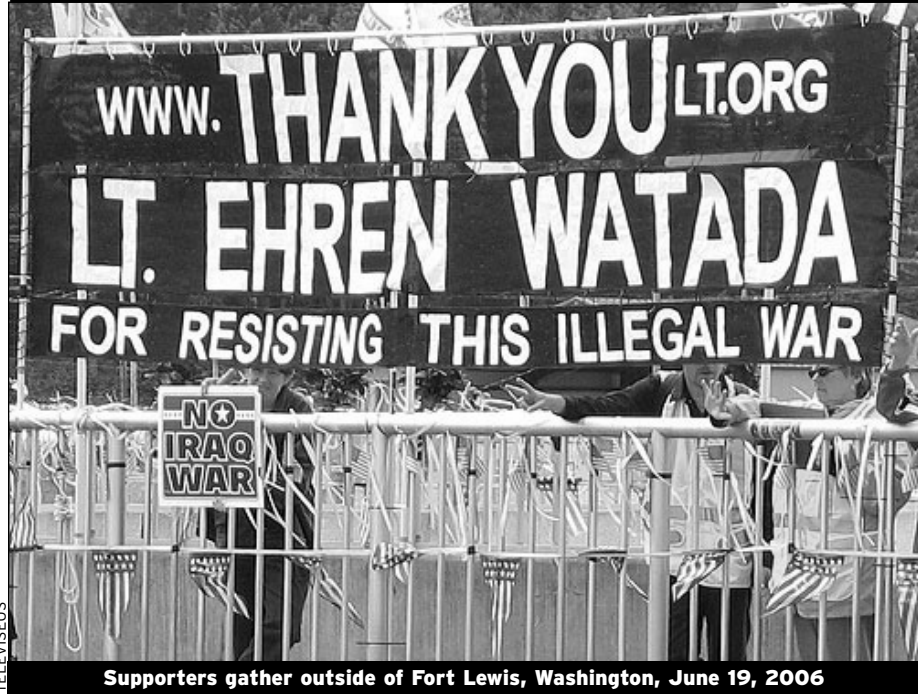




Supporters gather outside of Fort Lewis, Washington, June 19, 2006

for a mayor's blue ribbon committee on homelessness, the new Police Civilian Review Board, the need for a city youth advisory committee, new ways for local mayors to work together on "mutual infrastructure issues" and a face-to-face collaboration between city and county officials regarding downtown development. — *TJT*

MILITARY SUBPOENAS REPORTERS

A U.S. Army prosecutor has subpoenaed several reporters in an attempt to substantiate charges against an Army officer who has spoken out against the Iraq War.

Last June, Lt. Ehren Watada refused to deploy to Iraq on the grounds that the war violates international law, calling it his duty as an officer to reject illegal orders that could make him party to war crimes. In taking this stand, Watada became the first commissioned officer publicly to refuse deployment to Iraq.

The Army has charged Watada with one count of "missing movement" and four counts of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," the latter charges based on statements he has made to the press. His court-martial is scheduled to begin at Fort Lewis, Wash., on Feb. 5. If convicted, Watada faces up to six years in prison.

According to a Dec. 13 report from Truthout.org, a progressive political news website, an Army prosecutor stated his intent to subpoena Truthout Executive Director Marc Ash, Truthout reporter Sari Gelzer, and regular contributors Dahr Jamail and Sarah Olson. "We view this action as retaliatory, both toward Lieutenant Watada and toward our organization that has reported his courageous stand," Ash was quoted as saying.

Olson, an Oakland-based independent journalist, reports that Army prosecutors based one of the "conduct unbecoming an officer" charges on portions of her May 2006 interview with the lieutenant. In that interview, pub-

lished on Truthout.org on June 7, Watada stated: "As I read about the level of deception the Bush administration used to initiate and process this war, I was shocked. I became ashamed of wearing the uniform."

Olson claims that Army prosecutors want her to verify the interview's authenticity. "[I]t is stunningly ironic that the Army seeks my testimony — the testimony of a journalist — in a case against free speech," she wrote in a Dec. 30 commentary on EditorAndPublisher.com, an online media journal. "What could be more hostile to the idea of a free press than a journalist participating in the suppression of newsworthy speech?"

Free speech rules are different for military officers than they are for civilians, and the military court-martial — which will examine the question of whether Watada broke the internal rules of permissible speech — operates outside the bounds of federal courts. Army prosecutors did not need the U.S. attorney general's permission to issue the subpoenas.

EW interviewed Watada in August ("Resisting an Illegal War," 8/17), but to date we have not been contacted by Army prosecutors.

