

Barwell to UO President Dave Frohnmayer said, "I witnessed a horrible act of useless cruelty by one of your staff members. I have seen the 'Havahart' traps in the garden area and just assumed that the UO, being part of a passionate community, was only trapping and releasing. Boy was I wrong! The trap had caught nutria, a harmless rodent that eats vegetation. He drove a metal stake through the trap and the animal's head."

Barwell engaged in a conversation with the trapper, and said, "He proceeded to tell me that they are an invasive species that digs up and eats carrots and beets (which means their crime is eating) so the university made the decision to kill them, as opposed to putting up a one-foot fence to keep them out."

Pauline Austin of the UO Office of Public and Media Relations confirmed that, "In general, the university does not trap or kill nutria. One department on campus does kill nutria, which is a non-native, very destructive species." She said the Urban Farm staff have tried "several strategies," including fences, without success. — *TJT*



Jeff Hogg

HEARING FOR JEFF HOGG

Summer has sucked for Jeff Hogg, a nursing student who has been in jail since May 18. He hasn't been charged with any crime, but he was held in contempt of court by Judge Michael Hogan after refusing to testify to a federal grand jury. The feds wanted information about defendants in Operation Backfire, the string of arrests for acts of eco-sabotage that occurred over the past decade, but Hogg wouldn't talk.

Before entering the courthouse in May, Hogg made a brief statement to supporters, who were not allowed to watch the con-

• Arlie & Co. officials announced this week that they are offering to broker a deal to buy 1,400 acres of Wildish gravel extraction lands north of Mount Pisgah and Buford Park to be preserved forever as riverfront parklands. Skeptics might wonder what land speculator/developer John Musumeci has up his sleeve. His grand plans for the EWEB riverfront fizzled, along with other proposals, but so far his latest vision appears to be a sincere effort to preserve valuable wildlife habitat and recreation lands. Once this key ribbon of private property surrounded by parklands is saved, the potential is great for riparian restoration, reclaiming quarry ponds, preserving and enhancing upland forests and extending bike and hiking paths from Franklin Boulevard all the way to Jasper Road. We encourage the Wildish Land Co. to do their part to help restore this damaged but remarkable property.

• Last week in this column we wrote about what is quickly becoming one of the hottest races in the state: the Senate District 7 contest between Democratic incumbent Vicki Walker and Republican challenger Jim Torrey. We also ran a letter last week describing the crazy "push-polling" going on by the Torrey camp in which Torrey is described as a Democrat and Walker as a Republican. Last week on KOPT Torrey said he knew nothing about the phone campaign that appears to be a blatant effort to confuse voters. Meanwhile, he's trying to avoid the R label despite his support of Bush and the Iraq War, and his anti-abortion and anti-gay rights ideology. He's running on a pro-kids platform, but remains in lock-step with the anti-school funding conservatives in the Legislature who have severely damaged education at all levels in Oregon. Support for Walker is vitally important in this race, and we're happy to hear that the Lane County Bus Project PAC is canvassing for both Walker and District 14 candidate Chris Edwards this weekend. The event begins at 11:30 am Saturday. Email buslane@busproject.org or call 344-9999 for directions.

• We hear speculation in the barber shop about a possible UO link between the lines of two recent big stories out of Portland. One is the announcement by Kevin Love and his family that the Lake Oswego basketball superstar will go to UCLA after his senior high school year. He's one of the top recruits in the country, son of Stan Love, once one of the top players at the UO. Love told the Portland press that the Duck program hasn't been on his son's list for a long time. Next comes the story of Phil Knight, Nike superstar, giving \$105 million to Stanford where he received his MBA. Maybe unrelated, but this gift set off plenty of sports chatter about when, if, how much, and with what conditions Knight will give some millions to the UO's proposed new basketball arena over on the Williams Bakery site. He's not telling, and what he does is pivotal to the project.

• Scientists now tell us the universe is 15.8 billion years old, and it has all evolved to the Best of Eugene ballot now being available online. Our popular annual readers' poll of what's cool in town can be found this week on page 2, or go to www.eugeneweekly.com and click on the top banner. Filling out the ballot can be a cosmic, even religious experience, though we recommend doing it with eyes open. Yes, it's OK for two people to do it together in the bedroom, or even on the kitchen table.

• Speaking of doing it together, it takes a village to crown a Slug Queen, and that quintessentially Eugene phenomenon is approaching once again. Eugene's irreverent and outrageous tradition of untraditional royalty carries on at 6:30 pm Friday, Aug. 25 at the Saturday Market Stage downtown. It's not too late to fill out a Slug Queen contest entry form at the Saturday Market office (call 686-8885). Alas, some straight-laced folks scowl at the idea of the Slug Queen coronation; they find it embarrassing and would prefer we abandon it for a more conventional beauty and talent contest. And we'll never see a slimy Slug Queen on the slick cover of a Chamber of Commerce magazine. Oh well. Long live the Queen!

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

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

MELANIE SICOTTE

In 1982, the Whiteaker area's newly formed Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation established the East Blair Housing



Cooperative, Oregon's first low-income housing co-op, with 22 varied living units in 10 buildings. Maintenance, membership and money are handled by committees, important issues get every member's vote at monthly meetings. An L.A. native who moved to Eugene in '91 after college at UCSB, business manager Melanie Sicotte has served as EBHC's only paid employee since 1994. "Everyone here is my boss. It's a part-time job but a full-time commitment," she says. "My basic duty is to do the accounts day-to-day. I'm also an advisor. I do research and know the Oregon statutes. I like being a resource." She credits her partner, Marq Bauman, for his patience and his job at Symantec. Four years after she started at EBHC, Sicotte was recruited for the same position at the Students' Cooperative Association, a campus-area housing co-op that dates back to 1936. "Melanie is the backbone of both co-ops," reports EBHC member Ken Rosemarin.

Treat childhood injuries early

Children enjoy physical activity. Unfortunately, sometimes their fun causes an injury. Michael C. Koester, M.D., recommends that any child who voluntarily restricts physical activity for two days because of pain see a physician. "Often adult orthopedic problems are a result of an injury or repeated injuries that were not diagnosed or treated during childhood."



Dr. Mick Koester

Dr. Koester, a nonsurgical musculoskeletal physician, specializes in pediatric and adult sports medicine.

Following his pediatric residency at University of Washington, he practiced pediatrics for five years. He recently completed a Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Koester, who recently joined us, is accepting patients of all ages.



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Building
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orthopedics &
sports medicine
for you

If your child is injured and doesn't resume play within a few days, be sure to have the injury checked out.