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news Briefs

FINAL OREGON ECO-SABOTEUR SENTENCED

The last of the Operation Backfire sentences in Oregon was handed down on June 3 to Jacob Ferguson, along with what has become *de rigueur* for the eco-saboteurs in Judge Anne Aiken's courtroom: a book recommendation.



Ferguson

Ferguson's sentence of no prison time and five years' probation was of no surprise to those following the cases. The sentence, Aiken said, was a result of extensive cooperation between Ferguson and federal prosecutors. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Engdahl, Ferguson wore a recording device on 40 occasions in Oregon and across the country, resulting in 88 hours of tape. "In at least one instance he was in a situation where the recording device was taken from him, unbeknownst to the person who took it," said Ferguson's attorney Ed Spinney, stressing what he called the "danger" to which Ferguson's cooperation subjected him.

The government also said that despite "rumor and innuendo," Ferguson received no payment during his cooperation.

Spinney called Ferguson "a modern day Raskolnikov," in reference to what he said was Ferguson's "torment" and "nightmares" about his involvement in the arsons.

Ferguson, who appeared to be wearing a wig covering a tattoo on his head, expressed remorse for his involvement in the arsons and said he wanted to figure out ways to repay society. He was charged with and pleaded guilty to only one count of arson and one count of attempted arson out of what Engdahl

referred to as "more than 20 arson attacks" from 1995 to 2001. Ferguson will not pay any restitution, under his plea agreement, for what Engdahl said was \$40 million in damages.

Judge Aiken again recommended the same book she had assigned to others

sentenced in the eco-actions: Greg Mortenson's *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School At A Time*. She also added another recommendation, Jeff Henderson's *Cooked: From the Streets to the Stove, from Cocaine to Foie Gras*.

However, unlike at past sentencings, she did not request a book report.

The government continues to investigate ecologically motivated arsons in the Midwest, and the Operation Backfire cases in Washington have not been sentenced. In Portland, activist Tre Arrow has taken a plea agreement that calls for 78 months in prison, leaving him with less than a year and half left to serve.

— Camilla Mortensen

WAR DEAD

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 27, 2003

(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- 4,086 U.S. troops killed* (4,082)
- 29,978 U.S. troops injured* (29,978)
- 145 U.S. military suicides* (145)
- 312 coalition troops killed** (312)
- 1,123 contractors killed (accurate updates NA)
- 91,889 to one million Iraqi civilians killed*** (91,713)
- \$524.8 billion cost of war (\$523.9 billion)
- \$149.3 million cost to Eugene taxpayers (\$148.7 million)

* through June 2, 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

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2:00-2:20	ACT-SO
2:30-3:30	Taste
4:00-5:30	Eleven Eyes

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