

Kulongoski and former Gov. Barbara Roberts, who have agreed to co-chair his campaign. But officially, the race for the Democratic nomination is still open, and Merkley, whom Novick calls “a traditional politician,” is going to have to fight hard to win.

Recently entering the Democratic fray is Candy Neville, a Eugene real estate broker, peace activist and wife of an *R-G* editorial writer. Quirky Portland “fitness guru” Pavel Goberman is also listed as a candidate.

— Camilla Mortensen

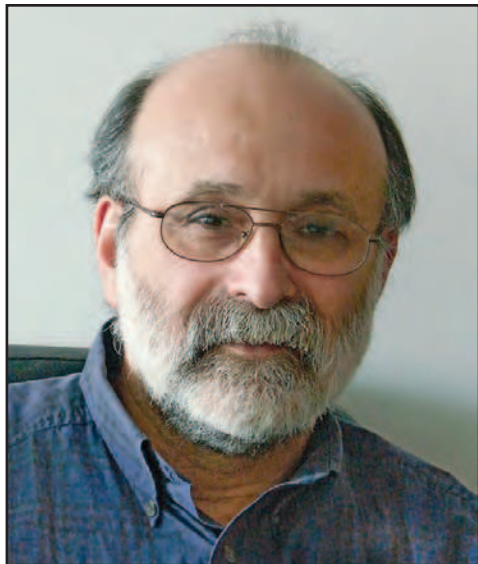
RED SCARE GREEN SCARE

Local “Green Scare” attorney Lauren Regan will team up with “Red Scare” author and activist Robert Meeropol in Eugene this weekend to discuss the lessons the McCarthy era has for today’s environmental activists.

Meeropol and Regan will speak from 7 to 9 pm Saturday, Sept. 29 at the Wesley Center, 1236 Kincaid.

No one knows how scary the Red Scare of the 1950s was better than Meeropol. His communist parents, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, were executed for conspiracy to commit espionage when he was 6 years old.

“The Northwest is really the center for the prosecution of environmental activists,” says Meeropol.



Robert Meeropol

TOWN HALL CONTINUES

A series of free public forums continues this week focusing on local and regional issues. The events will be broadcast live on KOPT-AM 1600 and are cosponsored by *EW*.

This week’s Radio Town Hall will be from 6:30 to 8 pm Thursday, Sept. 30, at Harris Hall, 125 8th Ave. The topic is “Our Forests, Our Economy, Our Future ...” and on the panel will be Pete Sorenson of the Lane County Commission, Jay Lininger of the Cascadia Wildlands Project, Ginnie Grilley of the Bureau of Land Management and Dennis C.W. Smith of the Jackson County Commission. The moderator will be Brian Shaw of Town Hall Media.

Following this week’s event, Shaw is organizing an election series during October, covering issues on the ballot in November, plus a “unique event focused on the problem of poverty in our community and across the country.” Future forums will run from 6 to 8 pm, also at Harris Hall.

On Wednesday, Oct. 3, the topic will be West Broadway Redevelopment. Tuesday, Oct. 9, the topic will be the Eugene fuel tax. Wednesday, Oct. 17, is Measure 49. Tuesday, Oct. 23, is Measure 50. Tuesday, Oct. 30, is “A Better World.”

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WAR DEAD

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

(last week’s numbers in parentheses):

- **3,798 U.S. troops killed*** (3,781)
- **27,767 U.S. troops injured*** (27,767)
- **122 U.S. military suicides*** (122)
- **1,297 Coalition troops killed**** (1,297)
- **917 contractors killed** (updates NA)
- **80,116 Iraqi civilians killed***** (79,187)
- **\$454.3 billion cost of war** (\$452.3 billion)
- **\$129.1 million cost to Eugene taxpayers** (\$128.6 million)

* through Sept. 24, 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

“People have to speak out and have a public discussion,” he says, about the “false dichotomy” put out by the Bush administration, which he says “is making an end run around our judicial system.”

He compares the current administration’s policies to that of the McCarthy era where “we sacrifice others to have the illusion of safety.”

“There’s no evidence that McCarthy made American safe from the Communists or any other ‘attack,’” Meeropol says. “There’s no evidence that George Bush and all those folks have made us safer either.”

“Giving up our civil liberties will not increase our security,” he adds.

The event is a benefit for the Rosenberg Fund for Children, which gives emotional and educational aid to activist youth and to the children of targeted activists in the U.S.

