

EDITORIAL

Council shows spirit of Eugene

At a time when conservatism is sweeping the nation, when it is an insult to be called liberal, when laws against pan handling are becoming commonplace, the Eugene City Council proved there is one bastion of freedom and security for the homeless. As Martha Stewart is fond of saying, "this is a very good thing."

The Council voted to spend \$53,700 to aid homeless individuals and families in staying safe during the winter months and in fending for themselves after winter is over. Not only will the city provide a place for the homeless to stay (the Centennial Car Camp near Autzen Stadium), it will also provide services aimed at getting these individuals and families off the streets and back on their feet.

The tack the council is taking is not just one of throwing money at the problem and hoping it will go away. Council members seem to be saying: we're willing to say we have this problem, it's a city-wide problem, and we want to fix it. Additionally, this move doesn't reinforce the stigma that has, in the past, plagued the homeless.

More than anything this plan takes a broader look at the problem of homelessness:

- \$15,000 will go toward opening the Centennial Car Camp
- \$15,000 will go toward researching how the city can accommodate more emergency housing for the homeless
- \$10,000 will be provided for counseling, job placement and helping homeless people pay the first and last months' rent required to get into other forms of housing
- \$10,000 will be put toward finding a permanent car camp at some other location
- \$3,700 will be used to restore damaged landscaping at the current camp site

Dissenters on the council were upset because they believed the plan didn't do enough for the homeless. Councilman Kevin Hornbuckle was quoted in *The Register-Guard* as saying, "This is liberalism in action — it does nothing while pretending to do something." Hornbuckle was also concerned that by providing counseling the Council would be further stigmatizing the homeless.

The only problem here is that the city of Eugene is footing almost the entire bill for this project, even though Lane County as a whole and Springfield in particular will also benefit. Lane County and Springfield will each contribute \$5,000 for the completion of the project.

This is the third year in a row that the car camp will be located at the Centennial site. Last summer a furor erupted when supporters and homeless advocates wanted to open a new car camp at the old bus barn across from South Eugene High School. Residents in neighborhoods feared the presence of the homeless would prompt children who pass it going to and from school to engage in illegal or illicit activity. It was, once again, a case of "not in my backyard." This unwarranted attitude showed an unattractive side of Eugene.

The Council's decision Monday night was made in the true Eugene style of giving which has made the city home to all of us.



LETTERS

Brick shot

About Mark McTyre's article on "Late Night with Jerry Green." You're right, they bricked too many things. I didn't go until almost scrimmage time because last year wasn't that good either. I don't know what they did this year, but from last year's experience, I think the bottom line is if a player's not absolutely comfortable doing it, don't even try it.

These guys aren't recruited to be lip-synchers, comedians or cross-dressers. Leave that to the people in the movies that play at the Bijou.

You have to hand it to Jerry Allen for designating fans for the green and white teams. That was a key move and hopefully will be done every year. Sure the crowd was small compared to Florida's, but Florida just went to the Final Four.

As far as students and overall enthusiasm, yeah, that is a sad story, but the poor morale is a combination of factors. The fact that there was a football game that afternoon probably prevented a few people from going. But mainly, this is just the University of Oregon.

The ratio of skate-action (liberal, hippy-type) people to average people in Eugene is a lot higher than say at Washington or Washington State, or any other PAC-10 school. In light of this, to the average University student, whether or not Trent Raznor is back in the studio working on a new album is more important than whether the Ducks beat Washington.

It's just harder to pack a sports arena here than it is at most other institutions in the nation — no matter how good the teams are. With that in mind, the students who missed last weekend's game missed a Heisman show not to mention a big-league Oregon upset.

Garth Meyer
Visual design

Jimi's integrity

The character factor of politicians has received considerable attention. Jimi Mathers, a Republican candidate for the District 20 senate seat, demonstrates true character.

In recent years Jimi has

stumped throughout the state for campaign finance reform. She saw how the will and needs of citizens were often out-gunned by monied special interests. She worked for legislation aimed at neutralizing those who would buy politicians.

Additionally, Jimi's early support of equal rights for all citizens reveals her character. In the odious anti-gay debate whipped up by the Oregon Citizens Alliance, Jimi spoke out early in opposition to the OCA's discriminatory measures, despite the fact that her own party is controlled in Lane County by the OCA. Jimi refused to be intimidated by this and chose to work with Women in Action, a chapter of local Republican women who voted unanimously to oppose the OCA's discriminatory Measure 13.

She is also a pro-choice Republican supporting a woman's right to make her own reproductive choices.

