

tion about costs, reservations, and arranging bus transportation from Lane County.

SUNA MEETS ABOUT UO BUILDINGS

Residents in the South University Neighborhood Association (SUNA) are gathering at 7 pm Tuesday, Jan. 8 to talk about two big new building projects planned by the UO on the edge of the campus. The projects include a huge basketball arena with parking lots off Franklin Boulevard, and a seven-story student apartment complex at 19th and Alder. Both projects are expected to have an impact on the neighborhood.

The apartment complex is designed for 212 students and will provide parking for 40 cars. "Many neighbors have concluded that no seven-story structure, no matter how well designed, can be compatible with our neighborhood, where there are no buildings more than three stories," says SUNA President Bob Peters in the latest neighborhood newsletter. Peters says "cars belonging to 212 students will flood the streets" of the neighborhood.

Representatives from the apartment developers are expected at the meeting, along with Patricia Thomas of the city's Infill Compatibility Standards project.

Also on the SUNA agenda Tuesday is the Olympic Trials at Hayward Field in late June. "Our neighborhood will have a ringside seat," says Peters. "The Trials are expected to attract 15,000 daily. That means parking could be a worse problem for our neighborhood than during UO athletic events."

OREGON CUTS AUSTRALIAN WEB ACCESS

Who knew Australia depended upon Oregon for its online gaming? Thanks to landslides in Oregon, Australian access to U.S. Internet sites was temporarily cut in half in early December,

WAR DEAD

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

(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- **3,902 U.S. troops killed*** (3,897)
- **28,661 U.S. troops injured*** (28,661)
- **132 U.S. military suicides*** (132)
- **307 coalition troops killed**** (307)
- **933 contractors killed** (accurate updates NA)
- **87,350 to one million Iraqi civilians killed***** (86,462)
- **\$481.7 billion cost of war** (\$479.8 billion)
- **\$129.7 million cost to Eugene taxpayers** (adjusted)

* through Dec. 31, 2007; 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

according to *The Australian* news service.

Southern Cross Cable, which owns the severed cable, diverted Internet traffic to a secondary cable that comes to the U.S. in Southern California, but Internet traffic was significantly slowed for several days.

Two of Australia's three top Internet service providers were affected by the break in the cable from Australia that comes to shore at Nedonna Beach near Tillamook Bay. The break was caused by landslides during the early December storms and repairs were further delayed due to "felled trees and flooding" according to an update to customers from the Australian ISP Optus.

The interrupted service caused complaints on number of Internet forums that rely on U.S. websites. Australian players of the popular online game "Warcraft" were apparently particularly affected, judging by complaints posted in its forums. — *Camilla Mortensen*

Happening people

BY PAUL NEEVEL

PAUL McNAMARA

After high school in Los Angeles and hippie days in Santa Barbara, Paul McNamara migrated to Eugene in 1974 and found a job at Sawyer's Machine Works. Inspired by seeing members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, who fought with rattan bats for swords, he took a fencing class in '76 from UO coach Paul Dart. "I found I was a natural," says McNamara, who became Dart's assistant after six months and founded the Eugene Fencers Club later the same year. Since 1979, he has worked at various jobs for the city of Eugene, then taught fencing in the evening in the same small gym at Roosevelt Middle School. "I've taught three to five thousand students," he estimates. "Some have won full scholarships to Notre Dame and Duke." At age 57, McNamara competes in the veterans division in six to 10 tournaments a year. He teaches twice a week at Roosevelt, once at North Eugene, plus two afternoon classes for home-schoolers. Students range in age from six to 50. "I teach kids how to fight," he says, "to react and not be deer in the headlights." Learn more at eugenefencersclub.org.



SLANT

• Resolved to be more knowledgeable and involved in local politics in 2008? There's no better way to get up to speed than to attend the **Mayor's State of the City Address** starting at 5:30 pm Monday, Jan. 7 at the Hult Center lobby. The event is free and open to the public and we can expect music and even a table of wholesome treats. Start your year with carrot sticks and celery.

What will her honor be talking about? We predict downtown redevelopment will be high on her list since the November election on urban renewal expansion is still fresh in our memories, and Piercy's enthusiastic support for the failed measure might have something to do with her approval rating dropping a few points in the fall. In her defense, she's stuck between two opposing constituencies: city staff who want big expensive projects (KWG redevelopment, a new City Hall and police palace), and city residents who have other priorities in mind for their taxes.



Monday's meeting is an opportunity for Kitty to do some damage control, and there actually is a lot of good news for her to talk about. Progress can be seen downtown, and she's keeping a list of redevelopments, such as Westown on 8th, KLCC's move downtown, Shedd expansion plans, EWEB site plans, EmX expansion, Down to Earth's expansion, new restaurants, etc.

On her likely wish list for 2008 is broadening and defining the Downtown Plan, tweaking building codes to encourage use of vacant downtown buildings, improving the Park Blocks, better connections between downtown and UO, more housing downtown, dealing with safety downtown without further alienating youth, more programs for youth and the homeless, addressing parking issues (time to take out the parking meters?), making store fronts more attractive to the flockss of visitors coming to Eugene next summer for the Olympic Trials, and even sprucing up city buildings.

Big on Kitty's priority list is her Sustainable Business Initiative, and growing and implementing the SBI is one of the big reasons she's running for reelection in 2008. This is a long-term project and we have years of hard work to catch up, due in part to former Mayor Jim Torrey's lack of leadership, short-sighted councils and resistance from city managers and department heads. Eugene is far from being a leader in sustainability, despite all our green posturing. As the mayor noted in a previous talk this fall, even sprawling Los Angeles is now committed to mass transit and green redevelopment. "We're doing a lot of good things," she told a crowd at the Citizens for Public Accountability annual meeting. "But we need to scale up."

What do we hope the mayor will also talk about Monday? How about the need for an independent performance auditor? An in-house city attorney? More resources to house the homeless?

• A front page *R-G* story last week reported that Eugene has once again edged out Salem as **Oregon's second largest city!** The story ignored the fact that the Eugene/Springfield metro area has always been much bigger than the Salem/Keizer metro area, but anyway, who cares? Surveys have repeatedly shown that one of the top things most people value in Eugene is its smaller size. Big cities have big traffic jams, big pollution, big crime and big taxes to deal with all the problems. Eugeneans don't want that. They want quality of life, great parks and schools and scenic bike rides to work. The *R-G* may want a growth race to boost its flagging circulation, but Eugene doesn't. If we want to be proud of something, let's strive in the next couple of years to drop back to number three.

• From local poet JeanMarie Purcell:

AN UNCOMMON MAN

*Not a guy at all touchy and feely
And able to admire Rush Limbaugh,
Michael Lamont (nee Robert McNeely)
Has died – leaving the Bijou in Limbo.
To this quirky genius, musician and spy
Art flicks hardly seemed his cup of tea.
Now what'll we do when others and I,
Some avant garde film we need to see?
I worry, too, if the Bijou is through
Who and who won't be there to pet "Boo"*

• The **deadline for public comment** on the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) is coming up Jan. 11 and while the BLM might not care what you think, your comments can be used to support legal action to stop this blatant attempt by the Bush administration to override sound forest management. The WOPR, if implemented, would drastically increase old-growth logging in federal forests in Oregon and have a detrimental impact on wildlife habitat, water quality, flooding, recreation and fisheries. Clearcutting forests can also contribute to global warming. To find out how to effectively comment on the WOPR, visit OregonHeritageForests.org.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com