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animals and humans were not harmed through their actions. The attorneys for Daniel McGowan, who was sentenced to seven years for his actions, argued that being labeled a terrorist might result in the activist, whose background included political pie-throwing, being put in a terrorist prison.

McGowan in fact did spend much of his time in prison in a secretive “Communications Management Unit,” where as he recently blogged, “the communications restrictions at the CMUs are, in some respects, harsher than those at ADX, the notorious federal ‘Supermax’ prison in Colorado.”

McGowan was the subject of the 2012 Oscar-nominated film *If A Tree Falls*, featuring a number of Eugene activists, attorneys and filmmakers, documenting some of the arsons and other actions around the Northwest for which he was jailed. He continued to write political pieces from prison. The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), which is representing McGowan and other prisoners in a case challenging the CMU’s constitutionality, says, “new documents uncovered in the case indicate he was placed in these highly restrictive experimental units as retaliation for his political writings on current events and issues while he was in prison.”

A couple days after McGowan’s April 1 blog about CMUs was posted on the *The Huffington Post*’s website, McGowan, who had been released to a halfway house for the last six months of his sentence, found himself back in a federal detention center. According to a press release from the CCR, McGowan was issued an “incident report” indicating that his blog post violated a Bureau of Prisons (BOP) regulation prohibiting inmates from “publishing under a byline.” But the CCR says that “the BOP regulation in question was declared unconstitutional by a federal court in 2007, and eliminated by the BOP in 2010.” The CCR says that after the group brought this to the BOP’s attention, McGowan was released and the incident report expunged.

After he was released, the CCR says McGowan was provided with a list of prohibited activities by halfway house staff, “which he was required to sign.” The list forbids him any media contact without approval from the BOP, though the prison system’s “regulations only require pre-approval of in-facility interviews.” The list also says he can’t publish any writing of his own without prior BOP permission. “As far as we know, this is a made-up rule applied only to Daniel, in a further attempt to chill his freedom of speech,” the CCR says.

In an earlier statement, the CCR attorneys said, “If this is indeed a case of retaliation for writing an article about the BOP retaliating against his free speech while he was in prison, it is more than ironic, it is an outrage.”

According to the BOP website, McGowan’s projected release date is June 5. — *Camilla Mortensen*

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS ON CITY FEE

Progressive former city councilor Bonny Bettman McCornack walks into a meeting of Glenn Beck fans — it sounds like there’s a punch line coming, but at the meeting of 9.12 Project Lane County April 9, when Bettman McCornack presented her position against the proposed city fee on the May ballot, there was an air of agreement in the Izzy’s Pizza banquet room.

In front of the conservative audience, Bettman McCornack questioned why the ballot measure asks citizens to vote on human services instead of other options, such as using the city’s reserves or whether this is the right time to contribute to a fund for rebuilding City Hall. “That should be the ballot measure!” a voice from the audience called out, repeating Bettman McCornack verbatim.

Lela Trope, a founder of 9.12 Lane, says she attended the meeting knowing that Bettman McCornack is a self-professed progressive, so she was curious to see how their opinions on fiscal matters would cross or diverge. While Trope says that Bettman McCornack’s “hot-button issue” seems to be human services, and Trope’s interest is more tax-focused, Trope says they agree about the unfairness of picking some of the city’s most popular programs for the ballot. “She knows full well that the human services are the carrot and the stick, but the nice thing [about meeting] somebody like that is that they understand that it’s the carrot and the stick,” Trope says. “A lot of people will vote for almost anything just to protect a niche, and she knows better, and I really like that.”

Glenn Stutzman, who organized the meeting, says that he did a little more background research than usual before Bettman McCornack visited the group, but he was encouraged by a positive opinion of her previous talk on the fee from Americans for Prosperity, a conservative group founded by the Koch brothers. He says the presentation confirmed what he suspected. “There is a need to justify their existence by spending money taking care of people, and to do that they have to have an ever-increasing supply of money, but a lot of what they get into is outside their actual responsibility,” he says.

