

Homeless dilemma needs real solution

County Commissioners Jerry Rust and Marie Frazier were among the chief organizers of an "emergency housing summit" on Friday, in hopes that some solutions could be found for the county's growing homeless dilemma.

The commissioners, various political candidates, concerned public members and the homeless themselves all attended the meeting. And while nothing solid was determined by the meeting, it produced several promising ideas that could develop into solutions.

The need for such a meeting arose from the Oct. 1 eviction of several homeless families that were located on a bank of the McKenzie River across from Armitage State Park. Since then, many of the evicted homeless moved to county land near the old Armitage site. Rust has shown integrity in his decision to let them live there temporarily.

But holding a meeting for permanent solutions shows a lot more than integrity. It shows genuine commitment.

Among the proposals is a plan to open an aging campground at Armitage State Park. Unlike the previous site, this campground has bathrooms and actual camping areas, thereby making available working facilities. Currently, the site isn't being used for anything and would provide a good, if temporary, residence that the homeless could adopt as their own.

Another idea is to open part of the Lane County Fairgrounds for homeless camping. While this idea is also good on a short-term basis, it's problematic because the fairgrounds are used frequently during warmer months. It would be better to give the homeless a place they can truthfully call home.

The concepts to open abandoned downtown buildings for shelters and starting a program to build homeless dwellings are also good ideas. The downtown shelters could be used as gathering places from which homeless citizens could seek work. Plus, helping the homeless build their own houses would give them valuable job training that could prove useful in the future.

A final suggestion is for citizens to open up their houses to a homeless family. While this is probably the most compassionate solution, it's also the most unrealistic. Most families are probably unwilling to open their homes for more than a week or two. And that won't make a long-term difference.

Perhaps the individual ideas don't need praise as much as the entire meeting itself.

When the homeless campers were first evicted from Armitage, the state showed little compassion toward the struggles of the homeless. Conversely, the "emergency housing summit" was a huge step in the right direction.

Rust, Frazier and many others met for nearly six hours discussing solutions. Although many of those solutions may not work in the end, the county has shown a willingness and a commitment to helping those in need.



LETTERS

Bike races

When you see the Bike Nazis are active, please warn people who are headed for trouble. Let's keep this campus a place where students work together against bureaucrats.

On another note, Pat Malach wrote in Write Angles (ODE, Oct. 6) that "racist" comments made about the Chinese affected "an entire race of people." Take a few credits of anthropology, Pat.

Fred O. Roellig
Peace Studies

Holy smooch

A quick note about Ethan Perkin's letter of Oct. 7.

"Greeting each other with a holy kiss" has never been classified a "sexual behavior" in my mind. I guess that's because I've never greeted a brother of mine in such a way as to be "sexual behavior."

Even though I don't use a kiss because of all the sexual connotations this society has attached to it, one looking from the outside might consider the hug I give a brother to be sexual behavior. It is not, because I do not desire to perform a sexually related act with that person.

I'd rather hug them to symbolize an embracement of that person's well-being, and our unity in a Christ who is very different than the one who seems to be getting the bulk of attention these days.

Bob Wigel
Lab Tech

Respect Hitler?

I would like to thank the Oregon Daily Emerald for printing the commentary by Darrell Fuller (ODE, Oct. 6). It was clear after reading his piece that I have, at long last, acquired an understanding of the basis of logic on which the OCA functions. Let's see, it goes like this:

The OCA is trying to stomp out homosexuals for the benefit and protection of society. The OCA is prepared to deny homosexuals their constitutional rights. And because of the OCA's willingness to be "con-

troversial," we should look up to them.

I have but one question: Wasn't this the same idea that Hitler had more than 50 years ago in dealing with the Jews? If you read the above statement using "Hitler" instead of "the OCA" and "Jews" instead of "homosexuals" it is easy to see that "controversial" doesn't always mean "correct."

Well, there you go. Using Fuller's form of logic, we should give the OCA the same respect that we give Hitler.

David Tubb
Student

Who's right?

The article in the Oct. 8 Oregon Daily Emerald about my coming out ("Homosexuals share their experiences") was disappointing. I went to lengths to provide the reporter with several incidents evolving into and emerging from my coming out, but they were not included. My personality was not present, there was no action or drama, nothing about death threats, depression, being thrown out and no mention of an instrumental character (I only made true statements about a dead man). Were these adventures not written in, or were they edited out?

