



Duck's slip again

Story on back page

oregon daily emerald

Monday, November 7, 1983

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 85, Number 45

Salvadorans find sanctuary in Eugene

By Debbie Howlett
Of the Emerald

The Eugene Friends Church, with the support of several other religious groups, offered sanctuary to a Salvadoran family they are sheltering from immigration authorities at their meeting house.

Saturday night the Friends introduced the "familia Martinez," a family of five and a nephew who are running from the political regime in El Salvador. The family will stay at the Quaker meeting house for two weeks, and then will be placed in homes of church members.

"We gather this evening as a community of faith," said Karen Hemmingsen-Henner, a member of the Friends church, "to provide sanctuary for our war-torn brothers and sisters in Guatemala and El Salvador."

Hemmingsen-Henner spoke to a small crowd gathered near the front porch of the meeting house, just before the Martinez family came out to greet the crowd with faces masked by bandanas and oversized hats. Rene Martinez, the 51-year-old father, did not come with the rest of the family to meet the group.

Martinez is the assumed name of the Salvadoran family. They do not use their actual names because they fear for their lives, said Hemmingsen-Henner.

Salvadorans are usually classified by the

Immigration and Naturalization Service as economic rather than political refugees. Because of that classification, Salvadorans, as many as 1,000 a month by some counts, are deported back to El Salvador, and once there, said Hemmingsen-Henner, many are killed by the government.

The Friends have offered protection from deportation through the concept of sanctuary.

Sanctuary, the housing of people in churches to protect them from law enforcement officials, has been practiced as far back as ancient Athens. The practice, which died out in Europe during the 17th Century, was revived in the United States before the Civil War to shelter fugitive slaves, and again during the Viet Nam war to aid draft evaders. The United States does not officially recognize the concept of sanctuary although Great Britain does.

The man who started the sanctuary movement for Central Americans, Jim Corbett, a retired Arizona rancher and a Quaker, spoke to the crowd and the media Saturday night.

"We are called as a people to serve the kingdom right here and now," Corbett said. "People in this country are finding themselves deciding whether they will stand with the oppressed or collaborate with the oppressors."



Graphic by Shawn Bird

The penalties for harboring undocumented aliens, fines up to \$10,000 and 10 years in prison, are stiff, but not often incurred. Immigration officials in the Portland area said they won't pursue the issue unless it evolves into a large movement.

Eugene, according to Friends officials, is

the only city in Oregon to offer sanctuary to Central Americans. They are one of 60 churches in the nation to offer sanctuary.

Representatives from several churches in Eugene, including Roman Catholics, Unitarians, Presbyterians, and a rabbi from Temple Beth Israel in Eugene, gathered to meet the Martinez family.

ACLU won't defend Solomon Amendment foe

By Doug Nash
Of the Emerald

The American Civil Liberties Union has decided not to provide legal services for Melissa Barker, the 26-year-old University student who was denied \$3,200 in federal financial aid by refusing to sign a selective service form.

The decision, reached Friday by the lawyers' committee of Eugene's ACLU chapter, was made for "practical reasons rather than theoretical arguments," said Dave Fidanque, local ACLU head.

"It's not a reflection on the issues involved," Fidanque said. "It has more to do with the fact that ACLU's resources are stretched so much that they (the committee) weren't convinced at this time that there was enough of a likelihood to win the case to justify the amount of resources that need to be committed in order to prevail."

Barker, a graduate student in sociology,

refuses to comply with the federal Solomon Amendment "on the basis of conscience." The amendment requires all students receiving federal financial aid to certify they have registered with the Selective Service or are exempt from having to register.

All males at least 18 years of age and born after 1959 must register for the draft. As a woman born prior to 1959, Barker says she was unfairly targeted by the amendment.

ACLU lawyers had been researching the legal possibilities of a Barker case since she announced her intent to fight the amendment in early October. The main argument they considered, Fidanque said, falls under Article One, Section Three of the Oregon Constitution, which states "No law shall in any case whatever...interfere with the rights of conscience."

It would be useless to challenge the amendment on federal grounds, as there is already such a case pending before the U.S.

Supreme Court, Fidanque said. But he added that a precedent-setting case on state grounds would have cost many valuable hours in volunteer attorney time.

