

VOTE BY MAIL FRAUD FOUND IN 15 STATES

Has vote by mail opened up Oregon to voter fraud? *The New York Times* reported on its front page Sept. 13 that officials are concerned about mail-in ballot fraud.

Mail ballots raise the prospect of partisans purchasing or coercing ballots marked the way they want or collecting ballots from voters in neighborhoods that support their opponent and then destroying or altering them. Prosecutors have brought cases charging fraud with mailed absentee ballots for incidents in at least 15 states, the paper reported.

Six states require witness signatures for mail-in ballots, 10 states prohibit political operatives from collecting ballots and eight states require the identification of people who help a voter complete a ballot, the *Times* reported. Oregon does not have any of these safeguards, but county clerks do try to verify signatures. — Alan Pittman

SUSTAINABILITY CONFAB IS DOWNTOWN SEPT. 23

Eugene and the UO will host a one-day conference on "Making Sustainable Development Work: Real World Applications for Eugene-Springfield and Lane County" from 8:30 am to 5 pm Thursday, Sept. 23 at the UO Downtown Baker Center on High Street. Fee of \$15 includes lunch. Early registration is recommended as space is limited.

Joining local city and UO officials in the conference will be Kitty Piercy and mayors and staff from the cities of Burlington, Vt., Olympia, Wash., Fort Collins and Boulder, Colo., Missoula, Mont. (invited), and other communities.

Agency directors from the Sustainable Jobs Fund in Vermont, the AceNet economic development agency in Georgia, and Shorebank

Enterprise Pacific in Washington State will talk about the specifics of their sustainable development programs and answer questions about the costs and benefits for government, business, and the community at large.

The conference will focus on municipal level sustainable development programs; local sustainable business retention and expansion programs; and local climate change programs (which are linked with business development). Considerable time will be available for dialogue and question and answers.

For registration information visit <http://cwch.uoregon.edu/conference> or call (800) 824-2714 or 346-4231.

MARCHÉ TO FEED NEW ART MUSEUM CROWD

Eugene's acclaimed Marché restaurant, where Sen. John Kerry dined recently, will operate a café in the renovated Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the UO beginning in October, several months prior to the museum's scheduled grand opening Jan. 23.

The 33-seat café will be open from 9:30 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday until the museum reopens, and then will be open seven days a week with extended hours on Wednesdays to 8 pm and from 11 am to 4 pm on weekends. Visitors can enter through the museum's new south courtyard.

Owner of Marché is Stephanie Kimmel and Marché Museum Café manager will be Leah Pearl.

The "Museum of Art and Marché are a perfect match," says museum Director David Turner in a prepared statement. "Stephanie's reputation has been built on the highest standards of quality, presentation and service. We share the same values."

Turner says he expects the café to become "a destination for university and community members."

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TIMES, VENUES SET FOR ELLSBERG, ET AL

A Northwest tour with Daniel Ellsberg, Medea Benjamin and Norman Solomon has settled on times and places (see story last week).

The tour will reach Eugene Saturday, Sept. 25, for three events beginning with panel talks from 2 to 4 pm at the LCC Performing Arts Hall. The public is also invited to join the three speakers for a light dinner/dessert/reception from 5 to 7 pm at Cozmic Pizza (8th & Charnelton) where war heroes Ellsberg and Dr. Eugene Lazowski will receive Peace Awards. The \$20 tickets



DANIEL ELLSBERG

for the event include admission to a 7:30 pm panel discussion moderated by Alan Siporin at the First United Methodist Church at 1376 Olive St.

Sunday, Sept. 26, in Salem, Ellsberg and Solomon will speak at 7 pm at Cone Chapel in Waller Hall on the Willamette University campus. On Monday at 7:30 pm, Solomon and Ellsberg will visit OSU in Corvallis and speak in the LaSells Stewart Center. On

Tuesday, Sept. 28, the three speakers will visit campuses in Portland including a public event at PSU beginning at 7 pm in the Smith Center Ballroom.

SLANT

• Here are a few of the one-liners John Edwards for veep tossed to a crowd of Oregon donors Tuesday afternoon at the Benson Hotel in Portland: "George Bush thinks he's Ken Lay and America is his Enron." "Bush and Cheney are continuing their proud tradition of division." "Would be good for the American economy to outsource this administration." "Bush's health care plan has been to pray you don't get sick." "Every single vote counts and every single vote must be counted" "We're going to win because we have to." Edwards left the Benson to the upbeat sounds of Blues Brothers "Soul Man" and headed to the next round of donors in the next swing state.

• Eugeneans in effect thumbed down Mayor Torrey's agenda last May when they picked Kitty Piercy over Nancy Nathanson, so it would make sense for Torrey to back off on his pet projects. Instead, what we will more likely see is a mad rush to do as much damage as possible before he turns over the office keys to Piercy. One example is the big push from the mayor is to get a memorandum of understanding signed with ODOT regarding the city contributing to the cost of the West Eugene Parkway.

It's peculiar that Torrey would even think of signing such a document in light of his earlier statements (even in paid advertising) that "the money is there ... all of it" and that the project will not cost Eugeneans anything – arguments that helped persuade citizens to (barely) pass a measure in 2001 supporting city efforts to pursue the highway project.

• Did anyone else do a double-take in Monday's (9/13) belated front page *R-G* story on campaign contributions? The headline, subhead and first three paragraphs are all about local Republicans contributing to Bush, but the list of big donors below includes Democrat state Rep. Phil Barnhart donating \$15,750. If you re-read the fourth and fifth para-



graphs you will see the story shifting to include Kerry donations. We asked Barnhart's office if they got any feedback. "We received several phone calls on the article," says Barnhart staffer Sally Nunn. "People were confused; some offered to write letters after confirming that Phil was not a closet Republican donor."

• Speaking of the *R-G*, we hear the "Run Jim Run" full-page ad in late August that included the name "Phukyoo Gymn" ran uncorrected not only once, but twice. We are told the mayor did not find the fake name funny either time. Also, we wondered how big a donation it took to get on this long list. Usually that's how grass-roots groups pay for thousand-buck ads. Turns out it's free for the signers. The names came from e-mail responses. And one signer told us he really doesn't support Torrey, he just likes to see Eugene politics "stirred up."

• City Club is back in session after an August break and some good speakers are in the queue. Rob Hankins, the city's visionary new cultural services director, takes the mic this Friday; Joan Pierson is pulling together a lively program on "Dying in Eugene" for Sept. 24. Anyone can sit in the audience for \$3 or buy lunch, but membership dues are getting a bit spendy these days (\$55 for the first year, \$125 thereafter). We hear a scholarship fund has been set up for lower-income people who would like to be active in the club. It's all confidential. Visit www.cityclubofeugene.org for information.