

ECOTAGE INFORMANT APPEARS IN COURT

Arsonist turned informant Jacob Ferguson filed a guilty plea in court Friday, Oct. 26, to one count of attempted arson and one count of arson. His sentencing is scheduled for 2 pm Jan. 10.

Information and covert recordings by Ferguson were key to the government's "Operation Backfire" case, leading to the prosecution of almost 20 participants in ecologically motivated arsons across the Northwest.

According to court documents, Ferguson participated, sometimes lighting the incendiary devices, in arsons at: the Detroit and Oakridge Ranger stations, Cave West, Burns BLM Wild Horse horse corrals, Forest Land Management Center (USDA), Redwood Coast Trucking Company, Wayne Bare Trucking, BLM Wild Horse Corrals Rock Springs (attempted), Vail Ski Resort arson, U. S. Forest Industries, Childers Meat Co., Boise Cascade and the Superior Lumber Company. He also participated in the destruction of a BPA transmission tower.

Speaking quietly and wearing a black wig covering the tattoos on his head, Ferguson pled guilty only to attempted arson of the Detroit Ranger Station, and the arson of a 1992 Ford pickup at the station. He has taken a plea deal that will likely allow him to be released on probation, unlike others in the case who face from three to 13 years in federal prisons.

Judge Ann Aiken asked Ferguson standard questions about his competence to understand the charges against him and the consequences of his plea deal. In response to the question of whether he had taken any drugs or alcohol, Ferguson stated he was currently on methadone and had been for the past three and half years. Methadone is a common treatment drug for heroin addiction.

Federal prosecutor Kirk Engdall said the government will give Ferguson downward departures in sentencing to "the extent necessary" to bring his sentence to Zone A of the federal sentencing guidelines, and requested the "low end" of the sentencing scale. The low end of Zone A is zero months served.

In answer to Judge Aiken's statement, "I assume there will be restitution," Engdall stated that according to the plea deal, Ferguson will not have to pay toward the estimated \$20 million in damages the arsons caused. He will have to pay \$200 in fees.

The conditions of the plea deal involve Ferguson's past and future cooperation with local, state and federal investigators in the arson and sabotage cases. This includes meeting with investigators at "any reasonable time and place," providing them with all documents and submitting to polygraph testing.

Ferguson also sometimes wore a "body wire" to record conversations with other defendants. The plea deal was dated and signed Sept. 17, 2004.

— Camilla Mortensen



news Briefs



OREGONIANS JOIN IN SEATTLE PROTEST

At estimated 300 peace activists from Eugene area and other Oregon cities joined the protests in Seattle Saturday, Oct. 27, according to United for Peace and Justice. UPJ organized the regional demonstrations against the war in Iraq in 11 cities. UPJ says 6,000 people gathered for the Seattle protest, and about 100,000 showed up nationwide.

"Today marks another important step in the development of a truly national movement to end the war and occupation in Iraq," said Leslie Cagan, national coordinator of UPJ. "This movement is strong and will only keep growing."

Michael Carrigan of CALC went to Seattle and said, "The marchers in Seattle were fired up and demanded decisive action by Congress to cut off the war funding and bring our troops home now, to block Bush administration plans for war against Iran, and to fund human needs and not war."

More information about the Oct. 27 actions is available online at www.oct27.org

WEBER EVENT DRAWS ACTION

Protesters are expected when the Pacifica Forum on the UO campus brings the controversial "revisionist historian" Mark Weber to speak at 7 pm Friday, Nov. 2, at McKenzie Hall, Room 129 on campus.

Weber's free talk is titled, "the Israel Lobby: How Powerful Is It?"

EW ran an ad for the lecture last week and heard from Craig Weinerman, chairman of Jewish Community Relations Council of Lane County, objecting to the ad and saying, "The imagery in the ad of the Star of David, a

symbol of Judaism, in the shape of a hissing cobra is chilling. It reminds us of similar images used throughout history to degrade Jews and denigrate the homeland of the Jewish people — the State of Israel."

Weinerman called Weber a "Holocaust denier," and added, "Weber is also a white supremacist who has been quoted as saying that blacks cannot be assimilated into white society."

"If Weber was invited to lecture about race relations or affirmative action, would the Eugene Weekly publish an ad with the imagery of a hangman's noose?" Weinerman asked.

In an Oct. 19 letter to the editor in the R-G, Weber said he is a "court-recognized expert on Germany's wartime Jewish policy and the Holocaust issue," and does not deny the Holocaust. "No reasonable or informed person disputes the catastrophe endured by Europe's Jews during World War II."

Essays by Weber can be found on the Institute for Historical Review website, ihr.org. In one essay, Weber writes, "If the U.S. had not intervened in World War II, Germany and its allies might have succeeded in vanquishing Soviet communism. A victory of the Axis powers also would have meant no communist subjugation of eastern Europe and China, no protracted East-West 'Cold War,' and no 'hot wars' in Korea and Vietnam."

On a more current topic Weber writes, "While the unprovoked U.S. invasion of Iraq may have helped Israel, just as those who wanted and planned for the war had hoped, it has been a calamity for America and the world. It has cost tens of thousands of lives and many tens of billions of dollars. Around the world, it has generated unmatched distrust and hostility toward the U.S."

A flier being handed out this week by local activists says, "Mark Weber is not a historian, much less a scholar of historical revisionism, nor is he a political scientist. Weber is a polemicist out to prove his viewpoint."

A statement from Orval Etter, founder of

EUGENE WEEKLY'S 2007 HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST WINNER



When this entry walked through the door, we knew right away it was a winner. Yellow Hallowrine, a tribute to the fab four by Nicole Stanley, took 1st Place in this year's competition. Congrats, Nicole; your fabulous prizes await. Thanks for the many entries we received.