

rarely seizes homes — bad publicity — they usually go after cash.

We now live in a rogue state that is attempting to rule the world. Most of our presidents, representatives and senators are bought. More sacrificial forms of resistance may be necessary if we are to help bring it down.

*Charles Gray
Eugene*

OPEN COMMUNICATION

I was surprised and disturbed by the lack of response to the *EW*'s lengthy article concerning Clear Channel, the FCC and media manipulation. On June 2, the FCC plans to pretty much do away with any regulation on media, and if you think it doesn't affect you, think again. It will effectively eliminate the First Amendment by having all the media controlled by a powerful few who will have almost total control over what information you get on radio, TV and in print — and when the government gets control of them, there will be no free press. Members of Congress from both parties have written to the FCC alarmed by it intentions.

Consider this: Michael Copps, one of the FCC's committee members is actively being discouraged from his investigation by Chairman Michael Powell (son of Colin Powell). Powell is denying requests for more public forums on this controversial ruling. The mainstream media is not reporting on this issue for the simple reason that they stand to gain an enormous amount of unfettered power as a result of the ruling.

Barry Diller, CEO of USA Interactive and one of the media giants, recently gave a speech in which he warned of the consequences of this deregulation including the loss to public service, the stifling of new and independent voices, and the power these few media owners will have over the people who regulate them. As it is now, five companies control 90 percent of the media.

I urge everyone to contact the FCC at www.fcc.gov and inform them that the airwaves are owned *by the public*, not the media companies and it is the duty and obligation of the FCC to act in the public interest not the corporate ones.

*Alisa McLaughlin
Eugene*

LA IDIOTA

I was up in Babylon, so I didn't see the *Weekly* until coming back down-valley on Saturday, but your cover title (5/1) jarred. Y'all talk Spanish like our *el presidente Arbusto* himself! (And he talks it real good). Try "La Lengua" nex' time, eh?

*Ricardo Martin
del Valle*

NUMBER CRUNCHING

Let's see, last fall we had 58 law enforcement officers, an armored vehicle and National Guard presence to encounter four unarmed suspects in a marijuana operation that didn't exist. In April, 30 EPD officers, 14 police cars and eight motorcycles were deployed to cite 10 people for disorderly conduct when they walked to support a tree sitter.

So why is it that we can only afford one teacher to guide 30 elementary school students through a whole day of learning? Can it be that we have a problem with priorities?

*William Schwall
Eugene*

NO ENDORSEMENT

I am pleased to know that The *R-G* endorses Michael Rose for the LCC Board of Education. But sadly, it does not endorse Roger Hall, and neither does Lane Community College Education Association (LCCEA). According to the postcard I received from LCCEA, Lane's faculty "strongly endorse" Marston Morgan. I am taking this opportunity to say that *this* Lane faculty member does not endorse Marston Morgan.

Mr. Morgan would "radically expand class size and use teaching assistants where feasible to boost academic offerings." I have two questions about this plan: How does he expect to adhere to the workload that is dictated by our faculty contract, and how does he propose to use "teaching assistants" in a community college teaching format? We already employ far too many underpaid part-time faculty. Mr. Morgan seems to confuse the community college format with a university format.

The *R-G* writer states that Dr. Hall's decision to run again was "last minute." I find the "late hour" decision irrelevant. Couldn't it be that Roger Hall's decision to run again came after much deliberate contemplation, that he decided to continue his dedication to the college because of current challenges?

Our crisis at Lane is about state funding; it is not about leadership. Let's keep our excellent board leaders for another four years: Roger Hall and Michael Rose, two men who have served us well and will continue to do so, we can be sure. We need these experienced and committed leaders to help us through our budget crisis and into the future.

*Karen Locke
Eugene*

LES MISERABLES

Greedy Americans — lusting after Iraqi oil, while knowing nothing of their own past — should not be too hard on the French. France sent thousands of soldiers to America to help the Revolutionary Army conquer the British tyrants. The French Navy trapped the British Army at Yorktown to make it possible for coalition forces under Washington to end the war. France provided approximately 80 percent of the powder used by the Americans in an effort to overthrow the British government by force and violence.

Without the French, Americans would still be singing, "God Save the Queen." Without any sense of history whatsoever, the Americans of 2003 find themselves roughly in the position of the German people in 1983.

*Jack Radabaugh
Eugene*

GRANNY TOUGH LOVE

The only problem with the Eugene Police and Interagency Narcotic Enforcement Task Force (Letters, 4/24) is they don't have enough grandmothers on staff. Yes, I said grandmothers.

Grandmothers are the only ones who care a great deal about the younger generation — but are still very *firm*! One grandmother could accomplish in one hour what it took law enforcement a week and hundreds of man hours to accomplish. Ten to 20 percent of all law enforcement agencies should be grandmothers

*Frank Skipton
Veneta*

Endorsements

School candidates on the May 20 ballot. Please vote!

Below are our picks among the contested races on the May 20 mail-in election for Lane Community College and Eugene public schools board positions. Ballot drop-off sites are listed in the ballot envelopes for last-minute voters.



LCC Board Zone 1

Rich Cunningham. Zone 1 stretches from the Bethel area of Eugene west to Florence. Cunningham is a Bethel insurance broker and father of two disabled children. He has experience serving on a school board in Rhode Island and has made strong, but unsuccessful runs for the Eugene City Council and Bethel School Board. In his campaign, Cunningham has called for increased efficiency to address the college's deep budget problems but has also advocated increasing revenue through reducing video poker commissions paid to businesses and through a county vehicle registration fee. He spoke out against opponent Rob Spooner's idea to cut women's programs at LCC to save money.

Spooner is the owner of *Oregon Coast* magazine and a Florence conservative. Cunningham's other opponent, Paul Holman, is a conservative real estate broker, former owner of the *Siuslaw News* and former Florence Chamber of Commerce president. Cunningham is a moderate endorsed by the local Democratic Party, County Commissioner Peter Sorenson and, us.

LCC Board, Zone 2

Nadia Sindi. As a member of the Lane County Human Rights Advisory Committee, the Citizen Involvement Committee and the 4J Equity Committee representing Middle Eastern students, Sindi has proven herself an impassioned representative. Sindi is committed to opening the lines of communication between LCC students, faculty, and staff as they negotiate solutions to the current budget crisis. This emphasis on communication and Sindi's dedication to increasingly important issues of diversity make her our pick for Zone 2.

LCC Board, Position 6

Roger Hall. His experience is critical at this tough time. Three different boards have elected Hall chairman over his 12-year service on the LCC board. Other candidates may claim "new" ideas, but the ideas should be examined for viability. It takes time and work to figure that out. Hall is endorsed by Demo party of Lane county, American Federation of Teachers of Oregon, and LCC Employees Federation.

LCC Board, Position 7

Mike Rose. A faculty member at LCC for 29 years, Rose knows the college inside out. He has served carefully on the board for four years. We're lucky to have his perspective at this time when the state continues to irresponsibly shred public education.

Eugene School District 4J, Position 5

Tom Herrmann. He ran for the board two years ago and lost. After that defeat, he could have picked up his marbles and gone home, but he has continued the grinding work of the budget committee, now for a total of five years, the last two as chair. We're in favor of moving his expertise up to the next level. We also want to suggest that Curt Smith, the other candidate for position 5, apply for the budget committee with an eye to the future.



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