



Diners at the Banquet for Hunger experienced "poverty level" meals of rice and water (right) while others at the banquet ate "luxury meals" of spaghetti, vegetables and dessert (left).

Photo by Sean Poston

Banquet raises money

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Reporter

Hunger and homelessness were two issues discussed at the Banquet for Hunger which took place Dec. 2 on campus. The event, sponsored by University Housing, raised money for St. Vincent de Paul's holiday food baskets to be distributed among hungry Lane County families.

Hunger in Lane County is a widespread problem. Information provided by Oregon Food Bank indicates that 49 percent of the hungry are children.

Although the United States is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, 20 percent of the food produced in this country is thrown away, according to a fact sheet prepared by the Oregon Food Bank.

These figures were just a few of many mentioned at the banquet. The event raised \$560 for the holiday food baskets, and approximately 280 tickets were sold.

Banquet attendants discovered firsthand what it means to go away hungry from the dinner table. Three types of dinners were served, each representing a different class of eating.

Students who received the luxury dinner consisting of spaghetti, green beans, bread and soda should "smile and feel blessed," said Carol Pelster, St. Vincent de Paul Society's western region youth representative.

The middle level dinners, consisting of soup, and the poverty level dinners which were rice, were met with sighs, complaints and comments on hunger by students. "I'm so happy I can go get something after this," a student said.

Eugene attorney John Van Landingham spoke on the problems of a lack of low income housing in Lane County. Van Landingham is chairman of the Lane County Housing Task Force.

There are about 3,000 low subsidized units in Oregon for families. However, these have long waiting lists, which are only open once a year, Van Landingham said. The lists are open for a week on a lottery basis.

Also, many homeless cannot afford the \$500 to \$600 fee to stay in the units, Van Landingham said. Operators of these units can charge this amount because no deposit is required. The two fastest growing homeless are single parents with children and working families. Neither of these groups can pay the fee for low income housing.

The rental vacancy rate is 1 percent to 3 percent, while a healthy rate is 5 percent, Van Landingham said. Besides an availability problem there is an affordability problem.

"For lower income people they can't find a place and if they do they can't afford it," he said. "In 1988 over 3,000 people were paying more than 70 percent of their income for rent."

Van Landingham ended his speech by mentioning a homeless grade school student who drew a picture of a house with many doors. When asked by his teacher why his house had so many doors the child said, "so all the homeless people can get inside."

Earth First! to meet

MEETINGS

Rainforest Action Group meets tonight at 5:30 in EMU Suite 1. Call 346-0356 for more information.

AIESEC meets tonight at 7:30 in Room 310 Gilbert. For more information call 342-5719.

Ancient Forest/Earth First! meets tonight at 7 in EMU Suite 1. For more information call 346-4356.

Women's Sexual Identity Group meets today from noon to 1 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room D. Bring a lunch. For more information call 346-4095.

College Republicans meets tonight at 5:30 in EMU Cedar Room C.

SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

Academic Freedom Forum will be held today from noon to 2:30 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room. The event is sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance and the ASUO. For more information call 346-3360.

Emily Heilbrun from the Shanti AIDS project will speak tonight at 7:30 at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St. For more information call 343-7021.

MISCELLANEOUS

Storm the Stairs recognition

ceremony will be held today at 4 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room.

Dead Poet's Society will be shown tonight at 7 in the Sacred Heart General Hospital auditorium. Dr. Regina McGlothlin, a psychiatrist, will be available to discuss the film and answer questions. For more information call 342-6478.

Oregon Book Connection will have an information table in the EMU Fishbowl Annex from today until Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Student Mass will be held tonight at 9 at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St. For more information call 343-7021. Guest speaker Rev. Margaret Johnston will speak on conflict and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

An advent celebration will be held tonight at 7 at the Wesley Center, 1236 Kincaid St. For more information call 346-4694.

EMU Winter Craft Fair will be held today and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room. For more information call 346-4361.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Wednesday, December 5, 1990



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