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Group holds AIDS walkathon

By Chrsitopher Blair
Emerald Contributor

Shanti in Oregon, a support group for AIDS victims, will be holding a consciousness- and fund-raising walkathon Nov. 1 at Alton Baker Park.

Aside from a similar event in Portland in August, Sunday's walk will be the first walkathon on the West Coast to assist those with AIDS and the related disease, AIDS Related Complex (ARC), said Jay Dravich, AIDS Willamette River Walkathon Co-coordinator.

Almost 250 of the 42,000 Americans afflicted with the AIDS virus are Oregonians, and it is to these victims and their families that Shanti offers financial and emotional support, as well as self-help education.

"The need for Shanti will increase astronomically as the number of AIDS victims increases astronomically," Dravich said. "We're just beginning to see the number of peo-

ple afflicted grow and grow beyond any medical agency's ability to help these individuals."

Those wishing to participate in the 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) walk should pick up a registration form at 364 Oregon Hall and collect sponsors who will pledge an amount of money for each kilometer the participant walks, Dravich said.

While the goal of the event is to raise money as well as public awareness, Dravich said that those who are unable to collect pledges are encouraged to participate.

"If they have time to find sponsors, they should do so. If not, they can still come down, self-sponsor themselves or they can just come down and walk with us and share the exhilaration of doing something right on All Saint's Day (November 1)," he said.

Walk activities begin at the Alton Baker Park shelter with registration at 11 a.m. Warm-up exercises and opening ceremonies precede the walk

itself, which kicks off at noon.

After walkers leave the park, they follow a route along the Willamette River, crossing at the Greenway bike bridge near Valley River Center. The route then takes them back along the river to the Autzen footbridge, where they cross the Willamette again.

The walk ends at the park where it began, and a celebration with refreshments concludes the walk in the afternoon.

Organizers are optimistic about Sunday's turnout, said Mary Ann Francis, the other coordinator of the walkathon.

"We've been getting about 10 to 20 calls a day, but most of those have been from large groups," Francis said.

Individuals and businesses are encouraged to walk in teams. Congressman Peter DeFazio will be sending a delegation of office staff and volunteers to the event.

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Attack

Continued from Page 7

bike paths and jogging trails, Birr said the fact that there are 75 miles of bike paths in Eugene presents a problem with specialized patrols, something the EPD tried to do in the past.

"The fact that there are so many (bike paths and jogging trails) makes it impossible with the force we have. It would be tough even if we had more officers," he said. Birr also said that many other areas in the city ask for patrols, too, depleting the number of officers available.

"But we try to do specialized patrols when we can," Birr said.

Birr gave some suggestions that joggers, especially females, can use.

"Don't run alone, run with a partner or a dog," he said. In Eugene there is "Project Safe Run," a service for women that provides trained Doberman pinschers as protective companions. A \$25-a-month donation to the non-profit organization provides unlimited use of the dogs.

Book & Tea Cafe

A word cloud featuring the word "Dinner" in multiple typographic styles. The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping manner. Some instances are in a large, bold, black serif font, while others are in smaller, thinner, or italicized serif fonts. The colors are primarily black and white, with some light gray accents. The overall composition is abstract and emphasizes the visual variety of the single word.

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