

• The recent International City/County Management Association (ICMA)/Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) report (*EW* 3/17) revealing years of mismanagement of the Eugene Police Department raises serious doubts about Eugene's powerful city manager form of government. Under Eugene's Charter such hiring, firing and disciplinary matters clearly fall under the exclusive power of the city manager. But with that power has come little responsibility or accountability. A long line of city managers over the last decade including Mike Gleason, Vicki Elmer, Warren Wong, Jim Johnson, Jim Carlson and now Dennis Taylor have failed to rein in the police. Well managed cities do not have their cops out raping and abusing women and profiling racial and cultural minorities. None of these managers has been in any way held responsible for their failings. Vicki Elmer tried to reform the police, but was fired in a backlash driven in large part by the police union. Recommendations from a similar earlier PERF report Elmer commissioned were then ignored. While Eugene has suffered for their failings, none of the other city managers, and their appointed chiefs, has taken any heat for mismanagement. To the contrary, they all got fat bonuses, retirement packages and nice award plaques. Eugene is left with a police department it's afraid of and disgusted with and millions of dollars of lawsuits.

• Last week's dedication of the new Wayne Morse Free Speech Terrace and statue had a surprise speaker: local timber baron Aaron Jones, now in his mid-80s. Was it incongruous and ironic to have Jones there, a six-figure donor to Bush/Cheney and the Measure 37 campaign? Jones once used his clout as a major UO donor to force the Western Environmental Law Center to leave campus, an effort to silence the group's anti-timber industry voice. But Jones showed up not to rant against environmentalists, but rather to offer a personal tribute to Morse as his old friend and mentor. We partisans can stand an occasional reminder of the need to relate to each other as human beings once in a while. Speaking of

irony, Kulongoski's effusive praise for Morse's commitment to education raised a few eyebrows. We haven't seen our governor take on anywhere near that level of dedication to solving Oregon's education crisis, and in fact his budget whacks education funding across the board, while our absurd state tax system goes unchallenged. All things considered, the dedication made for a grand and sunny day for Eugene and for the memory of Wayne Morse. And it's not over. The Wayne Morse Youth Program is sponsoring two days of free speechifying from 10 am to 2 pm April 2 and April 9. The Morse Youth



Aaron Jones

Center is moving on new digs soon on West 8th Avenue; the new federal building will carry his name; and a proposal will be coming before the City Council next fall to proclaim Oct. 20, his birthday, as Wayne Morse Day in Eugene. Watching from above, would he approve of the statue and all this fuss? Probably not, but we need local heroes in these times, and he certainly qualifies.

• We've heard that 72 percent of employed Veneta residents work in Eugene, and more

than 50 percent of Springfield breadwinners work in Eugene. We count these as Eugene jobs, but most of the earnings are spent elsewhere, and these folks' property taxes support other school districts, other police and fire departments. It's time to broaden our thinking about our local economy. We're all simmering in this economic pot together. Here's a radical thought: Let's help facilitate economic development in surrounding towns as far away as Florence and Junction City in order to reduce commuter traffic and open up more jobs for the unemployed here in Eugene. Enterprise zones? Ban them within the Eugene city limits. They just exacerbate the problem.

the debate is U.S. foreign policy regarding pre-emptive military action, according to professor Frank Stahl.

"We hope to have a good turnout," says Stahl in a note to his colleagues, noting that it's a rare opportunity to have an international debate on campus. The resolution for the debate is "Pre-emption is justified."

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

• In a music story last week, the name of Ferron's 1994 album should have been called *Driver*.

• Our story last week on Eugene Cannabis TV listed dates and times, some of which have changed. The new schedule on cable Channel 29 is 8:30 pm Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 11:30 pm Mondays and Tuesdays. Times and dates are subject to change. The schedule is online at <http://eugeneecannabistv.home.comcast.net>

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