"Because there have never been any rights of conscience cases we're aware of, the case from start to finish would just require an awful lot of time for whoever did the work."

Fidanque emphasized that the ACLU decision does not mean that a Barker case would ultimately fail.

"I'm not saying it's not a winnable case. Personally I think it is."

"From a policy standpoint, I can say on behalf of ACLU that we believe it would be perfectly appropriate any effort to get the University to set up a special fund" for students who refuse to comply with the amendment, he said.

Though she was "disappointed" by the ACLU decision, Barker said she will continue considering her legal options.

"My feelings haven't changed toward the issue at all," she said. "My approach is going to have to change as a result of the ACLU decision. I don't know what my approach will be."

While she still seeks voluntary legal services, Barker recognized it will be difficult to find an attorney willing to take on the case for free.

"Clearly I'm not in a financial position to be able to go out and hire a lawyer," she said. "It's a case that involves a certain deal of risk. Any lawyer who takes the case would have to be deeply devoted to the issue."

Barker, who has managed to stay in school by cutting her course load from 12 to three credit hours this term, said she may be able to stay in school if she gets a GTF position only available winter term. She said she would not have the necessary funds to continue spring term.

Loud classtime noises are illegal, police say

Citizen involvement can be the key to stopping noise disturbances during a noontime class, says Officer Mike Larion of the Eugene Police Department.

"We want to balance freedom of speech with the right to an education," says Larion in reference to the lunchtime preachers who frequent the knoll in front of the EMU at 13th and University.

"The warnings are over, and we may have to start citing people."

Larion says that the city has an ordinance that prohibits noise levels from carrying over 50 feet.

That means a student or professor who is disturbed in 150 Geology by someone across the street can report that individual, Larion says.

"We apologize for disturbing classes and are trying to make some changes," says Bruce Fidler, director of Maranatha, the Christian organization responsible for many of the noontime preachers.

Fidler says his organization has worked with police to resolve the problem but argues that open mikes and bands in the EMU courtyard also cause noise.

The knoll is an area designated on campus for free speech, Fidler says.

Larion said enforcement action can be taken against loud speakers by calling campus security to complain. The complainant must give his or her name and phone number.

Police seek suspect in assaults

By Joan Herman
Of the Emerald

Eugene police believe the man who attempted to rape a University student on Wednesday is responsible for two other recent sodomy cases in the University area, Sgt. Rick Allison said Friday.

On Wednesday, a man fitting the same physical description as in two previous sodomy incidents, attempted to rape a 21-year-old University student in her home on Moss Street near campus, Allison said.

Police said the man entered the student's home through an unlocked front door and found the student in her bedroom about 8 p.m. He ordered the woman to disrobe, but she refused, police said. When he threatened her with a knife, the student began screaming for help, alerting her roommate from an upstairs room.

When the roommate came downstairs and confronted the intruder, he ran out the front door, police said.

"She is a lucky young woman," Allison said.

"We have two additional cases where the physical description is too similar to discredit another party from being responsible," Allison said.

On Sept. 13, a University student was attacked in the pre-dawn hours by a nude man in her Smith Hall dormitory room. The man fled when the student screamed.

Then on Oct. 30 a Carson Hall resident said she was attacked about 5:30 a.m. Both she and her roommate said their dormitory door had been locked, and neither one had heard the man enter their room.

Police describe the attacker in all three cases as a white male in his early 30s, 6 feet 3 to 4 inches tall, about 165 pounds, with brown hair and a "heavily pock-marked face."

Unlike the first two instances, the man had a moustache in the most recent case, police said.

In the latest incident, the man was wearing a dark-colored long sleeve shirt with its tails sticking out of his blue jeans. He also was wearing brown leather shoes.

Police "strongly urge University-area residents to start taking better precautions" in locking doors and windows. Allison suggests using dead bolts, door stops, door alarms and door chains. Some of these devices are available at the University Bookstore, he said.

Police are closely "looking at" three suspects, Allison said, "but nothing is definite at this point."

Allison urges anyone with information relating to these cases to contact him at the University's Public Safety Office, 686-5444, or call the Eugene Police Department.

Allison will teach a rape-prevention class on Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in Hawthorne Hall's lounge, which is located in Walton complex. Allison invites students to attend the class.