

news Briefs



WILLAMETTE WARM, POOPY

The Willamette River has reached its limit in the amount of warm, pooppy pollution Eugene sewers and others have dumped into it, according to the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

After years of delay, the DEQ has finally complied with the Clean Water Act and published draft rules limiting the amount of total pollution the Willamette can bear and still be fishable, swimmable and a source of drinking water. The Willamette is too polluted by warm water that fish hate, along with bacteria and mercury, according to DEQ. Portions of 12 stretches and tributaries of the Willamette also are too polluted with arsenic, muddy water, dissolved oxygen and toxics such as DDT. In response, DEQ has proposed limits (called TMDLs) on the amount of additional pollution put in the river.

The proposed regulations could mean tougher regulations for local polluters including the local sewer plant. According to a memo, the sewer plant may have to increase

the amount of sewage it sprays on its tree farm to reduce discharge temperatures and look at regulating mercury dischargers such as dental clinics. The city may have to better control stormwater (which mixes with sewage in rainstorms) to reduce bacteria.

Comments on the DEQ draft rules are due by Jan. 14. Call (800) 452-4011 for information. — Alan Pittman

REFUSENIKS TO SPEAK

Two Israeli "refuseniks," or conscientious objectors, are coming to the UO. They will discuss the possibility of a U.S. draft and citizens' ability to refuse military service in the context of Israel's mandatory military service policy.

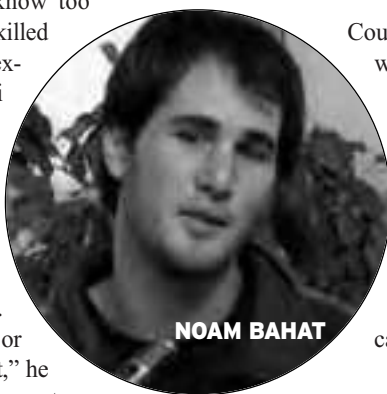
High school students Noam Bahat and Shimri Zamaret were imprisoned for 640 days for their refusal to serve in the Israeli military.

"I refuse, since I know too many people who were killed in the terror," Zamaret explained in an Israeli court. "The government, using the army in order to preserve the settlements, enabled these deaths to occur."

Bahat agreed. "Every time an Israeli or Palestinian child is shot," he stated, "our conscience gets a bullet straight in the heart."

Carol Van Houten of the Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC), one of the event's sponsors, said that the event is important for two reasons. "One is that for young people, there is the issue that they may be facing in the future about a draft here in the United States. These two young men have a very thoughtful perspective on why they made the decisions they did. The second reason is that peace between Palestinians and Israelis is really key to peace in the Middle East."

