

# news Briefs

## POLICE REVIEW GETS A FORUM

The upcoming Nov. 8 election in the city of Eugene has just one item on the ballot, the External Police Review Board Measure 20-106, and just one public forum planned so far. Ballots are mailed Oct. 21.

The forum is scheduled for 7 to 8:30 pm Wednesday, Oct. 19 at EWEB, 500 E. 4th Ave. The event is sponsored by the ACLU of Oregon, CALC, Communities United for Better Policing, the League of Women Voters of Lane County and KOPT Radio. Bonny Bettman, Gary Papé, Henry Luvert and Ken Tollenaar are the scheduled panelists. Alan Siporin will be moderator.

The ballot language will ask voters: "Shall Eugene charter authorize city council to hire police auditor and appoint civilian review board to review complaints against police?"

Setting up an independent external review requires a charter amendment since all powers to hire and fire city staff are currently held exclusively by the city manager. The measure is an outgrowth of a 15-month review by the Eugene Police Commission. The commission looked at current practices for handling complaints against Eugene police, and analyzed various models of oversight being used around the country.

A description of the ballot measure and its background can be found at [www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov) under "City Highlights." Proponents

have a website now at [www.yeson20-106.org](http://www.yeson20-106.org). A Voters Pamphlet is expected to arrive in city residents' mailboxes the week of Oct. 17. Deadline for registering to vote is 21 days before the election, which is Oct. 18. — TJT

## BENNIS TALKS ON EMPIRE

Activist scholar and journalist Phyllis Bennis will be speaking in Eugene Tuesday, Oct. 18. The title of her talk is *Challenging Empire: Moving US Politics Toward A Positive Solution*.

Bennis is a senior analyst at the Institute for Policy Studies and is active with the anti-war coalition United for Peace and Justice. She's a writer, analyst and activist on U.N. issues. Bennis appears frequently as a commentator and analyst on U.S. and international television and radio, and has written about U.N. and Middle East issues for almost 20 years.

Bennis is also involved with the creative and theatrical peace and social justice movement CODEPINK ([www.codepink4peace.org](http://www.codepink4peace.org)). On Sept. 26 she joined Cindy Sheehan, Medea Benjamin of Global Exchange and more than 30 other women at a colorful direct action in front of the White House.

Bennis will also be in **Corvallis** speaking about her recently published book, *Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*, at 7 pm Monday, Oct. 17 at the Odd Fellows Hall downtown.



Phyllis Bennis

## SLANT

• Listening to KLCC's semi-annual Radiothon last week we heard about a caller promising to match the pledge of the next fan of KRVM's Jefferson Public Radio. What's going on here? Public radio generates strong loyalties and a sense of ownership, and in this case, one listener loves both stations, and took this opportunity to express it. What's not to love? If "Morning Edition" on KLCC-FM gets boring, you can switch to Diane Rehm on KRVM-AM. Weary of Garrison Keillor on KRVM? Switch to Brian Hebb and Claude Offenbacher on KLCC. Our cover story this week looks into a topic that's not been explored before – how KLCC picks its programming, and how some members of the community and staff have reacted in recent years. It's a clash of values, priorities and process familiar to every human collaboration. Non-profits are particularly prone to such conflicts because they have a public service mission, and are held to higher standards. Organizations relying on broad community support and entrusted with the public airways have an even bigger burden. We listen to the ever-chipper KLCC Radiothon hosts telling us that they want feedback and suggestions. Our cover story this week has an abundance of both. On a final note, it's great to hear Alan



Alan Siporin

Siporin's voice back on the air. He's a substitute host at KOPT, two years after leaving KLCC.

• Mouths are flapping lately about whether urban sprawl makes us fat. It's a chicken-or-egg debate: Do people become sedentary because they move into sprawling suburbs and drive their cars everywhere, or do people move into sprawling suburbs because they don't like to exercise? Northwest Environment Watch maintains that it's the former, and that sprawl is making Americans fatter. A recent OSU study found that it's the latter, and we can't blame sprawl for the rising obesity rate. We think both sides are asking the wrong question. Rather than debate the source of the sprawl-obesity connection, we need to acknowledge that the link is there, and ask what it's doing to our kids.

• After Hurricane Katrina we suggested in this column that Eugene residents are also vulnerable to disaster from flooding if our dams fail. Several concerned readers have asked us for more information, and City Club last week featured three local experts on natural disasters. It seems we are vulnerable to all sorts of catastrophes. The most dramatic would be a major quake on the Cascadia Region Subduction Zone along the Oregon Coast. We don't like scaring people (well, maybe sometimes), but federal agen-

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

