

• Police Chief Robert Lehner will be talking to Eugene City Club at 11:50 am Friday at the Hilton and his topic will be community policing. What's going to be on everyone's mind is the Roger Magaña case, but don't expect the chief to talk about specifics since civil litigation is pending. Lehner has walked into a rat's nest of police misconduct and unaccountability that likely exceeds anything exposed in the Magaña trial. Lehner is fortunate that the scandals have not happened on his watch, and he appears to have the skills and sensitivity to reform the department and foster better relations with the community. But talking nice isn't enough.

Our mayor needs to call for a blue ribbon committee to investigate police abuse to prevent it from happening again – not to mention saving the city many millions in future lawsuit settlements. Our City Council needs to refer to the voters an independent police review board. (It will pass this time.) And we all need to recognize the Lara/Magaña cases as compelling arguments for an independent city auditor. All the arguments that the city is running just fine have flown out the window.



• The end of June brings regime change in Iraq, sort of, but since the U.S. is building extensive permanent military bases in Iraq we can expect insurgency and deaths to continue until we no longer occupy the country. Meanwhile, what's happening at home the end of June has much more significance to us, and it's getting few headlines. The financially strapped Oregon Health Plan is closing to new adult enrollments as of July 1, which means we will see thousands more Oregonians not getting early intervention health care, and turning to expensive emergency rooms for delayed treatment of illnesses and injuries. The public pays, one way or another. But slashing funding for basic public health programs is both socially and financially irresponsible. It's easy to blame tax-weary voters for this tragedy, but where do voters get their information? From the mainstream media who give us huge headlines about "Iraqi sovereignty," from conservative talk show hosts who endlessly exaggerate "welfare abuse," and from our legislative leadership in both Salem and Washington who choose to ignore the basic needs of the populace.

• Looks like Nader's giving everybody a wedgie. Dems are squirming in anticipation of a 2000 redux, and GOPers are chaffing over the idea that Nader *won't* get on the ballot to steal votes from Kerry (Rs in Oregon are signing Nader petitions hoping to divide and conquer). What's different this time around? In 2000 a lot of

folks, including Nader, were pushing the idea that Bush and Gore were indistinguishable. But this election, Bush has a distinct – and downright disturbing – track record that provides clear choices to anyone who's paying attention. We love Nader and his ideals, but he's dead wrong



to continue lumping Bush, Gore and now Kerry in the same camp. Stop jerking our shorts, Ralph.

• If you want to stay at one of the comfiest and most scenic hotels on the Oregon Coast, you better not own a Hummer! Ocean Haven, located south of Yachats on Hwy. 101, says no to these oversized

gas-guzzlers in their parking lot. They've already turned away one guest since they put the rule into effect this year, stating that some money just isn't worth taking; you have to care about the world if you wanna enjoy their luscious digs. To enjoy Ocean Haven's scenic overlook, call (541) 547-3583 or go to www.oceanhaven.com Any suggestions for other businesses that are taking a stand for the environment or social justice? Call Ben at 484-0519 or e-mail cal@eugeneweekly.com

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

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