



• If you believe the **Eugene police**, the Magaña/Lara scandal wasn't the result of their ignoring or turning a blind eye to numerous women's complaints over a half dozen years that the officers were using their badges to force sex. It wasn't the result of grossly lazy and lax supervision and discipline of police by police. It was the blame of those darn liberals and affirmative action in the human resources department. This would be laughable if it wasn't so scary. These backward people continue to run around our city with guns and little accountability. The days

of good-old-boy police departments ended a half century ago with Bull Connor. The police demand that elected leaders acclaim their conduct under Magaña/Lara as representative of the best law enforcement agency in Oregon. Acclaim a department that allowed more than a dozen women to be abused over six years despite numerous complaints? Good grief! Citizens should demand that their elected leaders launch a real, credible and independent investigation to hold individual officers responsible for failing to stop the sex abuse. Without a strong, clear message that such conduct was wrong, it will happen again.

• **K-12 education is getting a boost** in the new state budget coming out of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, according to Rep. Phil Barnhart, but he tells us higher ed is not doing so well. Sagging state support for LCC means cuts in professional technical programs such as nursing. At the university level, state funding will be inadequate to meet the growing demand for additional doctors and health care workers. Capital construction is also getting short-changed. Some good things are in the budget, such as more state troopers, not to mention some road repair funds to help Oregon counties facing cutbacks in Secure Rural Schools funding. Meanwhile, all 15 branches of the public library system in Jackson County are expected to close April 6 due to county budget woes, and some southwestern counties are facing massive cutbacks in basic services. Oregon's in trouble regardless of whether Congress restores federal payments to counties, and the only long-term solution is for the Legislature to overhaul our state tax system. Business and industry once paid their fair share, but Republicans in Salem over the years have managed to shift the bulk of the corporate tax burden onto the backs of lower- and middle-income Oregonians. It's time to shift it back.



• Recall **Commissioner Bobby Green**? Bad idea. We're longtime critics of Green's environmental record, and the county income tax as presented is a bad idea. But come on, people. The recall process is intended for malfeasance in office – illegal acts – not for bad decisions. And let's face it: All the choices currently available to the county are bad ones.

• **Honk us out of Iraq?** Two weeks ago in this column we wrote about a new anti-war campaign just beginning in Lane County. The idea is for people all over the country to honk their horns or ring their bicycle bells at noon every Monday to send an audible reminder across our communities that the American people are fed up with the U.S. war in Iraq. The group was so new it didn't even have a website, but that's changed. The www.WorldLiveInPeace.com site is up and running.

• **Dennis Kucinich** offered an inspiring message of self-empowerment in his talks in Eugene and Corvallis this week. Rather than blaming mainstream media or run-away campaign spending for our political chaos, he says we need to give ourselves more credit and to take advantage of new technologies. "We are all mediums and messengers," he says, with the capacity to organize, create communities, solve local problems and even bring about peace on a global scale. What dissipates creative energy and drive, he says, is fear, worry and anger. In his run for the presidency, for example, he ignores all talk about what will happen if he doesn't win. "To do what I do requires perfect faith, a singular focus on the outcome."

• A distress call went out late last week. The **HIV Alliance** mobile outreach van died, and the nonprofit needs a reliable vehicle for its needle exchange, needle clean-up and outreach testing services. Call 342-5088 if you can help.

