

'Queen of hobos' seeks legislation for homeless

By Dennis Fernandes

Of the Emerald

"For the price of one lousy bomber, we could get shelters across the U.S. for the homeless."

That's the pitch that Beverly "Ma" Curtis gave to a small crowd of onlookers at a rally Monday afternoon in the EMU courtyard.

Curtis, a former homeless woman and the self-proclaimed "queen of the hobos," is a volunteer from Portland's Burnside Community for the Homeless, better known as "Baloney Joe's." She has been traveling across the state to colleges and universities to stoop for federal shelter care legislation.

Student Campaign for Disarmament (SCD) sponsored the rally, which culminated last weekend's "Food For

Thought" campaign.

Other speakers included University political science Professor Tom Hovet and representatives from local support groups.

The campaign included a canned food drive that netted three carloads of groceries worth an estimated \$600. Twenty-five volunteers went door-to-door over the weekend collecting the food, according to organizer Kim Sargent.

The food was then distributed among three local support groups: Eugene Family Shelter, WOMENSPACE and Benevolent Faith Ministry.

SCD put on the campaign due to its concern for increasing military costs while the statistics for homeless people in the United States — and their needs — have gone up.

Curtis, 64, said until recently

she had been homeless in the Portland area since the age of seven, and a "practicing" alcoholic since she was 12. She is now living in a rented house.

"This is going to be my first warm Christmas. I'm very fortunate," she said. "But I'm very worried about my brothers and sisters out on the streets who are cold and hungry," she added.

Baloney Joe's shelters about 150 people a night, and 400 others use the facility during the day for eating or other purposes. It provides two hot meals a day, medical and dental services, counseling, religious needs, clothing and laundry facilities to "anyone that walks through the door."

"It's the only agency for the homeless that has everything under one roof," Curtis said.

The shelter is run with the help of an estimated 50

volunteers per day. An estimated 80 percent of the agency's funding comes from private donations, with the remaining 20 percent allotted by the United Way and federal grants.

Although the services are adequate, they don't meet all the needs of the Portland homeless. And the situation is worse in other areas of the country, Curtis said.

Curtis and a Portland delegation spoke to Sen. Mark Hatfield

and Rep. Les AuCoin while at a National Coalition for the Homeless conference in Washington, D.C.

But the coalition is making sure the message is heard.

Michael Stoops, a Portland volunteer and graduate of Ball State University in Indiana, has pledged to sleep on the Capitol steps in Washington until he is ensured of sponsored legislation, or until he freezes to death.

Laurelwood expansion approved

By Janet Paulson

Of the Emerald

The Eugene Planning Commission denied two appeals Monday to halt expansion of the Laurelwood Golf Course from nine holes to 18 holes and approved changes in the expansion plan proposed by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The commission addressed objections raised in appeals filed by Monte Marshall, president of the Fairmount Neighbors; Dorothy Munz, representative of the Amazon Neighbors; and the Eugene Parks and Recreation Director Ernie Drapella.

Opponents of the expansion have 45 days to appeal the commission's decisions to the Land Use Board of Appeals. If no further appeals are made, the City Council will be asked to approve a proposal for private investors to carry out the actual expansion of the golf course.

Drapella's appeal concerned the construction of additional parking spaces. There are currently 60 parking spaces at Laurelwood, and 30 more spaces will be added through the expansion, leaving space available for 10 more spaces if needed in the future.

If six complaints are received in a one-year period about cars parking on nearby streets, the 10 spaces will be added, commission members agreed.

Commission member Dorothy Anderson addressed Marshall's objection that the property where Laurelwood is situated is classified as a natural resource area. She said in the city's

Metro Plan, the area is designated as a golf course, not as natural resource land.

The commission's plans will be finalized when members discuss further modifications to the golf course at Monday's meeting.

One issue yet to be decided is the impact of the driving range on private property adjacent to the range. The commission plans to work with property owners near the driving range to determine whether fencing to prevent golf balls from straying onto private property is appropriate.

Currently, the commission has received only one letter complaining about the driving range.

Another issue to be resolved is the problem of the fairway and green near the fifth hole.

Hearings Official Jim Spickerman said the fairway is too close to a private home across Central Boulevard. He said the problem needs to be studied further before a decision can be made.

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- No final exam will be given under any guise.
- No project will be due unless it was clearly stated on the syllabus within the first two weeks of the term.
- No take-home final will be due earlier than the day of the formal assigned final for the class.

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