as a share of income have remained flat for 20 years.

*SLANT includes short opinion pieces and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, or e-mail editor@eugeneweekly.com*

**WEBSITINGS**

• **Dress 'm Up Dubya**  
[www.oddcast.com/vhost/bush/host.php?id=1](http://www.oddcast.com/vhost/bush/host.php?id=1)  
Arguably the funniest George W. site on the web right now, unless you love our prez, in which case it's the most idiotic and disrespectful site on the web. Needs Flash plug-in.

• **O'Neill's Bali**  
[www.BaliBlog.com](http://www.BaliBlog.com)  
A one-stop travel guide for Bali and a Daily News section – written by former Eugene resident Nick O'Neill – following the trials, tribulations and daily life in this unique part of the world.

• **Write to Free**  
[www.freefreenow.org/support.html](http://www.freefreenow.org/support.html)  
A new site to support Jeffrey "Free" Luers, currently serving 22 years in the state pen for burning SUVs. Info on how to write to him, read his essays, help with his appeal costs, etc.

• **Impeach Bush**  
[www.votetoimpeach.org/](http://www.votetoimpeach.org/)  
Includes Ramsey Clark's draft articles of impeachment, historical notes and an e-mail message to send to lawmakers.

*Websites is a list of useful and sometimes quirky web sites. Care to contribute to the list? Send suggested sites and a short description to editor@eugeneweekly.com*

**KONA DEMO DAYS**  
Saturday, May 3, 9AM-1PM  
& Sunday, May 4, 10AM-2PM

FOR MORE INFO,  
CALL 344-4150

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photos: George Drafter, Bruce Barrett