

Permanent place, temporary home

On May 31 the Centennial Car Camp, adjacent to Autzen Stadium, is scheduled to pack up, but the homeless people who take refuge there will probably have no place to go.

Many shelters around Eugene, including Centennial, tend to close up when the seasons change. Warm weather seems to be an excuse to send homeless people back into the streets. Somehow it's expected that the warm weather magically creates homes for the homeless. However, it can't be city streets or places like public parks — that's against the law.

The homeless people need a place to rely on for more than a winter. In an attempt to get back on their feet, they need a place they can count on to exist on a permanent basis providing shelter for a limited period of time for those temporarily without it. The camp should be available for a given period of time per tenant when occupancy is full. But the camp should exist in a permanent sense.

It shouldn't be a place to call home forever but rather an opportunity to provide shelter for those temporarily without shelter. It should be a place that provides a base where people can gather and use it as a tool to branch out and find jobs providing the possibility to get off the streets.

The Eugene school district bus barn could, potentially, be the place. The bus barn is picking up shop and moving across town leaving behind buildings and plenty of space for tents and vehicles. The move is expected to take place sometime this Christmas break and the site could maintain the permanence that the homeless people need.

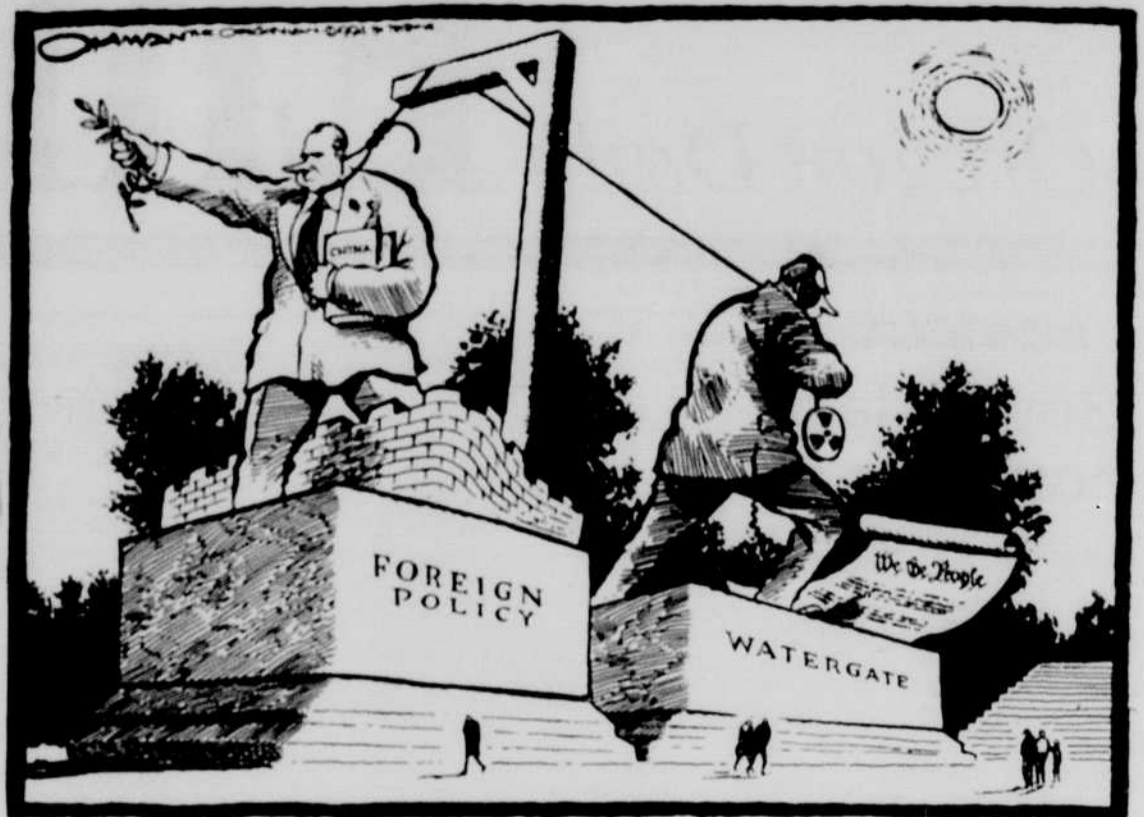
Still in its initial stages, this new homeless camp is really little more than an idea. Spurred on by the New Shelter Work Group, supporters have a lot of heart and perseverance aimed at taking some of the homeless off the street. But it's going to take a lot.

Approval from the city is, of course, imperative, but the Eugene school district and many of the council members have seemed optimistic about the plan. However, as usual, one of the biggest obstacles is money.

The annual operating costs range from \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year for a facility such as this one. This money would have to come from the city and the money would have to come on a long-term regular basis. Operating on a shoe string budget from season to season needs to be exchanged for a permanent budget where continual improvements can be made at the site.

Neighborhoods surrounding the existing facility need to work with the idea of making the homeless facility blend in rather than becoming an eyesore. The bus barn maintains the capacity to provide a respectable place for not only the homeless, but for the site itself. Much of the work done to make the area presentable could be done by the homeless in trade for use of the facilities.

The responsibility to provide for the homeless needs to be taken on by everyone in Eugene. The bus barn provides a working potential for a permanent place to house the homeless. Providing a temporary home for the homeless could, in the long-run, help everyone by taking the homeless off the streets and giving them the opportunity to get back on their feet.



