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**COMMUNITY**

**Number of AIDS patients to rise**

By Kim Challis-Roth  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Doctors at the National Centers for Disease Control predict 100,000 new AIDS cases will be diagnosed this year.

Almost 205,000 men and women have died from HIV/AIDS-related causes since the epidemic hit the United States in 1981, including more than 1,300 deaths reported in Oregon.

But Acorn House, a local foster care home for HIV-positive men and women, receives no federal, state or county funds, said its administrator, James Phelps.

"Although AIDS has reached epidemic proportions," Phelps said, "all our money comes from grants, donations, insurance claims and fund-raisers."

Phelps hopes today's World AIDS Day will help focus on the necessity of increased AIDS funding.

Acorn House will receive proceeds from the "Light Up a Life" program, a benefit enabling people to sponsor a light on a special tree in remembrance of a friend or loved one lost to AIDS.

Acorn House, which opened in Eugene last November, has housed 21 clients. Ten of those original clients died in the house.

A few were homeless, Phelps said, but others were just beyond their family's ability to take care of them medically or financially.

But Phelps said he doesn't want the public to think of Acorn House as only a place to die.

"It is a place for friendship and support for anyone with HIV," Phelps said, "and many people come here to battle the worst part of a particular ailment and go home again."

Phelps said one client stayed for six months to be near friends in Eugene, though his parents lived in Roseburg, the site of another foster care facility.

Events scheduled for World AIDS Day, sponsored by the Community AIDS Consortium, include:

- A noon rally at 8th Avenue and Oak Street, featuring Cynthia Wooten, state representative; Paul Nicholson, Eugene city councilman; and Jerry Rust, Lane County commissioner. There will also be a presentation by the AIDS Prevention Education Theater, a group of local high students.

- At 6 p.m., a candlelight vigil will be at Owens Rose Garden Park (near 1st Avenue and Jefferson Street in Eugene), followed by a march to Valley River Inn, 1000 Valley River Way. Candles will be provided for those unable to supply their own.

- At 7 p.m. the "Light Up a Life" tree lighting and names reading ceremony takes place at Valley River Inn. To sponsor a light for \$10, call Acorn House at 342-2830.

- A quilting bee to create a quilt panel for the Names Project Quilt will be at Valley River Inn at 7:30 p.m.

**PACKWOOD**

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expenses of the women's volunteer lawyers.

In addition to financial contributions, women standing up to Packwood's sexual misconduct need continued verbal support from men and women so they can become confident that people believe their stories, said Portland consultant Julie Williamson, one of the first women to accuse Packwood of sexual harassment in *The Washington Post*.

"It's breaking the code of silence that allows people to believe each other," Williamson said.

Williamson said she was sexually harassed by Packwood in 1969 while working on his campaign in Portland. Packwood kissed her on the back of the neck, then chased her into a back office where he stood on her feet and grabbed at her clothes.

Williamson and Hutton said they felt hurt and betrayed by Packwood, but agree that coming forward has heightened national awareness about sexual harassment. By facing their fears, the two women say they are helping others gain the



**Gena Hutton, left, and Julie Williamson embrace at Tuesday's benefit to help raise money for the lawyers of women who have accused Oregon Senator Bob Packwood of sexual misconduct.**

courage to speak out against sexual misconduct.

"I have two girls. I would love for them to know it's OK to stand up and speak out," Hutton said.

Oregonians for Ethical Representation is working with a national coalition of 72 support groups to pressure on the Senate Ethics Committee to speed up the legal process so the 29 women can speak at a public

hearing and Packwood can be removed from office.

"This is not an Oregon issue," said Jeanette Fruen, an activist for the coalition. "The issue is sexual misconduct at the highest levels of our government."

Williamson and Hutton are asking people in all states to call or write their senators and request open hearings for the sexual misconduct charges.

**Freshman Seminars**

Winter Term 1994

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| <b>INTL 199</b> | Perceiving Asia and Asian Perceptions of the West                 |
| <b>ART 199</b>  | International Animation-Artists and Ideas                         |
| <b>PHIL 199</b> | Immortality   |
| <b>EDPM 199</b> | Women in Sport: Making a Difference                               |
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