I urge voters in District 20 to take note of Jimi Mathers' character qualities of courage and fairness. Send her to Salem. Let's benefit by her unwavering support of justice for Oregon's citizens.

Carol Berg
Eugene

Crooked pillars

Reading Donovan Dichter's letter to the editor (*ODE* Oct. 24) was annoying. From beginning to end, his letter drips with condescending sarcasm and insults toward James Leong. Dichter said Leong's article "was pathetic, poorly written and way off line," and asked "how does such poor journalism ever make it to publication?" As if this isn't enough, he believes that it is a "misfortune" to read Leong's article.

Excuse me, Mr. Dichter, don't you think you are being too judgmental? If Leong's article sought to argue that greeks are elitist, Dichter's condescending attitude proves it all.

As for Dichter's statistics, they lack credibility and are quite vague. Either he is trying to whitewash something or he has never taken a class in statistics.

I am not here to criticize or comment on the greek system. But since the response from the IFC-elect shows nothing but out-

right arrogance, I don't think it reflects well on the greek system in general. It reminds me of an old Chinese saying: If the upper pillar is not straight, the lower one is probably crooked too.

Puay Wah Phuan
Chemistry

Call for help

Last week I returned to my office at the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry and found an anonymous note written on my memo board. It read:

"Please reach out to gay, lesbian and bisexual youth in this state. We need your support, prayer and active encouragement now more than ever before. I am from Southern Oregon and our church is very close-minded or apathetic. Silence=teen suicide."

The note shook me up. I realize that the words written express pain, fears and concerns of many people, not just the individual who wrote them. I am aware of the disproportionate rate of suicide among gay, lesbian and bisexual teenagers. I am also conscious that many churches are not open-minded or sympathetic to the needs of these people. All of these things cut me to the heart.

However, there are groups of faithful people who are reaching out to gay, lesbian and bisexual young adults. We are all saying: "Have pride in who you are. Don't despair. God loves you. You are welcome here."

I urge the author of the note to seek out one of these groups and find a loving church home. These Interfaith and Christian groups have a variety of names: The Religious Response Network, Metropolitan Community Church, Affirmation, and Open and Affirming Congregations. In the United Methodist Church, it's called Reconciling Campus Ministry, and it means that we are seeking to be open and welcoming to all people, regardless of their sexual orientations.

On Wednesday, Oct. 26, there will be a gathering of campus ministers who will speak on why we oppose Measure 13. The meeting will take place in the EMU at 12 p.m. To my anonymous friend: Please come.

Janet Cromwell
Campus Pastor,
Wesley Foundation

Oregon Daily Emerald

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.

Editor-in-Chief: Kaly Soto
Managing Editor: David Thorn
Editorial Editor: Joe Harwood
Graphics Editor: Jeff Paslay
Freelance Editor: Alaina Baum
In-Depth Editor: Ed Klopfenstein
News Editor: Rebecca Merritt
Sports Editor: Chris Metz
Photo Editor: Michael Shindler
Supplements Editor: Trista Noel
Night Editor: Tasha Eichenseher
Associate Editors: Friederich von Carp, Student Government/Activities; Marcelene Edwards, Community; Tiffany Smith, Higher Education/Administration

News Staff: Lori Bettineski, Wilson Chan, Amy Columbo, Tasha Eichenseher, Abe Estimada, Primo Fontana, Gayle Forman, Christopher Fox, Matt Garton, Gary Grass, Sarah Henderson, Kris Henry, Trevor Kearney, Adam Kincher, Mark McTyre, Ben Moebius, Anne Moser-Kornfeld, Sherry Rainey, Robbie Reeves, Lia Salocicca, Paul Van Sickle, Kim Weiss, Daniel West, Brian Womack

General Manager: Judy Riedl
Advertising Director: Mark Walter
Production Manager: Michele Ross
Advertising: Marco Ching, Tony Fox, Erin Hersher, Nicole Herzmark, Jeremy Mason, Michael Milette, Sarah Mitchell, Tom Mittelstaedt, Kelsey Wekell
Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager; Jodi Seltou, Jodi Wall
Distribution: John Long, Ferenc Rakoczi, Regina Zsupnik
Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor; Judy Connolly
Production: Dehlia McCobb, Production Coordinator; Shawna Abele, Greg Desmond, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Jennifer Roland, Natt Thangvijit, Clayton Yee
Newsroom: 346-5511
Display Advertising: 346-3712
Business Office: 346-5512
Classified Advertising: 346-4343