On Jan. 4, the day of Watada's pre-trial hearing, activists with Iraq Veterans Against War, Veterans for Peace, CODE PINK and others will rally at the gates of Ft. Lewis. Eugene veterans Gordon Sturrock and Jack Dresser plan to drive their own biodiesel bus to Washington to join them.

Speakers at the rally will include Watada's father and Sara Rich, the Eugene-based mother of Army Spc. Suzanne Swift, who in December was sentenced to 30 days in prison for evading re-deployment to Iraq. Swift alleged that she had been sexually harassed and abused by her commanders. — *Kera Abraham*



Hardy Myers

SUIT FILED TO ENFORCE MEASURE 47

Campaign finance reform supporters in Oregon filed suit Dec. 27 to require Secretary of State Bill Bradbury and Attorney General Hardy Myers to enforce Measure 47, which was adopted by voters in the November 2006 elections. State offi-

cials declared the statutory measure null and void since its companion constitutional Measure 46 failed (see Slant column last week).

The lawsuit has gotten little, if any attention in Oregon's daily newspapers or broadcast media over the holidays.

"The voters of Oregon adopted campaign finance reform in November," said attorney Linda Williams, "but the two government officials who are required to implement the reform are refusing to do so."

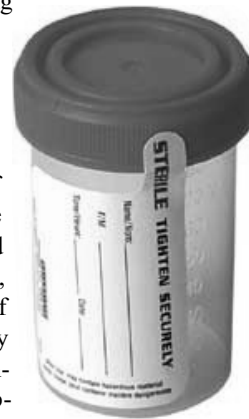
Bradbury issued a letter in mid-November saying he would not implement any of Measure 47, based on advice from Myers. "It is the duty of government officers to enforce what the voters enacted," said Measure 47 backer Ken Lewis, former president of the Port of Portland. "It is not for them to say it is not valid. Their job is to enforce it until someone who objects gets the courts to rule otherwise."

Portland attorney Dan Meek, author of much of the language in Measure 47, said no court decision exists to invalidate the measure, and "there are at least six provisions in Measure 47 for stricter campaign finance reporting and disclosure for which there is no question of constitutionality."

More information on the lawsuit and Measure 47 is available at www.fairelections.org

LUERS' PISS 'TOO CLEAN'

Officials at Oregon State Penitentiary have restored contact visits for Jeff "Free" Luers, who was held in solitary confinement for 42 days after his urine analysis came back "too clean."



Luers' attorney, Lauren Regan of the Eugene-based Civil Liberties Defense Center, said that one piss test administered to Luers registered as too dilute. Although five other tests came back negative for THC, prison authorities apparently interpreted the dilute sample to mean that Luers had cheated on his drug test.

After an intervention by CLDC attorneys, authorities restored Luers' full-contact visiting privileges, gave him back his job and removed him from solitary confinement. But Regan maintains that an injustice has been done. "He lost prison perks when they threw him in the hole," she said, "and the fact that they tried to do it during the holiday season seems like an additional 'screw-you.'"

Nevertheless, according to an update from Friends of Jeff Free Luers, this "little victory" means the world to Luers. "He can now hold hands, hug and kiss his loved ones" rather than speaking to them only by phone through glass, the update stated.

In 2001, Luers was sentenced to almost 23 years in prison for torching several SUVs at Joe Romania Chevrolet (which he has admitted to) and attempting to ignite a tanker at Tyree Oil (which he still denies). The Romania action was intended as a protest against fossil fuel consumption.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Due to an editing error, a letter to the editor last week regarding a Jan. 23 Lane County Energy Round-up meeting had a wrong location. The meeting will be at Harris Hall in the county public service building at 125 E 8th Ave. in downtown Eugene.

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

DON LOWN

After 33 years in education, the final 21 as a fifth and sixth grade teacher in Greece, N.Y., a suburb of Rochester, Don Lown found his way to Oregon and a new career. "I see my life now as a professional volunteer," he says. Following his retirement in 1994, Lown and his wife Hydrie packed a trailer and headed west. "We camped our way across the US," he says. "After two and a half months we ended up in Eugene." Within weeks of his arrival, Lown began volunteering at the UO Museum of Natural History (he's currently on the board) and at WISTEC, now known as The Science Factory. "I've built shelving in nearly every room here," he says. He spends one afternoon a week cleaning fossil finds in the UO's Condon Collection, another tutoring students at LCC. He's been program chair at the Emerald Empire Kiwanis Club for 10 years. Other consuming interests include photography, mineralogy and stone sculpture. "Don is a renaissance man," says Science Factory Director of Marketing Joyce Berman. "He seems to be involved in everything, but he always has time to talk or share a smile."

