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COMMUNITY

Council to consider site for homeless

By Meg Dedolph
Emerald Reporter

The Eugene Human Rights Commission unanimously approved a proposal Tuesday night to construct a designated area where homeless people can park vehicles and camp on a limited basis.

The favored location for the area is in the Wistec parking lot, near Autzen Stadium.

The commission will present this proposal to the Eugene City Council at the council's Jan. 25 meeting. According to Marion Malcolm, head of the ad hoc committee that formulated the proposal, the site could be in operation as soon as two weeks after the council's vote, should the proposal be approved.

The area will have a capacity of 30 units, Malcolm said, and is designed to provide a

place for homeless people to stay free from citations.

Even though there are some provisions for homeless families in Eugene, the area will be available for families and single people. Malcolm said that, except for the Eugene Mission, there are few resources for homeless single people and couples without children.

Malcolm said the area will not be permanent and will close May 31. She said the proposal is being treated as an experiment, and will be followed by an evaluation of its success.

"This is not something that's going to solve the whole problem," Malcolm said. "It's a community response to part of the problem."

According to the proposal, people who wished to use the site would be asked to

sign a contract stating that they understood the site rules, and would be asked to pay \$1.

The suggested rules would be ones that apply to most campgrounds, Malcolm said, including prohibitions on drug and alcohol use, open fires, and a "quiet period."

The area would be equipped with a trailer to house a staff person hired by the city, who would have access to a telephone for emergency calls.

Malcolm said she hoped the council would approve the proposal, but that the city would like some outside support, for example, from the county or from local businesses.

Wistec has not yet been contacted regarding the potential use of their parking lot, but Malcolm said she hopes Wistec will be able to help, especially since it is open on a limited basis.

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X marks the spot — for message or money?

By Sonja Sherwood
Emerald Contributor

A 1968 FBI memorandum once named Malcom X was an example of a dangerous "messiah" who could unify and electrify the militant black nationalist movement, and called for the prevention of such a threat.

The name that once made the FBI nervous is now being purchased, preshrunk and accessorized.

Since Spike Lee took over as director of the film *Malcolm X*, T-shirts, baseball hats, backpacks, buttons and jackets emblazoned with Malcolm's face or a definitive "X" have been

selling everywhere.

Eddie Nevin, a sales clerk for Disc Jockey, a local clothing store, said his first shipment of about 30 hats for \$18 apiece sold out within a week.

"We got about nine Malcolm X T-shirts in," Nevin said. "Those and the Red Hot Chili Peppers shirts were the first to go."

Nevin said the merchandise is popular with everyone from little kids to old folks.

"It's the style right now," he said. "Out of the nine buyers, I'd say only one wasn't a white rapper wannabe."

Wesley Carpenter of Mr. Rags said consumers initially failed to identify the "X" symbol with

Malcolm X, but purchased it only for the look.

"Before the movie came out people just asked for 'X' hats," Carpenter said. "After the movie it was, 'Do you have any Malcolm X hats?'"

Spike Lee himself began the fad when he showed up at the Cannes Film Festival last year wearing a jacket with an "X" atop an American flag and an "X" hat.

At Spike's Joint, Lee's film paraphernalia shop in Macy's in Atlanta, Lee markets Xwear at prices that range from \$20 for a hat to \$55 for a jersey.

The merchandising of an idea has moved beyond just Malcom X to Spike Lee himself. Scott

Lemon, a sales clerk for Mr. Rags, said other popular sellers are hats with insignias promoting more Spike Lee movies such as *Do the Right Thing* and *Mo' Better Blues*.

Some T-shirts are ideological hybrids, showing Spike Lee's message "Do the right thing" alongside Malcolm X's "By any means necessary."

So, does this consumer demand signal a genuine Malcolm revival, or is it Spike Lee's inadvertent, but highly effective, self-promotion?

When consumers trade \$20 for a cap, is it really for Malcom X's message?

Turn to **MALCOLM**, Page 5

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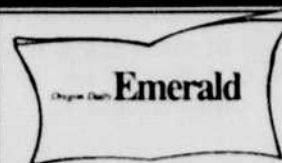
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