— Camilla Mortensen

SLANT

• Hiccup. The City Council just **legalized drunken driving** for Duck games. Actually, they only legalized drinking in parking lots, but duh, how do people in parking lots get home? The EPD claims public drinking should be legalized for football games because they don’t have enough cops to enforce the law on everybody. The same argument can be made for pot smoking or speeding. We suspect the major police motivation for winking at the Duck drunks is the bags of overtime money the UO pays the cops for policing the games. Sounds like an old-fashion protection racket. Hey, when’s the next UO beer riot?

• Congrats to both President Frohnmayer and **Dean Margie Paris** now that she has agreed to serve a full five-year term as head of the UO School of Law. After a botched selection process several years ago, this choice is a winner. The first woman law school dean at Oregon, she has both respect and affection from the faculty, and the students love her. Harvard Law School also is headed by its first woman dean. We wish them both well.

• We watched **Lee Bollinger**, the president of Columbia University, fire away at President Ahmadinejad of Iran earlier this week and couldn’t help but wonder if at that minute Bollinger would have preferred to be back in the wind-swept Eastern Oregon landscape where he grew up. He’s a graduate of the UO who went on to be dean of the University of Michigan Law School, then president of UM, then on to Columbia in New York. Probably Oregon was a long way from his mind. He seems to thrive on mixing it up in big arenas.

• Attention has been focused on West Broadway redevelopment in recent years while a smaller but significant project nearby has been simmering quietly since 2002. Groundbreaking this week is planned for **Eugene Downtown Cohousing** (see our News Brief this week). Congrats to developer Martin Henner, architect Jonathan Stafford, contractor Gale M. Roberts, city planners, consultants and all the folks who are committed to buying the units. The future owners have been meeting for years to create by consensus a cooperative community based on core values of creative, sustainable living.

A markedly **different kind of housing project** is being planned down the street on 11th between Jackson and Van Buren. True North Investments, LLC is seeking to develop two lots in an R-2 zone with four two-story four-plexes. The Jefferson Westside Neighbors are fighting the development, saying the “plain boxes” with no open space would “degrade the character and livability of the neighborhood.” To be bulldozed or removed for the project would be a “classic 1935 duplex ... that is a great example of harmonious multi-family development in our neighborhood.” Check out jweneugene.org for more information or to get involved.

• Republicans in Congress, along with President Bush, are on the defensive, but still managing to **block the progressive agenda**. In all the big issues, from ending the war to restoring habeas corpus, the Democrats have been shy enough Republican votes to overcome threatened vetoes, but that could change with the bill coming up next week to reinstate and expand the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. Bush and the far-right despise social programs, but SCHIP might be too popular to vote against with an election year looming.

Why might they vote no on SCHIP anyway? Longtime Bush backers in Congress are in a bind. If they go against their president now, they are in danger of losing future campaign funds from their conservative base *and* being viewed as disingenuous by moderates and progressives. Call it the Gordon Smith Syndrome. It leads to gridlock and might explain some of the public’s frustration with Congress.

• The staunchly conservative American Land Rights Association is calling for **support of Larry Craig** and a boycott of Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport. It seems Sen. Craig’s expected resignation has the anti-environmental ALRA alarmed because Craig has “done the most of any senator to protect private property rights, grazing, mining, forestry and family recreation on federal lands over the past 15 years.” Tabloid headline? “Cowboys Squeal as Land Rapist Screwed in Potty Sex Sting.”

• How many **U.S. contractors have been killed** or wounded in Iraq? Depends on whom you ask. Even the Pentagon doesn’t track these hidden casualties of the occupation. Our weekly “War Dead” box documents the best efforts of the nonprofit groups that put these numbers together, but their sources can be unreliable or under pressure to underreport. The web link listing contractor deaths at icasualties.org has been shut down, so we were stuck with the number 417 for weeks on end. On May 18, the *New York Times* reported 917 contractors killed and another 12,000 wounded in action or injured on the job. We will use those numbers until better statistics are found. Regardless, each contractor death or debilitating injury has an impact as significant as a military casualty and an equal or even greater financial burden on taxpayers for generations to come.

Meanwhile, contractors in Iraq are adding to our nation’s foreign policy crisis in a big way. See blogs.eugeneweekly.com for our rants on the Blackwater fiasco and the war profiteering of contractors in general.