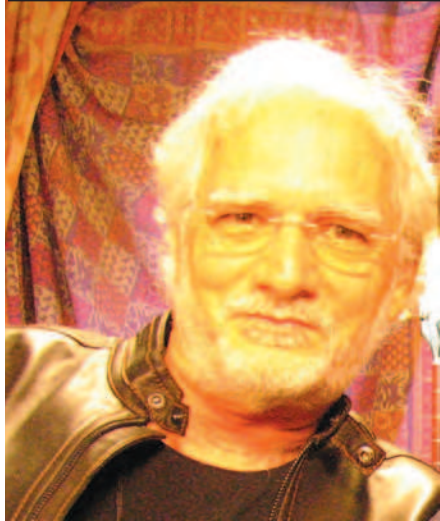




Grateful Dead drummer Bill Kreutzmann

Fareed Haque and the Flat Earth Ensemble, and Papa Mali are booked on the Main Stage. Spoken word performers at this year's fair include Swami Beyondananda, Laura Piece Kelly and Ari Lesser.

The full entertainment schedule will be updated at www.oregoncountryfair.org and look for *EW*'s Country Fair issue coming July 9.

ACTIVIST ALERT

• The **International Socialist Organization** is holding a free public meeting at 6:30 pm Friday, May 15, at 180 PLC on the UO campus. Speakers will be John Bellamy Foster, UO professor of sociology and editor of *Monthly Review*; and Todd Chretien, 2006 Green Party Senate candidate in California. Foster will also be on the KLCC "Sunday at Noon" program May 10.

• Extended **interviews with Civilian Review Board** members are now at www.YouTube/PictureEugene or on the *EW* blog. The interviews with attorney Kate Wilkinson and Municipal Court Judge Rick Bressenden were conducted by Carol Berg-Caldwell. Videographers are Tim Lewis and Micah L. Griffin. The third video shows the board members' reaction to the ironic police union ad in *EW* April 30.

• Coming up May 29-30 will be the **Lane Peace Center's** second annual peace conference, "Peace & Collective

Happening people

BY PAUL NEEVEL

MAGGIE MINNICH

After high school in Moscow, Idaho, "I left as soon as I could," says Maggie Minnich, who moved to Eugene in 2007 to enroll in pre-journalism at the UO. During that school year, she also worked on the Assault Prevention Show at the ASUO Women's Center. "I met a lot of people who were passionate about prevention of sexual violence," she says. As she had already planned to take a year off from school to work and to establish residency in Oregon, Minnich applied for a position at Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) through the state's AmeriCorps HOPE (Healthy Options Through Prevention and Education) program. "I do youth prevention education," she says. "Teachers call us to give presentations in middle schools and high schools. I love talking with people, especially youth." Minnich helped coordinate last month's Take Back the Night rally and march, and she has developed a curriculum for a proposed teen volunteer program at SASS. When her Americorps contract ends in July, she plans to apply to the UO's degree program in Family and Human Services. "After this year at SASS, I've become more interested in social services," she says. "I'd like to work with youth in the sexual health field."



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ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

Voters face some tougher than usual choices with 4J and LCC school board elections, but the opportunities for the public to hear the candidates have been few and late. Ballots must be in drop-off boxes by 8 pm Tuesday, May 19. Here are our picks in the contested races, and see our news story this week for information on how the candidates differ. See also Suzi Steffens' live-blogging of the May 12 candidate forum at blogs.eugeneweekly.com Many of the candidates have websites with more statements. Just Google their names.



4J Position 2 – Anne Marie Levis

Vying for the vacancy being left by Charles Martinez are three qualified candidates, all with solid, practical ideas and exceptional backgrounds. Based purely on experience in K-12 education, John Lehmann would have been our choice. Based purely on powerful business management skills, Paul Bertucci would have won out. But Anne Marie Levis has a compelling set of abilities and an energetic drive that give her the slight advantage this time around. Her level of community involvement exceeds that of the other candidates, and she is running the strongest campaign with more than 100 endorsements, locally and statewide. She is in the PR business, after all.

Our endorsement is tempered by the fact that she tried very hard to unseat Betty Taylor on the City Council back in 1996 with the help of development interests, and she has been an enthusiastic advocate for maintaining the special privileges of wealthy and white alternative schools at the expense of poorer and browner neighborhood schools. Eugene is addicted to school choice, but choice needs to be radically reformed to make it more equitable. It would be tough to defend the district if a discrimination lawsuit were filed.

In her defense, Levis does understand the inequities that have been created with choice. She says they can be addressed with efforts to recruit more poor and Hispanic kids to alternative schools. But we hope she pushes for more substantive changes, such as moving the French immersion program out of south Eugene to help balance enrollment gaps. A school board member needs to serve all children.

Bertucci is a compelling candidate with corporate-based ideas on how to slash expenses at every level, including more cuts to teacher salaries. He seems to understand more than any other candidate how school choice is not only unfair but also conflicts with our city's transportation and other planning priorities. Every morning and afternoon, Eugene sees traffic jams at elementary schools. He wants to eliminate school choice, but there's a contradiction: He also favors language immersion schools. If he's elected, we hope he works for foreign language programs in *all* the schools.

4J Position 6 – Beth Gerot

Beth Gerot is the incumbent in this race and currently chairs the 4J board. Her opponents are Gary Rayer and Yan Seiner. We like Gerot's ideas on enhancing professional development within the schools, and her recognition that every student needs basic skills, regardless of whether they are going on to college or joining the workforce. She is also calling for a restructuring of our state tax system, which we agree is a key piece of the school funding puzzle. With a decade of experience behind her and her growing connections at the state level, she's in a position to affect some significant changes in the next four years.

Rayer is critical of the board for not dealing with what he sees as persistent problems in the district, such as school choice inequities and unbalanced high schools. And Yan Seiner has some good ideas about developing magnet schools. But neither have Gerot's solid knowledge, experience and community support.

LCC Zone 4 – Susie Johnston

This race also has some good candidates, but only Susie Johnston has the know-how to maintain and grow the college during these financially stressful times. She understands which programs need priority support and how the different programs are interconnected. And the fact that she is currently a student at LCC means she's on campus every day interacting with fellow students and teachers.

Jose Ortal has the most formal education of the three candidates. With his analytical and inquiring mind he would be a quick study, but it could take him years to catch up to Johnston's experience. Likewise Gordon Culbertson has a lot to offer through his decades of management in business and industry.

River Road Park District – Yes

Measure 20-150 is on ballots mailed to River Road residents and a part of the Whiteaker neighborhood. The levy would raise \$1 million in property taxes over five years to make up for lost city funding. The levy would support the heavily used Emerald Park with its pool and recreation facilities, along with classes and other programs. Taxes can be painful, but supporting this community center is important to the vitality of the neighborhood.