This free event is co-sponsored by the UO Cultural Forum and the Committee for

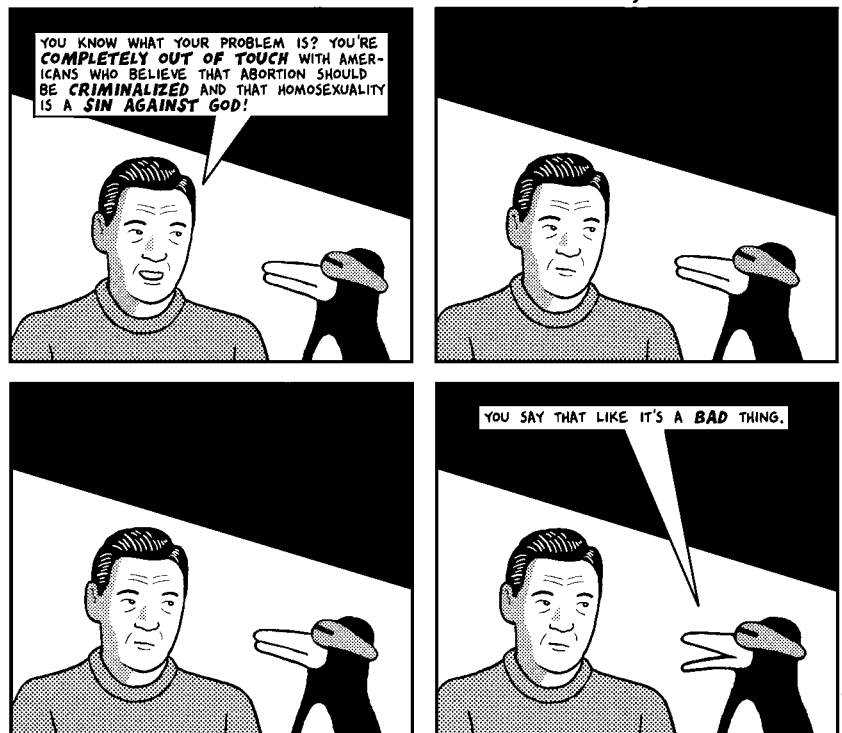


NOAM BAHAT

PHOTO BY CHARLES JENKS, COURTESY OF WWW.TRAPROCKPEACE.ORG

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Countering Military Recruitment, with support from the Refusers Solidarity Network, the American Friends Service Committee and Progressive Responses. It will be held twice on Friday, Nov. 19: at Cozmic Pizza on 8th and Charnelton at 5:30 pm, and in Columbia 150 on the UO campus at 7:30 pm.

—Kera Abraham

kid crime rate fell 18 percent from 1999 to 2003, according to Lane County data. The drop mirrors a similar fall in juvenile crime rates statewide. — Alan Pittman

RACIST ACTION IN W. EUGENE

Barb Ryan, who lives in the 18th and City View area, came home from a trip Nov. 7 to find a swastika spray-painted onto the peace sign on her lawn. Ryan suspected that her yard was targeted because of other indicators of her politics: a No on 36 sign, a Kerry for President sign, and a rainbow decal on her car.

Ryan acted quickly, reporting the hate crime to Eugene police, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), Temple Beth Israel and CALC (Community Alliance of Lane County).

"I feel violated and threatened, a little bit scared and a little bit angry, and unsafe," Ryan said. "So I got another peace sign, notified my neighbors, called the police, and didn't take it silently. The community re-

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

A decade ago, the county and state were gripped with fear about juvenile crime. The hysteria culminated in the passage of state Measure 11 to try kid criminals as adults and with stiff sentences in 1994 and the passage of a \$38 million county measure to triple the size of the local juvenile jail in 1995.

But now, the kid crime crisis has evaporated. Juvenile crime has fallen dramatically in Lane County over the past five years. The

SLANT

• This week we're doing something shocking and outrageous for a cover story, giving voice to a mainstream Eugene church that offers a hopeful message for the future. Jesus as an institution is getting crucified again in this election cycle as religion takes on a major role in politics, further dividing the nation. At both the state and national levels, fundamentalist Christians have been rallied to vote for a narrow "moral" agenda that has nothing to do with issues of the economy, environment, education, social justice and foreign policy that plague our nation. Politicians and preachers are screaming about same-sex marriage while ignoring poverty, injustice and corruption – and damaging their credibility in the process. Meanwhile, the debate over religion in politics is ignoring the millions of religious people who embrace the broader values of tolerance and inclusiveness. Fortunately, positive examples are all around us here in

Lane County. The sermon by the Rev. Greg Flint is just one.

• Anyone paying attention now knows that the November election was seriously flawed in both access to voting and the counting of ballots, and it appears that the majority of the "errors" favored Republican candidates. But are there enough skewed votes to alter the results of the presidential election? We hear unsubstantiated reports that the Kerry campaign is quietly investigating, and if enough evidence is found, may yet challenge the outcome of the election.

• The City Club of Eugene program Nov. 12 was on media bias – a great topic for City Club, but a peculiar panel. Not invited was EW. We are the only major press in the valley that readily admits its bias ("Sometimes unfair, rarely balanced"), and regularly reports on bias in other media.

But the larger omission was to not include one of several UO journalism professors who are nationally recognized experts on ethics in journalism. Regardless, was it a useful discussion at City Club? Send us your biased assessment.

• The mass media have reported daily on the assault on Fallujah as though it were a football game, and we see sanitized film clips on the evening news, sometimes the same clips over and over again as though only one videographer was close to the action – and not very close. We see people picking through wreckage, soldiers hiding behind walls shooting at distant targets, or kicking down doors. What we don't see is what our soldiers see, the images that are burned into their memories to haunt them the rest of their lives. If you can handle the grim reality of war, visit <http://fallujapictures.blogspot.com>. The site is a collection of photographs



Byron Norwood, 25, was killed in action on Nov. 12 in Fallujah

from numerous sources showing piles of bodies, the faces of the dead, hospital scenes with wounded men, women and children, and freshly dug graveyards. It's nothing like a football game, and while there might be heroes, there are no winners.

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, editor@eugeneweekly.com