

This weekend to host AIDS vigil, fundraiser

AIDS support group hopes to get \$53,000

By Hon Walker
Emerald Associate Editor

Shanti in Oregon, a local support agency for people whose lives have been impacted by AIDS, is sponsoring its fourth annual Riverwalk fundraiser Sunday.

Also this weekend will be the second annual local AIDS candlelight memorial, held in conjunction with vigils occurring internationally.

From 11 a.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday, participants will be on the free speech plaza in front of the Lane County Courthouse, 8th Avenue at Oak Street.

All are welcome to participate, for one hour or 24, said Richard Rodrigues of the Community AIDS Consortium. The event will include hourly marches around the building.

"It will be a peaceful event," Rodrigues said. "It is a time for reflection, remembrance, sharing, support, and a time for healing."

Eugene is one of 230 metropolitan areas in 30 nations that are participating in the vigil, Rodrigues said.

According to April 24 statistics from the Lane County Public Health Service, Lane County has 49 reported cases of AIDS with 26 reported deaths.

From 10,000 to 15,000 people in Oregon are estimated to be infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS, Rodrigues said.

Despite these numbers, he said, AIDS is fading from the public arena.

"AIDS is not on the front pages of newspapers, and it's not in the minds of the media much anymore."

However, "AIDS is still here," he said. "We know it's on this campus. It's in the gay and straight communities, and it's in the drug-using and non-drug-using communities."

A goal of this weekend's vigil is to remind the public that attention and action must continue, Rodrigues said.

The event's sponsors include the Community AIDS Consortium, the Eugene Minority AIDS Coalition, the Metropolitan Community Church, Saturday Market, Shanti in Oregon, the Willamette AIDS Council and a number of local businesses.

On Sunday, Shanti will hold its Riverwalk fundraiser. Participants may pick up registration forms in advance, or they may



in Oregon, Inc.

show up at 11:30 Sunday morning at the Alton Baker Park shelter to register.

Those joining the walk will contribute pledges and donations for Shanti, and prizes will be given to those gathering the most pledges.

Proceeds will go toward the non-profit, volunteer-based organization.

This year's goal is \$53,000, said Shanti executive director William Warren. The costs would be used to keep alive an agency that is "scraping along at this point" as well as to hire a full time client service coordinator, Warren said.

The goal is an increase from past Riverwalks. Last year's event yielded \$4,000, but higher visibility and publicity this year will mean more participants in this year's event than ever, Warren hopes.

"We think it's realistic," he said. "We've been as high-profile as we can without sacrificing client confidentiality."

Shanti provides counseling and practical support services for people infected with the HIV virus, as well as their family, friends and lovers. The agency currently serves 40 clients, Warren said.

Community-supported fundraisers such as the Riverwalk provide about 80 percent of the agency's operating budget, Warren said. The spring walk is Shanti's largest fundraiser.

The Riverwalk will begin with opening remarks at 12:30 p.m. at Alton Baker Park. At 1 p.m. participants will join a 10K walk along the Willamette River. The course will follow the bike path to the Greenway Bridge near Valley River Center, then return to the park after crossing the Autzen footbridge. The event will be followed by entertainment and refreshments at 3.

Anyone interested in participating in the candlelight memorial or the Riverwalk may contact Rodrigues at 484-3983 or Shanti at 342-5088.

Ex-Wallowa editor to speak

Robert Evans, a newspaper editor in northeastern Oregon, will speak Thursday about his tumultuous crusade to protect open debate on timber industry issues.

Evans, editor and publisher of *The Joseph Eagle* in Wallowa County, is scheduled to speak from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the faculty club on campus.

Last September, Evans resigned as editor of the *Wallowa County Chieftain* newsweekly after the paper's publisher banned Evans from his editorial writing duties. Evans said he was removed from the editorial page because he opposed proposals by the timber industry and local chamber of commerce to log burned timber in the federally protected Hells Canyon National Recreation Area on the Oregon-Idaho border.

"Because I would not unequivocally support the county and timber industry, I was considered an opponent and obstructionist," Evans said. "I disagreed with their approach and said so on the editorial page of the *Chieftain*."

After leaving the *Chieftain*, Evans founded *The Joseph Eagle*, an "alternative community weekly news magazine" published on a shoestring budget. The publication takes in-depth looks at political, environmental and education issues while keeping abreast of tourism and the arts, according to Evans.

Evans, 36, a 1978 graduate of the University's School of Journalism, has gained notoriety around the state for standing up to what he calls "small-town, good ole' boy ways."

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HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE MEAN—

MOST ROMANTIC FIRST PLACE

My most unusual experience at ASU (so far) has got to be the time that I was sitting on a bench outside on Cady Mall trying to catch up on some reading. I sat in this spot for about an hour when a guy I had never seen before walked over to me and handed me this note. I just looked up at him with a completely black stare and took the note from him. He caught me so off guard that no words would come out of my mouth. He didn't say a word either and turned and walked away. When he was out of sight I slowly opened the note to find that he had written a poem about me. I had no idea he had been observing me the whole time.

Here is the poem:

I sit from a distance and write as words so vividly come to my mind. If I could only paint what I'm imagining, the colors of the bright days and the red roses would shine as you would bring them to life.

I've walked by once, twice, see someone so beautiful I had to write to let this person know that her beauty does, not only present pure attraction, what it resembles is a passage way through a mirrored sun with the feathery touch and heat of a candle's breath.

Now that your sunglasses are removed yes I'm convinced someone so beautiful must have a prince. Oh he is a lucky guy with you he has by his side.

Sitting here in the middle of campus writing to a girl I know nothing about is exciting. I'm glad I had a chance to say hello when a captivating image took me by surprise and made me sit and write. I tell you no lies.

I have no idea who this person is since the poem was not signed, but it made my day.

Valerie/Senior Communication Major

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