The point of coming out is to declare one's uniqueness. The article presented me as angry and almost as a victimized, bound Prometheus. I felt somewhat like the inhabitant of a petrie dish.

Was it a matter of space? (I posed for pictures that were not used.) You included an article on Bill Clinton resting his voice. We need to know this?

The administration, financial aid office, registrar's and local businesses all endeavor to reduce us students into a heap of magnetic tape and Social Security numbers. When one student volunteers to say, "This is my story," what is the response of the journalistic left testicle of Oregon Hall? I was approached for a coming out story, not a high sign and a "Yo! I'm gay!"

Andrew Shaffer
Russian

Yes on 9

Ballot Measure 9, the measure that restrains government from promoting homosexuality as just another lifestyle, has turned into a major confrontation — dominated by unrelenting liberal media hostility.

Those choosing to engage in high-risk dysfunctional sex are designated the heroes, and those opposing societies acceptance of it are labeled bigots.

Those wearing lavender triangle buttons are called tolerant citizens. Those wearing "Support Family Values" buttons are mocked.

To not support homosexual behavior is pronounced "irrational hatred" by the American Civil Liberties Union and "mean-spirited" by the Secretary of State.

A procedure (condoms) with a failure rate (yielding possible death or lifelong disease) of 2 percent to 5 percent is called "safe sex" and is promoted as sexual "responsibility." A procedure (marital fidelity following pre-marital chastity) with a zero-percent rate of death or disease transmission is labeled "fundamentalist zealotry."

But here's the real issue: Should society (via government institutions) encourage chosen behavior that is known to be highly unsanitary, diseased, infectious and enormously expensive in terms of personal anguish, health, lives and dollars? Is it loving to model this destructive behavior pattern for our children as acceptable and inevitable?

Is tolerance more important than truth? Must we sanction any-and-all behavior under the all-encompassing umbrella of "tolerance"? Must we be branded by some as fanatical bigots for refusing to do so?

Despite the massive liberal onslaught, I believe that thinking, compassionate Oregonians will vote this Nov. 3 in recognizing that governmental promotion of homosexuality is not good for Oregon. Vote 'Yes' on 9.

Jon Wollander
Eugene

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3553 EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor: Pat Malach
 News Editor: Jake Berg
 Editorial Editor: Martin Fisher
 Graphics Editor: Jeff Pasley
 Entertainment Editor: Freya Horn
 Freelance Editor: Don Peters
 Editorial Editor: Rivers Janssen
 Sports Editor: Dave Charbonneau
 Supplements Editor: Night Editor: Jake Berg

Associate Editors
 Student Government/Activities: Tammy Batey
 Higher Education/Administration: Colleen Pohlig
 Community: Tim Neff
 Politics: Rene DeCair

Reporters: Chester Allen, Mandy Baucum, Matt Bender, Sarah Clark, Donna Gavin, Lisa Kneisel, Damian McLean, Steve Mims, Erick Studenicka, Jacqueline Woge

Copy Editors: Justin Brown, Amanda Farnie, Alicia Ferrari, Theresa Hunsinger, Mary Klein, Tiffini Mueller, Trista Noel, Ellen Shaw, Marion Sutor, Amy Van Tuyt

Photographers: Kim Nguyen, Michael Shindler
 Graphic Artist: Heather Zibusser

Darkroom Technicians: Lisa Haggerty, Matt Morin, Michele Thompson-Aguier, Todd Williams

Advertising: Shawn Berven, Scott Dana, Jennifer Hudkins, Jene Irois, Chris Kanoff, Tom Leach, Jeremy Mason, Gillian Oh, Dustin Stadel, Sharon Vaz, Angie Windheim

Classified: Peggy McGinn, Manager. Barry Logan, Sharon Sauve, Susan Updegraff
 Business: Kathy Carbons, Supervisor. Judy Connolly

Production: Ingrid White, Production Coordinator. Kristine Granger, Dee McCobb, Stacy Mitchell, Jennifer Roland, Jennifer Smith, Anne Stephenson, Derelyn Trappe

General Manager: Judy Friedl
 Advertising Director: Bryan R. Coppedge
 Production Manager: Michele Ross

Newsroom: 346-5511
 Business Office: 346-5512
 Display Advertising: 346-3712
 Classified Advertising: 346-4343