

Activist protests homeless rally

Friend's plight sparks hunger strike

By Janis Joseph
Emerald Reporter

Exhausted, hungry and scared, Carol Seaton has not eaten for a week.

And she said she will not eat again until she knows that her friend, Veracochia Star, has a safe way home from the Housing Now! rally, held Saturday in Washington D.C.

"I'm afraid that I might have to go to the hospital before anyone realizes that this is real," Seaton said. "I'm faced with the reality that I could die if somebody doesn't care."

A week prior to the rally, Seaton and Star attempted to hitchhike across the United States to Washington D.C. The Housing Now! demonstration was held at the nation's capitol to rally for an increase of affordable homes for low-income people.

But Seaton decided to return home after the hardships of hitchhiking proved too much for her. Star continued on his way to the rally.

Seaton now wants assurance that Star will be able to return home safely. She would like to see "\$200 in case of an emergency" for Star, she said.

Seaton, who is not homeless but considers herself "closed out of mainstream society", and Star, who is homeless, believed the national Housing Now! project would "provide them with an extremely important opportunity to be effective people."

Seaton said she is distressed that she and Star were not significantly helped by the local Housing Now! organization.

"Their focus was to send bureaucrats, not political activists like Veracochia and myself," Seaton said. "They gave us \$50, while the people with the appropriate bureaucratic skills

all flew (to the rally).

"We were denied any say in the decision making, denied the authority to do what we could and denied any resources to do it," Seaton said. "Housing Now! belonged to the nobodies. It was ours, but it was taken away by the bureaucrats that closed us out."

"We were forced to do things as street people do them. We had to ask for everything," she said.

Seaton and Star did what they could to raise the money they needed for the trip to Washington D.C. Among other

things, they sat in a booth at Saturday Market for months prior to the rally asking for donations, Seaton said.

But they failed to raise the amount needed to arrive at the rally using conventional methods. So they decided to hitchhike.

When hitchhiking became too much for Seaton, she finally called her family and asked them to help her return home. Seaton said Star, however, has no family. He only has her in case of an emergency, she said.

Seaton has not heard from Star since she came home more than a week ago. She said she has no idea if he made it to the rally or if he will be able to get home. But until she knows that he has a safe way home, she will not eat, she said.

"I feel like it (the hunger strike) is futile and it hurts real bad to be aware of how insensitive people are and how diffi-

'I'm faced with the reality that I could die if somebody doesn't care.'

— Carol Seaton

cult it is to touch them," she said.

"Nothing is happening. The only responses that I have gotten are distrust, anger, criticism and rejection," Seaton said.

"Housing Now! wants nothing to do with the hunger strike because they want nothing to do with help."

But Maryann Francis, an organizer for the local Housing Now! organization, questioned the validity of Seaton's hunger strike.

"Carol Seaton has been offered all kinds of involvement

from the beginning. She is notorious for stirring up difficulties," Francis said.

"It is unfortunate that this had to happen," she said.

"Carol wants to blame the system for things that aren't working out for her."

Francis said Housing Now! offered Star a ride in the van that they were taking to the rally. But Star would not go without Seaton, Francis said.

Francis claimed that it became impossible for anyone in Housing Now! to work with Seaton.

"She just wants to make a public spectacle," Francis said. "We suggested in the beginning that they get sponsors for their tickets but they wanted to have it given to them."

"If you're going to help anyone, you don't do it for them, you help them do it for themselves," said Seaton.

AIDS lecture slated for EMU Fir Room

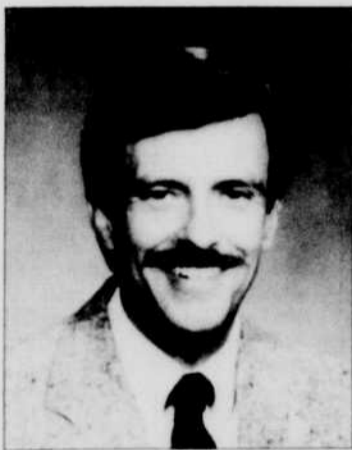
The chairman of the National AIDS Task Force will be in Eugene this week to offer a two part lecture series on the topic "AIDS in the 1990s: New Hope, Greater Challenges."

Dr. Richard Keeling, president of the American College Health Association, chairman of ACHA's AIDS Task force and director of Student Health Services at the University of Virginia, will speak at the EMU Fir Room tonight at 7:30 and at Scared Heart General Hospital Auditorium tomorrow at 8 a.m.

Keeling's lecture at the Fir Room will cover current issues regarding Human Immunodeficiency Virus transmission. His Tuesday lecture will deal with current health care issues for professionals.

In addition to his titles, Keeling has secured research grants for many organizations and has been the AIDS consultant for many universities, including the University of Oregon.

The two-part series is sponsored by the Lane County Community AIDS Consortium, Scared Heart General Hospital and the University.



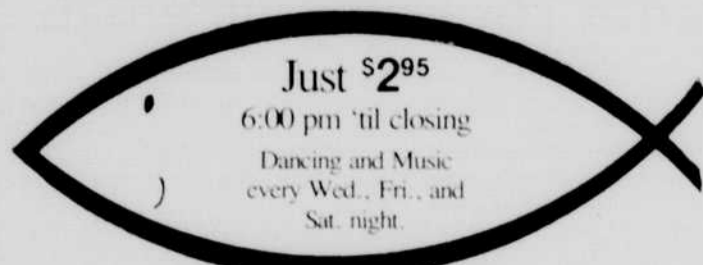
Richard Keeling

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light meters camera bags drum heads hi-hats cowbells stereo receivers tuners amplifier guitar cases guitar strings acoustic guitars classical guitars electric guitars left-handed guitars tuning pegs flutes trumpets cornets tubas recorders oboes clarinets saxophones harmonicas bassoons jews harp microphones microphone stands booms line transformers microphone cables mixers windcreens air ukeleles mandolins banjos mandolin cases banjo cases banjo strings mandolin strings autoharps fiddle cameras 4X5 cameras 2 1/4 cameras 35mm cameras press cameras view cameras portrait cameras view electric basses acoustic basses bass amplifiers bass strings electric bass strings bass bows electric bass metronomes electronic metronomes quartz guitar tuners chromatic tuners tuning forks tuning pegs violins 3/4 size violins violin bows violin cases violin strings violin bridges violin rosin violas cellos peg tom-toms roto-toms bass drums cymbals cymbal stands drum keys brushes bongos conga heads stand enlargers enlarging timers darkroom trays printing frames safelights easels enlarging lenses print dry record albums aprons t-shirts tools free advice bindles mooms straps bags oddball stuff handles star tripods slide projectors slide trays film editors camera cases adapters viewers filters lens caps film load stereo receivers tuners amplifiers CD players equalizers stereo speakers stylus replacements tape recorders music books penny whistles sheet music autoharp wrenches drum keys finger picks bargain prices guitar cases guitar strings acoustic guitars electric guitars left-handed guitars tuning pegs bass drum pedals sticks guitar cases guitar strings acoustic guitars electric guitars left-handed guitars tuning pegs mixers windcreens air

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