VOTER OWNED OR MONEY OWNED:

A Panel Discussion On Voter Owned Elections

Thursday, January 24, 7-8:30pm

Harris Hall, Lane County Courthouse
125 East 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon

Hosted by Lane County Commissioner Pete Sorenson
with Arizona State Senator Meg Burton Cahill,
and Register-Guard Editorial Page Editor Jackman Wilson.

Free/All Invited
For more information contact:
Commissioner Sorenson's Office: 682-3721 and Peter.SORENSON@co.lane.or.us

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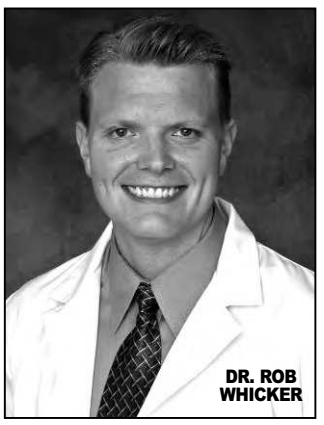

DR. ROB WHICKER

(541) 868-2008

"Because the Mouth Bone is Connected to the Body Bone"

NOTICE TO PARENTS

School's open!

Visit your neighborhood school – and more!

Learn about Eugene School District 4J schools. Start by visiting your neighborhood school. With the district's school choice policy, parents may send their children to any school within the district, provided there is space available. All 4J schools focus on nurturing the success of each child.

You can enroll in your neighborhood school at any time. To enroll in another district school, the school choice period is from NOW until March 21 for the 2008–09 school year. The 4J Schools Guide — available at any school, at the 4J Education Center, or at www.4j.lane.edu — offers an overview of each school.

Schools throughout the district will be open for visits:

Monday, Jan. 28 - Thursday, Jan. 31
Monday, Feb. 25 - Friday, Feb. 29

Please phone ahead or visit www.4j.lane.edu as each school offers different activities and times when parents can visit.

District-wide Information Meetings

Meetings at the 4J Education Center, 200 N. Monroe, will provide general information about the school application and enrollment process. Spanish translation will be provided.

Thurs.	**Jan. 24:**	**7 – 8 pm**
Sat.	**Jan. 26:**	**9 – 10 am**
Sat.	**Feb. 23:**	**9 – 10 am**

The Application Process

To enroll your child in a school other than your neighborhood school, parents should:

- Pick up an application at any school, at the 4J Education Center, 200 N. Monroe, or at www.4j.lane.edu.
- Return the application no later than March 21 to the 4J Education Center.

More information is available at:
Eugene School District 4J
200 N. Monroe Street, Eugene, OR 97402
687-3481 www.4j.lane.edu

School's open – and you're welcome to visit.

news Briefs

Bear to a friend. The friend, perplexed by what Tan calls "didactic passages" mixed in with the purple prose that "abused" ellipses and exclamation marks with "abandon," Googled some of the passages. The web search revealed, Tan writes, "Startling and Eerie Similarities" between Shadow Bear and, "I shit you not, an article about black-footed ferrets from the Defenders of Wildlife."

Edwards used materials from sources as wide-ranging as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Hiawatha* and Pulitzer Prize winning *Laughing Boy* by Oliver La Farge.

Paul Tolme, author of the ferret article, initially mocked the romance genre writing in a *Newsweek* story, "The prose is standard romance-novel shlock. Bramlett's bosom heaves. Shadow Bear feels a longing in his loins."

Tan called such comments on the genre "cheap shots" but says, "I won't have to sic my ferret minions on him. This time." Tolme later recanted some of his criticisms in a letter to the blog and wrote, "This crazy saga of plagiarism and hot romance has done more to highlight the plight of black-footed ferrets than any event in recent history."

Nora Roberts, a bestselling author of more than 150 romance novels, offered to match up to $5,000 of funds raised by Smart Bitches readers to donate to Defenders of Wildlife. The Smart Bitches readers raised $5,000 in two days, giving the Defenders and their ferrets $10,000 as a result of the romance ruckus.

Despite the stigma associated with reading romance novels, a survey by Romance Writers of America showed that 42 percent of romance readers have a college degree or higher, and 15 percent have post-graduate degrees or training. Janice Radway's seminal *Reading the Romance Novel* also challenged popular myths about romance readers.

For Eugene romance readers who want to experience the writer, whom Tan and Wendell graded an "F" even before the plagarism allegations, Tan notes: "She's covered Northwest tribes in her books — the hero for Savage Hope is Makah, and another one of her books featured the Skokomish."

— Camilla Mortensen

WAR DEAD

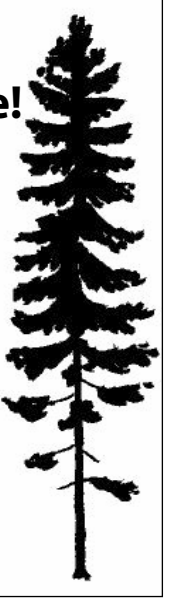
Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 20, 2003

(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- **3,929 U.S. troops killed*** (3,923)
- **28,870 U.S. troops injured*** (28,870)
- **135 U.S. military suicides*** (135)
- **307 coalition troops killed**** (307)
- **933 contractors killed** (accurate updates NA)
- **88,044 to one million Iraqi civilians killed***** (88,004)
- **$487.7 billion cost of war** ($485.7 billion)
- **$138.7 million cost to Eugene taxpayers** ($138.1 million)

** through Jan. 21, 2008; source: icasualties.org; some figures only updated monthly*
*** estimate; source: icasualties.org*
**** highest estimate; source: iraqbodycount.org; based on confirmed media reports; other groups calculate civilian deaths as high as 655,000 to one million*

LEAD Plant-a-thon

Sponsor a teen to plant a tree!

LEAD's mission is to develop the leadership skills of low income teens, empowering them to address community problems and change the world.
With our Plant-a-thon event on February 2, you can help support our outdoor adventure program, one tree at a time! Sponsor a teen to plant trees!
Suggested sponsorship: $20-$250.00
Mail your tax deductible donation to LEAD: PO Box 11645, Eugene, OR 97440.
www.leadteen.com
Call Stina Watkins to volunteer and for information on how your donation will make a difference: 342-TEEN.