



blew into Eugene on a day when temperatures were soaring up to 100 degrees. ODA and LRAPA received hundreds of complaints.

The town hall will take place from 7 to 8:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 14 at St. Peter's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1150 Maxwell Road, in north Eugene. For more information, contact OTA at www.oregontoxics.org or 465-8860. — Camilla Mortensen

PARK POLITICS IN SPOTLIGHT

Interest in urban parks is growing in Eugene, with many citizens calling for new parks across from the downtown library, connecting downtown to the riverfront and on the former EWEB industrial land.

The growing grassroots interest in parks was demonstrated Monday, Nov. 5 when about 150 people filled the conference room at the UO's Baker Center downtown to hear an academic talk by Galen Cranz, one of the nation's leading urban park experts.

Cranz, an architecture professor at U.C. Berkley for 33 years and the author of *The Politics of Park Design*, lectured on how U.S. parks have evolved from naturalistic to social to utilitarian to open space and now to sustainable, ecological designs.

In Eugene, urban parks have become a political issue with the environmental community pushing for more green open space while the business community and city staff generally oppose urban parks, arguing public parks will attract the wrong element and the land would be better paved over and developed.

Cranz noted a similar debate took place with the creation of the nation's first urban park, Central Park in New York City, in the 19th century. The original park was supposed to be near housing on the waterfront in lower Manhattan, Cranz said. But commercial interests wanted the land for development and pushed the park out to the then hinterlands in the center of the island.

But after real estate prices boomed around the Central Park, "business interest very quickly caught on to the advantages of parks," Cranz said.

After looking at hundreds of parks and



Mark Weber

WAR DEAD

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

(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- **3,849 U.S. troops killed*** (3,839)
- **28,171 U.S. troops injured*** (28,171)
- **128 U.S. military suicides*** (128)
- **304 coalition troops killed**** (303)
- **933 contractors killed** (accurate updates NA)
- **83,029 Iraqi civilians killed***** (82,776)
- **\$466.1 billion cost of war** (\$464.1 billion)
- **\$132.5 million cost to Eugene taxpayers** (\$131.9 million)

* through Nov. 5, 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

park plans, Cranz said she's learned a few important lessons. One is that ambitious goals and ideas for parks make them better. "Make no little plans," she said.

Another lesson is that parks play an important role in allowing the denser cities that are key to sustainability. "The higher level of density we live in, the greater the need of amenity we have," she said. To bring people into a dense city to live, "it has to be gorgeous." — Alan Pittman

HOLOCAUST DENIAL DISCUSSION

In response to last Saturday's talk at UO by revisionist historian Mark Weber, the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies and the UO Honors College have organized a symposium on "the phenomenon of Holocaust denial," on Thursday, Nov. 8.

The symposium will take place on the evening before the anniversary of Kristallnacht, also known as "the Night of the Broken Glass" in reference to all the shop and home windows broken during the 1938 pogrom. Thousands of Jewish businesses were destroyed, more than 1,000 synagogues were burned and almost 30,000 Jewish men were sent to concentration camps that night, according to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Speakers at the symposium will include professors Shaul Cohen, David Frank and David Luebke and Rabbi Jonathan Seidel.

The symposium will take place from 7 to 8 pm Thursday in 207 Chapman Hall at the UO

SLANT

• **Now what?** It's going to take time for the dust to settle following the defeat this week of Eugene Ballot Measure 20-134. What will help carry us forward in building a more vital downtown? Let's start with a better understanding of why the measure failed. Voters had dozens of reasons to support or oppose 20-134, but probably the deciding factor was lack of trust in our city government. For better or worse, a lot of Eugeneans were uncomfortable writing a \$40 million check and not knowing how it was going to be spent. We've seen the bad decisions city government has made over the decades: Earlier urban renewal fiascos, allowing Valley River Center to drain downtown, backroom deals to put the polluting Hynix/Hyundai plant on wetlands, unwarranted tax breaks, weak land-use codes, the ignoring of railyard pollution, outrageous police behavior going on for years, etc. Our city government is improving, just not quickly enough to turn around all those years of secrecy and mismanagement.

There are specific things we can do as a city to restore trust in our city government. An independent performance auditor is a logical first step to bringing accountability and transparency to each city department, from police to public works. Hiring a new city manager who welcomes oversight would be another good step.

We've discovered in this election that lack of trust is neither a conservative nor progressive issue; it's a Eugene issue. With that in mind, let's get over our grumpy disagreements and work together to create more, smaller downtown successes that we can build upon.

• *The Register-Guard* is diligent at self-censorship when it comes to **the dreaded f-word**, but every once in a while it slips into print in photography, most likely by "accident." A couple of years ago a crowd shot at an antiwar rally in Eugene showed a small, but very clear "Fuck War" sign among the protesters. Now, in the *R-G's* "Oregon Football" section Sunday, Nov. 5, the huge photo above the fold shows wide receiver Jaison Williams trying to catch a pass. Hand-written on his glove, just above the Nike Swoosh, are the words "Fuck It." In the *R-G* sports pages Tuesday was a blather of silly apologies and excuses, and we expect Phil Knight got a call since his beloved Swoosh was defiled. No such embarrassment and fawning over the "Fuck War" sign. Is that because UO sports has become sacred, even a religion?

Williams claims "Fuck It" it was just a self-admonishment to not take his occasional fumbles too seriously. Or is this really the new secret battle cry for the UO football team? Hey, it seems to be working. Rhyming opportunities abound, so will the UO Cheerleaders work the new slogan into their repertory? Any suggestions from our readers on words for such a cheer?



• This week we begin a new column, **iAsk a Mexican!** by Gustavo Arellano of Orange County's *OC Weekly*. Arellano answers readers' questions about all sorts of topics from culture to immigration, but mostly dealing with stereotypes. "What part of illegal don't Mexicans understand?" "Why do Mexicans call white people *gringos*?" "What's *La Bamba* all about?" "Why are Mexican girls so beautiful when they are

teenagers, then over the years, they become fat, old bags?" Arellano tackles all the stereotypes and abandons politically correct language in this sometimes outrageous column. "There is a lot of racism out there and stereotyping continues," Arellano said in a 2006 interview on alibi.com. "As a child of Mexican immigrants, I'm not going to stand idly by and let people perpetuate those stereotypes. I'm going to go after them with everything I have." The column, with its purposefully stereotyped caricature, runs in dozens of alternative newspapers nationwide, but has also been featured in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and Reuters news service.

• What have you been missing on *EW*? A blog? Oh, just murder, incest, the sweep of the heroic narrative, etc., etc., etc. Our intrepid (and lucky) performing and visual arts editor, Suzi Steffen, had an inspiring time during her fellowship at the 11-day Columbia University/National Endowment for the Arts Institute in Classical Music and Opera. And she's been blogging about it off and on since she returned. If you're a taxpayer, you supported this endeavor; read Steffen's reports out at blogs.eugeneweekly.com (where you'll also find Molly Templeton's takes on *Heroes*, Alan Pittman on bike use in Eugene, Ted Taylor's random rants and Chuck Adams on darn near everything on the calendar).

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