



PROSECUTORS OBJECT TO SUPPORT

Operation Backfire defendant Daniel McGowan reported to federal prison Monday, July 2 to serve his seven-year sentence for arson. His sentence was subject to the government's "terrorism enhancement."

McGowan filed a motion to push back his report date until the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) informed him where he will be incarcerated, but Judge Ann Aiken denied the request on June 27. McGowan will report to a holding facility to await his prison designation.

So far none of the Backfire defendants has been given an official prison designation. It is not yet known at what security level – maximum, medium, or minimum – the eco-saboteurs will be held.

In their opposition to McGowan's motion, "the prosecutors cited Daniel's interview with Amy Goodman on *Democracy Now* a

few days after he was sentenced, as well as the fact that the website we run for him, is still operational," McGowan's wife, Jenny Synan, wrote in an email update.

Aiken had expressed displeasure with McGowan's support site during his sentencing but did not request it be taken down. Many of the Operation Backfire defendants, as well as other people in prison for politically motivated crimes, maintain such sites. The sites fundraise for legal defense and often ask for books and letters of support to be sent to prisoners.

McGowan, in his interview with radio and television-based *Democracy Now*, expressed regret over his use of "arson as a tactic" and discussed his intention to get a master's degree in environmental sociology while in prison. The prosecutors cited a passage from McGowan's interview in which he said, "We have to stop pretending this is all about crime and punishment and start with dealing with real issues, like global climate change."

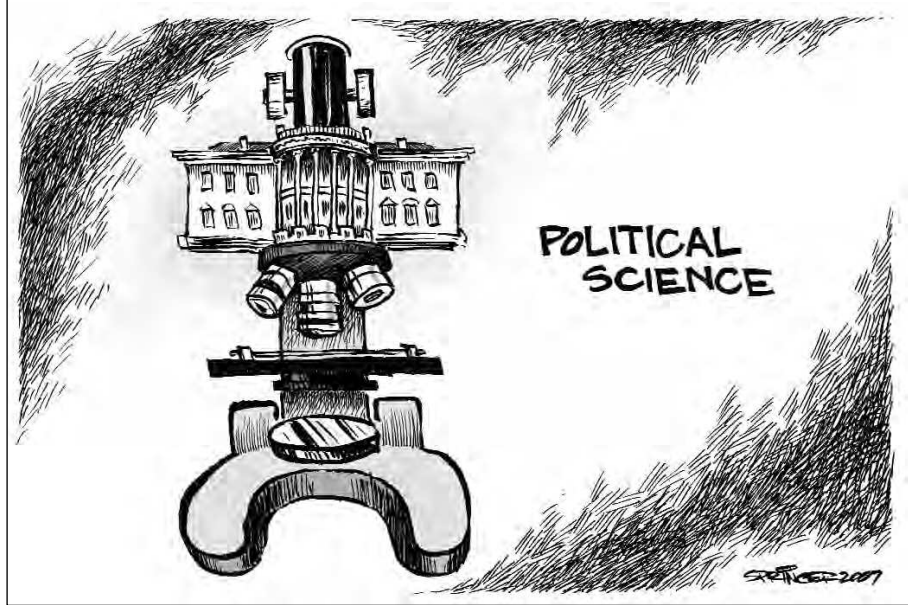
McGowan will not appeal the terrorism enhancement because "it may open up sentencing again," he said, and result in an even longer sentence.

"I'm going to move for full restoration of my civil rights" when released from prison, he said.

Operation Backfire support pages and email addresses include:

- Nathan Block and Joyanna Zacher: supportsofnathanandjoyanna@gmail.com
- Chelsea Gerlach: www.supportchelsea.org
- Daniel McGowan supportdaniel.org and www.myspace.com/danielmcgowan
- Jonathan Paul: friendsofjonathanpaul@yahoo.com
- Lacey Phillabaum www.laceyalice.org
- Darren Thurston: www.freedarren.org
- Kevin Tubbs www.supportkevintubbs.org
- Briana Waters www.supportbriana.org

No public support sites are yet available for Stanislas Meyerhoff, Suzanne Savoie or Kendall Tankersley. — *Camilla Mortensen*



CHENEY KILLS SALMON FOR SMITH

It's been long known that Karl Rove orchestrated the diversion of water in the Klamath River basin to Oregon farmers in 2002. But according to a recent series of articles in the *Washington Post*, it was Vice President Dick Cheney who was really pulling the strings. The move killed thousands of endangered salmon but ensured farmers' support for the reelection of Republican Sen. Gordon Smith.

