

Hospice movement brings dignity to death

By **MARIAN GREEN**
Of the Emerald

Dying with dignity is something hospitals and nursing homes often can't provide.

Now, there is another choice — the hospice organization.

Peter Elliot-Wotton, Wellness Project coordinator for the Eugene Community Health and Education Center, presented a workshop Thursday on the hospice movement as part of the Health Faire.

Elliot-Wotton said hospices, which originated in the Middle Ages, can improve the dying patient's "quality of life" in a way hospitals can't.

"Hospitals, doctors and nurses are all oriented toward

cure — death is the enemy," he said.

In addition, while a large number of medical personnel think dying patients should not be told they're dying, most dying patients want to talk about it, Elliot-Wotton said.

This contradiction perpetuates a "conspiracy of lies" that is unhealthy for dying patients, he said. It's unhealthy because the longer knowledge of death is kept from the patient, the longer it takes the patient to accept their imminent fate, he said.

A hospice organization provides centrally administered home and inpatient services for those who wish to acknowledge their condition, he said.

Hospice workers, often volunteers who have taken a hospice course, stay with the patient and family and give "symptom control" support. This support involves alleviating the patient's pain and the family's anxiety.

Hospice volunteers must weigh the fear of a patient growing too reliant on painkillers and the patient's fear of pain, he said.

"If the patient is cranky, you cheer," he said. "We want to keep the patient alert by avoid-

ing medication that deadens the senses."

Soon the patient begins to believe it, and the hospice volunteer then can reduce the dosage and still relieve the pain. Elliot-Wotton calls this process "reverse toleration."

Hospice volunteers "make a special effort to ensure the patient's dignity is respected," he said.

"The patient, first, and the family, second, should be allowed to make decisions," he said. "If a patient has six months

to live in the hospital and wants to go home where he has only six days to live, that's the patient's decision."

If a doctor orders it, patients usually can finance hospice help through insurance. Extra expenses, such as family care after a patient's death, aren't covered, he said. Volunteers provide those services.

More information on hospices can be obtained from the Hospice Resource Center, which is located in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 106 East 13th Ave.

Vets conference runs this weekend

The second annual Western Regional Conference of Vietnam Era Veterans begins tonight at the University.

Registration for the three-day event is from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. in Room 101 EMU. The conference is free.

The conference begins Saturday at 8:50 a.m. with a welcoming address in Room 150 Geology followed by a panel discussion on Agent Orange from 9 a.m. until 10:20 a.m. A workshop on the Delayed Stress Response Syndrome is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. until 11:40 p.m.

After a lunch break, the conference continues at 1 p.m. in Room 150 Geology with a discussion on women veterans and

women as partners of veterans. Scheduled from 2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. is the workshop "Preventing Another 'Noble Cause'" followed by a discussion on incarcerated veterans from 4 p.m. to 5:20 p.m.

The movie "King of Hearts" is scheduled at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. in Room 180 PLC for conference participants.

On Sunday, the conference begins with announcements at 9 a.m. followed by a workshop on veteran employment issues at 9:30 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. The last event of the conference is "Political Legislation and Activism" from 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

For more information on the conference call 686-4098.

Career help scheduled

A series of career workshops is scheduled April 20-24, by the University career planning and placement office.

All workshops will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Room 101 EMU.

Career topics scheduled for discussion at the workshops include:

- Monday — "Hot Careers For The 80s"

- Tuesday — "Majors-Careers"

- Wednesday — "Help Wanted: Experience Required"

- Thursday — "Finding The Hidden Job Market"

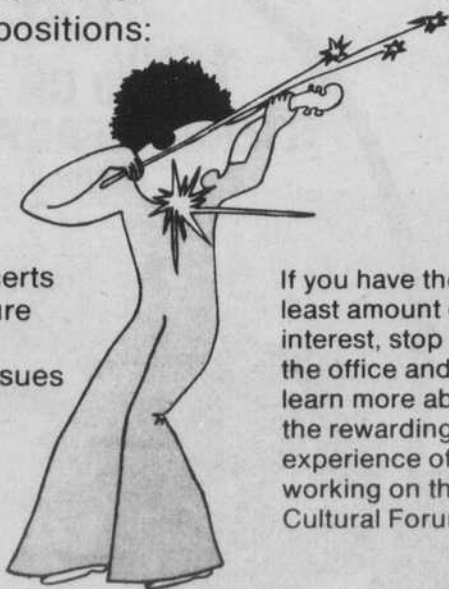
- Friday — "The Federal Connection"

Contact the Career Planning and Placement Center in Room 246 Susan Campbell Hall for more information.

emu Cultural Forum

Invites applications for the following positions:

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Contemporary Issues



If you have the least amount of interest, stop by the office and learn more about the rewarding experience of working on the Cultural Forum.

These are volunteer student positions offering intense practical experience coordinating major events.

Applications and job descriptions are now available in Suite 2, EMU. Deadline for applying is Friday, April 17.

U.S. out

El Salvador



March ** March starts at 12 noon at 11th and Kincaid
Rally ** Rally starts at 1 PM at Eugene Mall (11th & Willamette Parking Lot)
Evening Program ** starts at 6:30 PM Emerald Baptist Church 19th & Patterson

Rally Speakers:

Richardo Melara - Official spokesperson for the Democratic Revolutionary Front, El Salvador

Congressman Jim Weaver
Gene Bailey - Secretary-treasurer for the ILWU Local 12, representing the International Longshoremen Workers' Union

Marion Malcolm - Clergy and Laity Concerned

Susan Morales - American Indian Movement, Seattle

Sue Gordon - President, Oregon Church Women United

Entertainment, featuring:

Grupo Raiz - Internationally acclaimed Chilean folk ensemble

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Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee
Eugene Club, Communist Party U.S.A.
Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America
Excelsior Cafe
General Union of Palestinian Students
Genesis Juice Co-op
Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (Executive Board)
Industrial Workers of the World
Iranian-American Friendship Committee
Iranian Students Association
Latino Club, Lane Community College
Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
Mandala Family Health Center

Mayday Cultural Committee
MECHA
National Lawyers Guild
New American Movement
New Frontier Market
Northwest Working Press
Oregon Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO)
People for South African Freedom
People's Anti-war Mobilization May 3rd
Proutist Universal
Red Star Forestry Workers
Search
Starflower
Sundance
Support Committee for Human Rights in Latin America, Ashland, Ore.
Wallflower Dance Collective
Wildwood School
Willamette People's Food Co-op (staff)
Women Against War
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Cottage Grove)
Women's Moneyshare
Young Women's Christian Association
Zoo Zoo's

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