



EUGENE WEEKLY, JULY 15, 2004

“the complaint can be neither proved nor disproved.” It does not mean that the officer was proven right.

Lehner’s long op-ed also describes Roger Magaña and Juan Lara, the two officers convicted last year of rape and/or abuse against more than a dozen women, as “rogues,” implying that they are little more than an anomaly within the EPD. Lehner’s statement comes before EPD has completed a promised year-long investigation into whether Magaña and Lara were in fact anomalous rogues, or whether other officers were also engaged or complicit in abuse.

Lehner lamented the lack of media attention for letters from former drug addicted people commending a particular police officer for turning their lives around. “These are the cases that bring tears to your eyes,” the chief wrote.

Magaña brought tears to the eyes of his victims with one such letter that was covered by the media. A former drug addict raped and assaulted by Magaña testified that the EPD officer forced her into writing him a letter of commendation. “He was going to hurt me, kill me, hurt my daughter, take my daughter away,” the woman said.

Police supervisors were easily fooled by the coerced letter. Police Captain Becky Hanson wrote a note at the bottom: “Roger, this is a tremendous testimonial to your work and efforts with this young woman .... You are a credit to all police officers.”

— Alan Pittman

## COPS INPUT

A consultant hired by the city of Eugene to recommend ways to improve the Eugene Police Department in the wake of officer sex abuse scandals has set up a toll-free number for community input. Dial (866) 292-4860 by the end of January to leave a recorded message with your “values, expectations and recommendations for improving police-community relations.” — Alan Pittman

## JENNISON BACKS TRTK

Local air pollution regulators support a proposal to expand Eugene’s Toxics Right to Know reporting program to include emissions from smaller businesses such as dry cleaners, auto painting shops and gas stations.

Right now, the city only requires larger

manufacturers to report their toxics use to the public right-to-know database. The city is considering expanding the program to reduce fees for small companies now under the program. In the past, fees were based on number of employees, but the Legislature passed a law capping fees, resulting in big savings for the Hynix Corporation, but much higher fees for smaller companies.

Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA) Director Brian Jennison wrote to the council this month that “LRAPA could make good use of the data” from smaller sources. “Individually some of these sources are small, but together they add up and represent a significant part of the volatile organic solvent usage inventory in Eugene.”

Data from TRTK on small sources would enable LRAPA to provide accurate numbers to the EPA on such emissions rather than the current estimates. “This would be a real improvement in the program,” according to Jennison. Using city TRTK data rather than requiring duplicate reporting could “reduce the regulatory reporting burden on small business.”

Jennison also notes, “one of the principal benefits of reporting is that it requires a business to take a closer look at its practices, often resulting in a shift to the use of less hazardous materials. One sure way to avoid having to report something is to stop using it.”

Jennison’s position on TRTK could anger the Eugene Chamber of Commerce which has for years attacked the reporting program as a waste. After writing the email, Jennison was fired by the LRAPA board. But it’s unclear if the firing and e-mail are related since Jennison’s problems with the agency reportedly relate to personnel clashes predating the email.

The Eugene City Council plans a Feb. 14 hearing on expanding the TRTK program.

— Alan Pittman

## STRATEGY TO KEEP COOL

The Bush administration continues to scoff at greenhouse gas reduction measures while the rest of the world is taking action. Russia has pledged to join the 132 nations that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol, a move that will put the plan into effect by Feb. 16. Only four industrialized nations continue to snub the treaty: the U.S., Australia, Liechtenstein and Monaco (the latter two countries have a combined population of about 67,000).

But even if the feds won’t do anything about global warming, Oregon will. Gov. Ted Kulongoski convened the Governor’s Advisory Group on Global Warming to outline Oregon’s part in cutting back on greenhouse gases. On Dec. 17, the group recommended a spectrum of actions, from improving energy efficiency to reducing vehicle emissions to exploring renewable energy sources. “They have proposed a set of pretty aggressive actions,” says Chris Hagerbaumer, program director for the Oregon Environmental Council. “If all of these were implemented, it would get us on a trajectory of lowering our emissions.”

The recommendations come as part of the West Coast Governors’ Initiative on Global Warming. In November 2004, the governors

of Oregon, Washington and California agreed to a series of joint greenhouse gas-reducing initiatives such as collaborating on hybrid vehicle purchases, setting up electric “fueling” stations at truck stops along the I-5 and adopting energy efficiency standards for products not regulated by the federal government. These actions could make a big difference. If the West Coast were a country, its greenhouse gas emissions would rank seventh-highest in the world.