Stutzman says that transparency about the city’s cuts in recent years, touted by the pro-fee faction, is another issue for him. “They say they’ve laid people off, but some of those layoffs were empty positions to begin with,” he says. “One of the facets of these departments within a city is that those departments pad their departments with empty chairs, so that when it comes time to cut back, they can cut back, maybe, but not really.” — *Shannon Finnell*

ACTIVIST ALERT

• Glorybee’s 38th annual **Bee Weekend** is April 12-13 at the Factory Store, 29548 B Airport Road in Eugene, right off Highway 99. The free two-day event centers on beekeeping practices, demonstrations and activities such as honey tasting and children’s contests and crafts. Check out glorybeefoods.com or call 689-0913.

• The **Yes for 4J Schools** campaign is under way with Gerry Gaydos and Sabrina Parsons as co-chairs, joined by school board members and local students. Measure 20-210 on the May ballot is a \$170 million bond that would cost the median Eugene homeowner about \$42 dollars a year. Details at 4j.lane.edu or yesfor4jschools.com or email jwfrancois@comcast.net

• **Green Drinks**, an informal monthly gathering of local progressives, will begin at 5 pm Friday, April 12, at World Café, 449 Blair Blvd. The free networking event happens every second Friday. See heliosnetwork.org

• The **Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides** (NCAP) will celebrate heroes who are working to reduce pesticide use in their communities during a fundraiser at 6 pm Tuesday, April 16, at Holy Cow Café, 2621 Willamette St. Holy Cow is also donating 25 percent of its daily profits to NCAP. The free event will feature speaker Colehour Bondera, member of the National Organics Standards Board, organic farmer and activist from Hawaii. The first-ever winner of NCAP’s Community Hero Award will be announced. Contact Katie Kis at kkis@pesticide.org for more information.

• A public comment period on nine plans for **state-owned forests** managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry began April 8 and ends at 5 pm May 23. The forests include several tracts in Lane, Benton, Polk, Coos and Curry counties. See wkly.ws/1g4 for a list of forests and the issues involved, and how to submit testimony. Comments can be also be emailed to sfaopians@odf.state.or.us

• Three **volunteers from Springfield** are needed to serve on a citizen planning committee to help monitor the execution of a long-range plan for the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park, a 237-acre urban greenway connecting the communities of Eugene and Springfield. Completed applications are due by April 24. Visit willamalane.org or call Greg Hyde at 736-4050 or email gregh@willamalane.org

• Media activist and author **Jean Kilbourne** and World Peace founder Jensine Larsen will speak at the Lane Peace Center’s sixth annual Peace Symposium, with the theme of “Rise to End Gender Violence!” Friday, April 19, in the LCC main campus Building 19. Look for more information in *EW* next week or visit wkly.ws/1g6



SKEETER DUKE

The son of a Navy test pilot, Skeeter Duke lived all over the map before landing in Oxnard, Calif., for junior high and high school. “I married my high school sweetheart the day before the Tet Offensive,” he says. “We broke up a week before Woodstock.” Duke taught preschool in San Jose, studied for a bachelor’s in history and lived in communal housing with pot-smoking antiwar freaks. “On the first Earth Day in 1970, my friends bought a brand-new Pinto, dug a hole and pushed it in,” he says. “A week later, I sold my VW. I haven’t had a car since.” He moved to “The Farm,” a commune west of Creswell, with 10 others in 1971, then to Eugene for a job at the UO Child Care and Development Center. He campaigned for Jerry Rust, got arrested for anti-nuke sit-ins, played drums in rock bands and sold mobiles at the Saturday Market. He’s been active in the Community Village at the Oregon Country Fair since 1977, and a member of the East Blair Housing Cooperative since 1984. “We own 22 households in two clusters,” he says. “We have chickens, bees, fruit trees and raised beds.” A history buff since childhood, he has recorded public-affairs radio programs on cassette tapes since the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in 1979. “I have close to two million tapes,” says Duke, who hopes to find a safe repository. “The insurance company says they have to go.”