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working
for you

District Attorney's Office
Nathalie

assists

Fluent in Spanish, Nathalie interprets in the District Attorney's office. She also gathers information to be presented in court. "Everyone has an important role to play to ensure the community's safety. It's not easy, but I'm happy to do my part."



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5:30a - 6a
Rick Little brings you all the news & weather you need to start your day.

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6a - 9a
Discuss local issues with host Nancy Stapp.

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9a - 12p
America's number one progressive talk show.

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12p - 3p
America's fastest-growing progressive talk show.

DANUTA TIME



3p - 6p
Sound off about the issues on your mind with host Danuta Pfeiffer.



1600 KOPT
Oregon's Progressive Talk

news Briefs

former EWEB relay meter tech Sang Huynh says he disagrees with EWEB board member Sandra Bishop, who wrote in a May 24 *R-G* opinion piece that the health care offer isn't a take-away. In the first contract, Huynh says, his former co-workers agreed to the company's health care plan, which up to that point had been good.

But health care moved from a \$15 co-pay to a 20 percent co-pay and much larger out-of-pocket expenses. Dotson says, "Compared to 10 other comparator utilities, we're at the bottom in out-of-pocket costs, with \$3,000 for an individual and \$6,000 for a family." When Dotson's son broke his collarbone last year, Dotson says, he "got nailed."

Now, Huynh says, he hears from his friends at EWEB that "tension is running high, and safety's on the line for people in the air dealing with 12,000-15,000 volts." The union will strike on June 6 if health care and other issues — like counting Veterans' Day as a holiday — are not resolved in this week's meetings. Dotson says the union isn't asking for the best plan out there: "All we're asking is to be average."

HIGH COST OF QUIET TRAINS

Residents near the railroad tracks in Eugene have complained for years that the train horns that sound romantic drifting through the valley when heard from miles away are blowing them out of their beds downtown.

The Federal Railroad Administration requires the trains to fire their horns at intersections as a safety measure. As an option, the FRA allows cities to install other safety measures to quiet the horns.

At High Street near the Fifth Street Public Market, the city's riskiest rail crossing, the necessary four automatic gates would cost about \$500,000, according to city staff. Smaller intersections could get away with \$15,000 median islands as an alternative safety measure, although medians could block driveway access to some businesses. Another option would be to simply close a crossing. With gates or medians needed at about 10 intersections downtown, quiet could cost the city several million dollars.

The City Council plans to take up the issue later this year. — *Alan Pittman*

GREEN SCARE RESISTANCE

Local activists are joining an international "Weekend of Resistance Against the Green Scare" on June 11. Some 20 cities worldwide are showing solidarity and support for those facing charges and harassment in the largest roundup of environmental and animal rights activists in U.S. history.

The nationwide sweep, dubbed "Operation Backfire," has so far involved nearly 20 arrests and many grand jury subpoenas. "Despite the lack of human injury in any of the actions these community members are being accused of, the government is

threatening extraordinary sentences, ranging from 30 years to life plus 335 years," reads a statement from the Jeff Free Luers Support Network. "Similar crimes committed without political motivation receive far shorter sentences and even different, lesser charges."

June 11 also marks the sixth year that Jeff "Free" Luers has been in prison serving 22 years for burning three SUVs.

This year's Eugene event, "Resisting the Green Scare: A Night of Solidarity with Eco-Defense Prisoners," will be held at 7 pm Sunday, June 11 at Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd., and will include speakers and music. Author Derrick Jensen is the featured speaker of the evening. Proceeds will benefit the green scare defendants.

For more information, visit www.freefreenow.org/june2006.htm

HOUSING DEAL GETS GO-AHEAD

On the heels of the UO's adoption of its first-ever diversity plan, university administrators are sealing a deal to sell the roofs over the heads of the UO's most diverse students.

University administrators announced a tentative buyer for the 404-unit Westmoreland Family Housing complex, which the university has owned and operated since the '60s, on May 24. Local developer Michael O'Connell plans to buy the property for \$18.45 million, and Bell Real Estate will manage it.

The Westmoreland Tenants' Council has characterized the low-rent housing complex as a student community that not only is more ethnically and culturally diverse, but also more open-minded and accepting than the university as a whole. As of last fall, international students represented about 5 percent of the UO student body but almost 25 percent of Westmoreland leaseholders.

More than a dozen student and community groups, along with several local politicians, have opposed the university's plans to sell the property.

The university has offered some concessions for displaced tenants. O'Connell offered to extend current tenants' leases through June 2007, and university administrators have promised grants to subsidize rent increases for tenants in financial need.

The State Board of Higher Education must approve the sale before it can be finalized. The Oregon University System will hold public hearings in Eugene on June 5 and 13, and Frohnmayer will present the sale terms to the board at its July 14 meeting.

But Frohnmayer will have to inform the board that the UO Senate opposes the sale, in compliance with a successful May 24 Senate vote requiring that he do so. "There is still a compelling need for Westmoreland," said UO Senator Jon Jablonski, who introduced the motion. "Without campus-owned university housing, we're going to lose a certain amount of diversity. We're going to lose a certain amount of excellence."

The vote was a 14-14 tie, broken in the motion's favor by Senate President Peter Keyes. The audience cheered the outcome.

— *Kera Abraham*