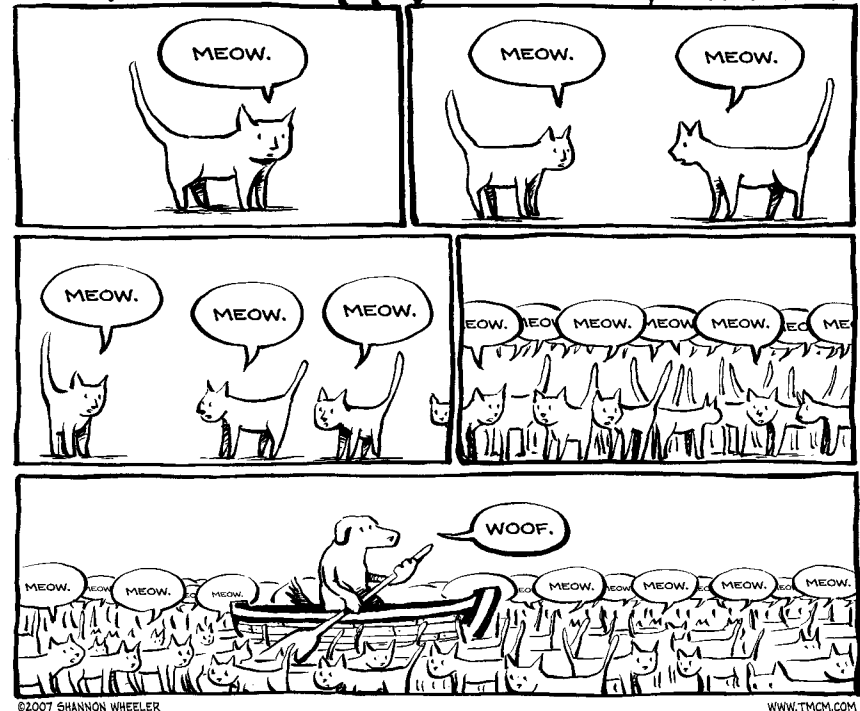
SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com

**Longtime peace advocate
Dennis Kucinich circa 1977**



How to Be Happy

by Shannon Wheeler



news Briefs



further in reducing the numbers of animals euthanized in the county.

Susan McDonald, one of the protest organizers and a member of the No Kill Community Committee said, "No-kill advocates believe in the true meaning of euthanasia." She described no-kill policy as "not killing adoptable or behaviorally or medically treatable animals."

Protestors expressed frustration with LCARA's current rates of what they called "unnecessary killing." During 2005/06, LCARA took in 2,126 dogs and euthanized 601. Of those dogs, 196 were killed due to lack of space. In the same time period, LCARA took in 1,710 cats, and euthanized 1,188, of those cats; 1,053 were deemed unadoptable.

Molly Sargent, who also organized the protest, pointed to the success of programs such as the adoptions volunteers have organized through PetSmart, which found homes for 80 of Lane County's cats. She said, "If the commissioners tell LCARA to go no-kill, they will do it."

LCARA volunteer and no-kill advocate Lesa Fisher said that she believed more cats could be adopted out if volunteers were allowed to spend more time grooming and socializing animals. "LCARA is short-staffed," she said, "and we want to help."

— Camilla Mortensen

ADVOCATES CALL FOR NO-KILL

Bearing signs that said "Working for You, But Killing Our Cats and Dogs," and "LCARA ... It's Just Killing Me," a group of Eugene animal advocates asked that Lane County Animal Regulation Authority (LCARA) become a "no-kill" animal facility.

The demonstration took place April 2 on the steps of the Lane County Courthouse and was aimed at county commissioners who the advocates say have ignored the "No kill/Neuter/Adopt Resolution" since it was presented to them in August 2006.

Many of the no-kill advocates came to the cause after eight cats were shot in the head by Swanson's Pest Management in July 2005. In response to these killings, county commissioners made the intentional killing of a dog or cat illegal last September. Now the advocates would like to see the commissioners go a step

MEASURE 37 FIX MAY BE WORSE

A state land use watchdog group raised concerns last week that a proposed Measure 37 compromise may make the situation with the pro-sprawl law worse.

1000 Friends of Oregon's list of questions and concerns with a draft proposal by the Legislature's Committee on Land Use Fairness includes allegations that the proposal may:

- fail to cover already filed claims;
- allow up to three homes even where Measure 37 wouldn't have allowed homes and where there was no loss in property value;
- allow fraudulent loss in value claims and allow waivers disproportionate to loss in value;
- be worse than the current measure in allowing transferability of waivers;
- allow claimants to squat indefinitely on