

Problem of homeless mishandled

By Maile Field
Emerald Contributor

"Homeless people have chosen to live on the margins of society," advocate for the homeless Peter Marin said Thursday, adding that people who seek to help them often do so for the wrong reasons.

Marin, who lives in Santa Barbara, Calif., is the author of *Margins: Homelessness in the U.S.A.*

"We have a Utopian idea of how we want the world to be," Marin said, "and the homeless are not in it."

Marin said that homeless people have been cast from society because of popular attitudes, and because of individual hardships such as abuse, being without family or just bad luck.

And after reaching the mar-



Peter Marin

gins of society, the typical homeless person cannot or does not want to be a part of that society, Marin said.

"The one thing that homeless people have in common,"

Marin said, "is a sense of humiliation, and betrayal ... and that sense is so deep that the kind of help it takes to overcome many of their difficulties — to convince them that society is worth being in — is the kind of help that means much more than setting up shelters."

"Almost every aspect of help that we offer to people requires them to change ... it is not neutral help," Marin said.

"It is not necessarily psychotic or irrational to choose against society," Marin explained, arguing against the idea that people who live on the streets do so because of the effects of mental illness.

Marin said that studies have shown that the homeless prefer the freedom of living without a home to living within the walls of a regulated shelter. "They must be allowed to provide for themselves," he said.

Marin criticized city governments that don't deal effectively with difficulties faced by homeless people, and said finding solutions to the homelessness problem is the responsibility of local citizens.

Marin said ordinances prohibiting camping within urban areas are exemplary of how city governments mistreat the homeless. Eugene has such an ordinance, and petitions to repeal the ordinance were circulated during the speech.

Marin will participate in a panel discussion on the homeless situation, Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Harris Hall in the Lane County Courthouse.

Measure wording receives approval for spring ballot

By Brian Bloch
Emerald Reporter

The ASUO Constitution Court recently approved five measures ranging from child care funding to riverfront protection but only four of them will be placed on the spring ballot.

The measure requesting students to vote on whether the University should "discontinue its recognition of the system of fraternities and sororities," did not meet the Election Board's filing deadline, said Glen Keffer, election board spokesman.

ASUO Elections '89

Although the court approved the measure's wording, ballot sponsors still had to collect enough signatures from students and failed to turn them in to the Election Board before 5 p.m. Wednesday.

A ballot measure sponsored by the ASUO Executive also received approval, asking if should be the official policy of the ASUO to support the protection and preservation of the University's riverfront open space as a campus greenway area.

The measure encourages the University and the City of Eugene to reconsider development plans along the river to accommodate recreational, educational and environmental resources.

The ASUO is also sponsoring another approved measure that calls for the continuation of unlimited Lane Transit District bus service for students and paid through incidental fees for the 1989-90 fiscal year. If passed, the measure will ask students to pay an additional \$4.50 a term in incidental fees for unlimited bus service in Lane County.

An Incidental Fee Committee-sponsored ballot measure will ask the student body if the EMU Child Care Services expansion at Westmoreland Family Housing should be funded by incidental fees at a rate of approximately \$1 a student each term.

The IFC recommended the measure be placed on the ballot after it raised concerns during a budget hearing whether the entire student body should pay for the expansion without a general vote.

In addition, the court approved a measure that calls for the renaming of the EMU Forum Room to the Ben Linder Room. Linder was a Portland resident killed by Contra forces in Nicaragua.

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Student senate discusses upcoming issues

By Brad Robertson
Emerald Reporter

Student Senate Chairman Eric Grimes on Thursday night said that revamping the course evaluation system is one of the senate's two most pressing issues this term.

The second issue is how to ease the transition between this year's and next year's senate.

"There is only one guy run-

ning unopposed so we will have a full house next year," Grimes said.

Prospective senators will be invited to an April senate meeting along with the candidates for ASUO president and vice president to discuss issues fac-

Student Senate

ing both student government groups next year.

While the Student Senate does not have the power to endorse any of the candidates as a group, they can form individual opinions to take to their constituency, said Senator Pieter Paulson.

Grimes said there are plans to meet with the new senators after they are elected to help make the transition easier.

"We did not have any meeting last year because of a lack of leadership, but hopefully having some organization for the new senate will be helpful," Grimes said.

Senator Tiffany Weed reported on her experience in Washington, D.C. as a delegate on

the recent United States Students Association legislative conference where she was able to talk to other students about their course evaluations.

"At some schools the evaluations are made into packets that are made available to the students to help students decide on which courses to take," Weed said.

"Our school is motivated to redo them or standardize them," Grimes said.

Paulson suggested the ASUO Executive and senate work together to design a system that would make the evaluations more useful to students.

Senator Clay Kinney brought up a motion he wants to take to the University Senate stating the senate's full support of the Greek system as a substantial segment of the student body.

Kinney said he wanted to make clear to the new president replacing Paul Olum next year that the Greek system deserves full respect in the University and any decisions regarding the Greek system should be made with student input.

Activities Calendar

Student Activities Calendar for April 7-14

Sunday, April 9:
March for Women's Lives, 3 p.m. March begins at EMU and continues to Eighth Avenue and Oak Street.

Wednesday, April 12:
Bible studies for men and women athletes, 7 p.m., at 2459 Miami Lane (off 24th Avenue and between University and Potter streets).

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