OPINION

I mean it: Nixon's still no hero



ROBBIE REEVES

My, my, my. Thanks to everyone who wrote the amusing letters about my Nixon column. I'm touched. It's been a while since I was able to upset so many people, just like Nixon did 20 years ago.

However, with all of the kind words expressed by everyone, there are some things to clear up.

The letter to the editor that ran May 3 was by far my favorite. In case you had the good fortune to miss it, the writer referred to me as a "loud mouth punk with a pen," (that's the first time I've been called a "punk") and said that I really shouldn't be bitter about Nixon because when the Nixon presidency fell, according to the writer, I was so young that my thumb would have been in my mouth.

Not really. I was born in October 1975, during the Ford administration. I consider myself lucky that I missed out on the Watergate fiasco. I didn't live through Hitler's rule either, but I feel confident saying that he wasn't the greatest guy around.

The writer even questioned whether I was using my real name or not when I write columns. Actually, I don't. The name is Doe. John Doe. Get real. And referring to my column as being "objective" was amusing. Actually, when an opinion is introduced into a story, it is subjective. Opinion columns normally contain opinions, and therefore I confess to being subjective. Cane me.

Another letter writer, this one on May 4, implied that I needed to have more respect for Nixon because, after all, he was the

president. OK, I can respect the presidency as some abstract post in American government. However, the person that is elected president doesn't automatically get my respect and admiration just because of his or her job title. That person has to earn my respect. I would worry if everyone had a blind love and respect for anyone that is elected just because of their job title.

As a person, Nixon may have been a very nice man. The type of guy that you could invite over for a barbecue sometime. But some of the things that he did in office weren't too nice!

As for those people that wrote in complaining that I compromised something because I attacked Nixon after he died, listen. Let's be real. He is dead. Typically, when someone dies, his or her life is reviewed as a way of remembering notable accomplishments or, in some cases, failures. Nixon had both. Lots of people feel that it isn't right to say bad things about dead people. I disagree.

It would be quite disingenuous to review Nixon's life in the flowery way that everyone else has been doing recently. If somebody thinks that it is somehow not tactful to bring out the other side of Nixon, tough. What difference does it make if the man is alive? All I can think of is the super-sensitive reaction of "Oh, but if he was alive, he could respond to your complaints." Bull. He doesn't exactly read the *Emerald*.

Thanks to all those that wrote (and are probably still writing)

letters. I found the opinions therein interesting.

Nixon did do some stuff domestically, as well as internationally. I don't mean to imply that the man spent all of his time in office twiddling his thumbs and recording personal conversations. I just don't see his accomplishments as being on par with John Kennedy's or Franklin Roosevelt's. Instead, maybe he was a bit closer to George Bush. He did some stuff domestically, but will be remembered for his work abroad. (See! I wrote a semi-nice paragraph about Nixon without saying Watergate. Oops!)

Nixon was not an ogre. He was not a god, either, despite what some people around the country are saying. He was a normal human being who did both good and bad things. Everyone else is telling about his good side, and I will balance the argument by referring to his bad side.

Nixon has gone to his grave with a mixed record; he did both good and bad. So has every other president in the history of this country. I see nothing wrong with talking about the bad part for a change. After all, Nixon did it, not me. He should be ashamed of it, not me.

I know that some people think that my treatment of Nixon has been downright criminal, and to that I have only one thing to say:

I am not a crook.

Robbie Reeves is a columnist for the Emerald.

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

Emerald

Oregon Daily

P.O. BOX 3159 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.

Managing Editor	Calley Anderson	Editor-in-Chief	Jake Berg	Sports Editor	Steve Mims
Editorial Editor	David Thorn	Editorial Editor	Jeff Pickhardt	Photo Editor	Michael Shindler
Graphics Editor	Jeff Paslay	Supplements Editor	Alaina Baum		Kaly Soto
Freelance Editor		Night Editor	David Thorn		

Associate Editors: Edward Klopstein, Student Government/Activities; Rebecca Merritt, Community; Heather Himes, Higher Education/Administration

News Staff: Lori Bettineski, Wilson Chan, Dave Charbonneau, Amy Colombo, Jim Davis, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Tasha Eichenseher, Malia Fields, Martin Fisher, Sarah Henderson, Yin Leng Leong, Marius Meland, Trista Noel, Elisabeth Reensterna, Robbie Reeves, Kate Sabourin, Lia Salocchia, Scott Simonson, Stephanie Sisson, Susanne Steffens, Michele Thompson, Amy Van Tuyl, Daniel West

General Manager: Judy Riedl

Advertising Director: Mark Walter

Advertising: Brian Davis, Subir Dutta, Nicole Herzmark, Teresa Isabelle, Jeff Marion, Jeremy Mason, Michael Millette, Kelsey Weikel

Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager: Victor Mejia, Sim Tze Teck

Distribution: John Long, Ferenc Rakoczi, Graham Simpson

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor: Judy Connolly

Production: Dee McCobb, Production Coordinator: Shawna Abele, Greg Desmond, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Jennifer Roland, Natt Thangvijit, Clayton Yee

Newsroom: 346-5511

Business Office: 346-5512

Display Advertising: 346-3712

Classified Advertising: 346-4343