

WILL STATE PROBE EPD FOR MAGAÑA SCANDAL?

If the state is investigating the Multnomah County Sheriff for allegedly failing to report crimes and lying in the Neil Goldschmidt sex scandal, will it also investigate Eugene police officers for allegedly failing to stop Roger Magaña's sex crimes?

Multnomah County Sheriff Bernie Giusto is in the hot seat. He allegedly lied about not knowing former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt was molesting a 14-year-old girl and lied about having sex with Goldschmidt's wife. At the time — three decades ago — Giusto was Goldschmidt's State Police driver.

It turns out lying and not reporting crimes can get your law enforcement license yanked in Oregon, effectively ending or suspending a police career. A little known state agency, the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), has the statutory authority to revoke law enforcement licenses in Oregon for such moral offenses. DPSST recently issued a 318-page investigatory report questioning Giusto's integrity and recommending a February hearing on whether "Bernard Giusto has fallen below the estab-

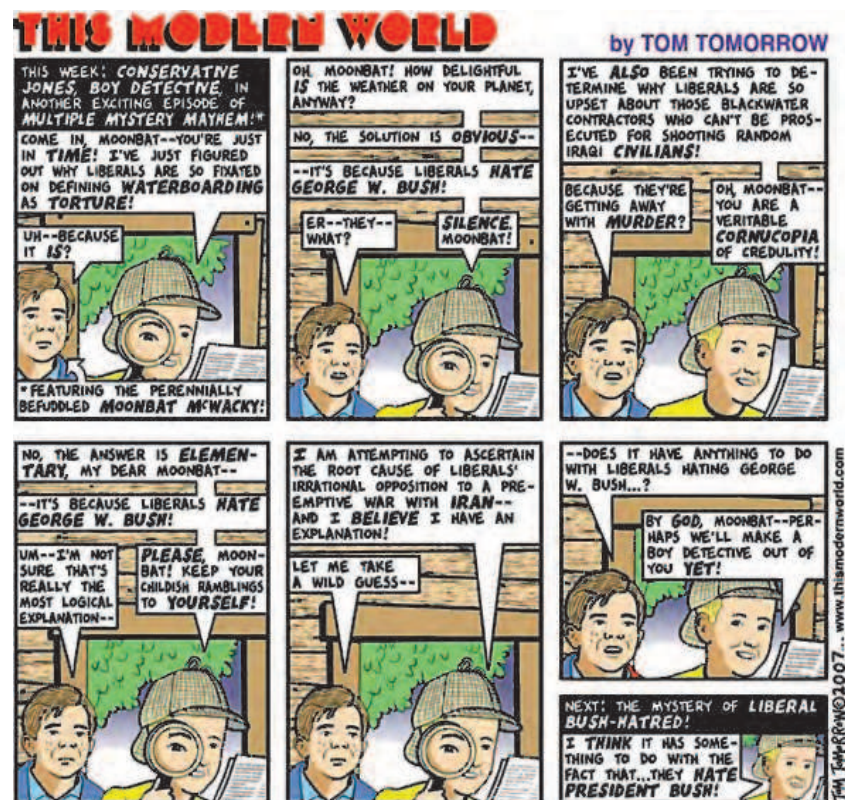
lished standards for Oregon public safety officers," *Willamette Week* reported.

So what about Magaña? He was sentenced to 94 years in prison in 2004 for using his police power to rape, sexually abuse, assault and harass a dozen women over six years as a Eugene police officer. In March 2005, federal Judge Thomas Coffin ruled against the EPD, allowing six lawsuits against the city to go forward. He noted evidence that EPD officers failed to rein in Magaña despite strong evidence of misconduct. The judge listed 13 separate incidents where 12 women and one man allegedly had reported Magaña's sex abuse, ranging from harassment to rape. The reports went to at least 14 different police officers without the city's stopping Magaña's abuse. Rather than go to trial, the city then settled the lawsuits for millions of dollars.

To declare an officer unfit for a police badge in Oregon, DPSST need not demonstrate beyond a reasonable doubt that the officer lied or failed to report crimes but only that the officer could “cause a reasonable person to have doubts about his honesty, fairness, respect for the rights of others, and for the laws of this state.”

A few of the officers Coffin and/or abuse victims' attorneys cited have since retired. But many continue to carry guns and badges for the EPD. The city has refused to investigate or discipline the officers who failed to report Magaña's crimes.

But what about DPSST? The state police accrediting agency didn't jump to investigate Giusto when widespread press accounts of his role in the Goldschmidt scandal emerged three years ago. The agency only acted after a Tigard businessman filed an official complaint with DPSST in April. — *Alan Pittman*



FIELD BURNING TOWN HALL

Field burning season may have come to an end for this year, but the smoky problem lingers. Oregon Toxics Alliance (OTA) is hosting a town hall meeting on field burning health concerns on Nov. 14.

The event will feature health professionals, elected officials and Eugene residents who have been harmed by the smoke from burning grass seed fields and will have a question and answer session.

The debate on field burning centers on fine particles from the smoke. These parti-

cles, called PM 2.5, can penetrate deep into the lungs, and according to the Environmental Protection Agency, PM 2.5 is linked to “numerous health problems,” from asthma to premature death.

PM 2.5 is also produced by sources such as gasoline and diesel vehicles, industrial processes and wood burning. Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) issued a temporary ban on backyard burning, which also generates PM 2.5, on Oct. 30, due to poor air quality. However, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) regulates field burning, not LRAPA.

In one field burning incident last July, smoke from a field burn south of Harrisburg

BODY COUNT EXPANDING

The traveling Iraq Body Count Exhibit has returned to the UO campus and will be up through Nov. 18. About 200 volunteers spent last weekend installing one white flag for every six Iraqis killed since the U.S. invasion and one red flag for every U.S. soldier killed.

Numbers are based on the 2006 *Lancet* report, which estimated 655,000 Iraqi dead. New estimates of Iraqi civilian deaths range as high as 1 million though only about 83,000 have been reported in the media. "Since we installed this exhibit at the UO earlier this year, we have had to purchase another box of 1,000 red flags to represent the nearly 1,000 U. S. troops who have died since January," reads a statement from the organizers.

Donations are being accepted to buy thousands of more flags so that the installation planned for Washington, D.C., next spring can include one flag for every person who has died.

The exhibit was first created at the University of Colorado in October 2006 and came to the UO in February of this year; it then traveled to other schools and events in Oregon and California.

The exhibit of about 3,800 flags covers a large area of grass south of 13th Avenue from the Knight Library to University Street.

Volunteers will also be needed to take down the ex-



Thousands of flags represent the Americans and Iraqis who have died since the U.S. invasion

hibit, starting at 10 am Sunday, Nov. 18. For more information on the project, visit iraqbodycountexhibit.org

The exhibit is part of National Veterans Awareness Week / Week of Remembrance. "The intention is to make the death count numbers visually real, to bring veteran and peace communities together as we remember the human cost of war on both sides," say organizers. "IBCE is

not meant as a political event or statement, only a show of the numbers, as each person experiences the exhibit in their own way.”

Local people involved in organizing the exhibit include Carol Melia of the Justice Not War Coalition, Zach Basaraba of the Survival Center and Oscar Guerra of MECCA.