The West Coast initiative is part of a national trend — seemingly in defiance of the federal government — to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels permitted by the Kyoto Protocol, which requires participating developed countries to stabilize six major greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2005. The New England governors and Eastern Canadian premiers crafted a regional climate change action plan in 2001, and Connecticut released its own strategy in 2004. “These states recognize the imperative of addressing global warming because it’s going to affect them, and because changes can be made on a local and regional level,” Hagerbaumer says.

According to *Foreign Direct Investment* online magazine, some U.S. companies — including General Motors, DuPont, Xerox and Dow Chemical — have also adopted strategies to meet the Kyoto Protocol’s targets. The reason is not ecological, but economical. If they fail to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels permitted by the treaty, they may lose their ability to operate facilities or sell products in participating nations.

Some Oregon residents have assumed their part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions even closer to home. The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition formed in early 2003 to offer Umpqua-area residents ways to reduce their fossil fuel consumption. The coalition has sponsored educational forums and a hybrid car rally, installed solar panels and water heaters, and surveyed local industries to highlight green-minded businesses. “We want positive solutions to the problem of global warming to become a part of the mainstream way of thinking,” says Stuart Liebowitz, one of the coalition’s founding members.

Liebowitz hopes that the Douglas County coalition inspires other counties to take local action against global warming. “I think that it is critical that this type of issue be brought down to a practical, hands-on level,” he says. “Only by combining individual actions can we begin to make a difference.”

— Kera Abraham

## ART WITHOUT BORDERS

With the presidential inauguration lurking around the corner like a bad, laboratory-cooked flu strain, little recourse remains for the disenfranchised. What is left is our art and our bodies.

On Tuesday, Jan. 25, at Eugene’s Morse Center on the Northwest Christian College Campus, Guillermo Gómez-Peña and Emiko

R. Lewis perform “Mapa Corpo: Oppositional Rites for a Borderless Society”.

Gómez-Peña, an internationally recognized performance artist and author, is the artistic director and co-founder of the “trans-disciplinary art organization” La Pocha Nostra.

Described as a network of rebel artists, rather than an art troupe, La Pocha Nostra’s goal is to realign artists with other social roles such as political critic, inter-cultural diplomat, information architect, media pirate and experimental linguist. Escaping destructive labels and definitions set to limit artists from examining issues of race, sexuality, politics and gender from a truly borderless perspective, La Pocha Nostra challenges cultural stereotypes in both the minds of the artist and the audience.

“Mapa Corpo” is a two-part performance piece. It explores both issues of neo-colonization and decolonization through a symbolic



Guillermo Gómez-Peña

reenactment of the current occupation of Iraq by the U.S. and coalition forces. The visually jarring performance begins with Lewis’ American flag-draped body lying on a hospital gurney. Next, an acupuncturist inserts 40 needles into her nude body, representing the 40 coalition nations occupying Iraq.

Gómez-Peña, dressed in his “techno-shaman-in-drag-persona,” then invites the audience to decolonize Lewis’ body.

“The audience will remove the needles under the supervision of the acupuncturist,” explains Steve Morozumi, ASUO Multicultural Center director.

The second part of the performance requires all willing audience members to partake in a “performance karaoke” game. Along with supplied costumes, make-up and the assistance of Gómez-Peña and Lewis, audience members turned performance artists will engage in cultural role-play through a constantly evolving, living diorama.

— Steven Sawada

## HOT TOPICS

• Attorney **Paul Hoffman** will give a public lecture on “Pirates and Dictators: The Alien Tort Claims Act and its Impact on International Law” at 7:30 pm Thursday, Jan. 20 at Room 175, Knight Law Center, 1515 Agate St. In the spring of 2004, Hoffman argued the case of *U.S. v. Alvarez-Machain*, the first Alien Tort Claims Act case to be heard before the U.S. Supreme Court. The Alien Tort Claims Act allows a non-citizen to bring a tort suit in the courts of the U.S. if the tort was committed in violation of international law or a treaty of the U.S.

• Author and law professor **Hilary Charlesworth** will talk on “The Missing Voice: Women and the War in Iraq” in a free public lecture at 7:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 26 at Room 175, Knight Law Center, UO.

“Issues of sex and gender are rarely considered relevant to invasions, conflict, or state-building,” says Charlesworth. “In fact, the roles of women and the values assigned to these roles shape our understanding of violence at the international level. The war in Iraq and its aftermath illustrate this point well.”