Such political maneuverings are a possible violation of the Hatch Act. The Hatch Act (once known as "An Act to Prevent Pernicious Political Activities") prohibits federal employees from engaging in partisan political action while on the job.

The Klamath incident was only one of many anti-environmental misdeeds Cheney surreptitiously directed, from easing air pollution controls to reopening the national forests to logging, mining and other development.

Rove, senior political advisor to George W. Bush, gave a PowerPoint presentation to 50 Department of the Interior managers at a retreat in West Virginia in 2002. The presentation discussed polling data, and emphasized the importance of getting Smith reelected that year.

The water diversion resulted in low water flow in the Klamath, killing as many as 60,000 fish, a report from the California Department of Fish and Game said. The fish killed included naturally raised Chinook and endangered Coho salmon. The Oregon fishing industry relies heavily on Chinook salmon.

Michael Kelly, a lead biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service objected to the plan to divert the water, but his objections were overruled.

A federal judge later ruled that the Bush administration violated the Endangered Species Act by allowing the water to be diverted.

It is only recently the extent of Cheney's involvement in incidents such as the Klamath water release has become known. According to the *Post*, "he generally has preferred to operate with stealth." — *Camilla Mortensen*

SPRINGER IS FINALIST IN CONTEST

Longtime Eugene cartoonist Jesse Springer has been named a finalist in a national political cartoon contest sponsored by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The focus of the UCS contest is on government interference in science as it affects public policy. Springer entered five cartoons, and three of his made the top dozen out of 400 entries. Judges included Doonsebury creator Garry Trudeau and *Washington Post* editorial cartoonist Tom Toles.

Springer says his personal favorite is titled "Political Science," and he's hoping that one gets the most public votes. People can vote for their favorites at ucsaction.org and the contest can also be accessed through Springer's site, www.springercreative.com. The voting runs through July 23.

Votes are limited to one per email address.

All 12 finalist cartoons will be featured in a calendar the UCS publishes and distributes to help raise awareness about the issues. The grand prize winner receives 50 calendars, \$500 cash and a trip to Washington, D.C., for a tour of the UCS offices and lunch with Tom Toles.

Springer is an illustrator by profession and has drawn hundreds of cartoons and cover illustrations for *EW* since 1995. He also does political cartoons for *The Register-Guard* and other publications. Books of his cartoons are available at local book stores.

I (DON'T) BRAKE FOR FISH

Hitting your brakes kills salmon, according to a recent study by OSU researchers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Fisheries Service.

Copper from the wearing of brake pads is deposited on roads when drivers slow down or stop. The copper is then transported into rivers and streams through runoff after rains.

Copper affects the salmon's sense of smell, the study said. When a predator attacks a salmon, the fish releases a chemical cue from the skin that signals danger to nearby

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

DAVID PAUL

Growing up in the Bronx, David Paul got his start in theater as an usher at the aged Academy of Music in Manhattan, in its return to glory as a rock palace in the 1970s. "I

worked my way onto the stage as a cable puller and broom sweeper," he says. Paul migrated west with a friend who was moving to L.A., but finding it "just like New York except for the palm trees," he hitchhiked on to Eugene. "I had read *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*," he notes. After earning a degree in radio broadcast production from LCC, Paul produced a live music show for KLCC from the WOW Hall and George's Garage. "I got to know the local acts," he says. "It was a springboard to what I do now, booking festivals and working as a stage hand at the Hult Center." From his vantage point in the KLCC booth at the Oregon Country Fair in 1977, Paul could see that the main stage needed some help. "At that time, anyone who wanted a little responsibility at the fair got a lot of responsibility," he says. "Being a good-hearted hippie, I went on to coordinate the main stage for 30 years now." The Oregon Country Fair this year runs July 13-15.

