

'Mall rats' voice opinions at open-mike poetry reading

Suzanne Marta
Oregon Daily Emerald

Family, love and frustration of homeless youth were the themes of the open-mike poetry reading delivered to the standing room only crowd at Mother Kali's.

Community and city leaders listened Saturday as homeless youths, known as "mall rats," expressed their opinions on various topics at the poetry reading.

"The mall rats are my family," said Latasha, an 18-year-old woman who has been a mall rat for the past four years.

Latasha is one of the older mall rats and considers herself a mother to the younger kids.

"When I have food stamps, I

spend them on the kids and if I have a place to stay I make sure the younger ones are there so they won't have to stay up all night outside," she said.

Like many of the older mall rats, Latasha said helping the kids at the mall is important.

"I help the kids because kids on the street don't belong there," Latasha said. "They belong in a home and going to school."

She said the mall rats' biggest needs are shelter, something to do in return for shelter and a way for kids to finish school.

Human Rights Commission member Neil Van Steenberg was impressed with the presentation by the mall rats.

"I was touched by the strength,

integrity and dignity of these people," Van Steenberg said.

More than 25 mall rats came to the open-mike event to read their poetry and answer questions from the community.

Pearl Wolfe of the Looking Glass program "New Roads" said there are as many as 50 kids living out on the mall now and will be about 100 to 150 in the summer.

"These are our kids and they are a part of our community," she said. "If we don't want them to be homeless adults, then we have to give them options."

The "New Roads" program meets the kids' basic needs until they can stand on their own and has had a 70 percent success rate

for its first year.

The open-mike event was organized by Linda Saylor, a Eugene woman who has been working with the youths since August of 1994.

Saylor asked for community involvement and donations to support the kids.

"There is no government funding for 10 to 16 year olds and if you're living on the streets, you can't get food stamps," she said.

Paul Howard, a Eugene man who was homeless only five years ago, stays in contact with five to six kids on a regular basis and frequently provides a place for them to sleep.

"They can stay as long as they're not high or intoxicated,"

he said.

Howard was impressed with the solidarity of the mall rats.

"Five years ago, I never saw kids [from the mall] get up and give a poetry reading," he said. "Five years ago in the mall, they weren't doing anything but getting into fights and going to jail."

CD, a 19-year-old mall rat, said the mall was his home and that the mall rats were real people.

"Mall rats are not outcasts," CD said. "We are your future."

The event ended with a poem about common bonds read in unison by the kids and a chorus of "Lean on Me," with the audience clapping to the beat.

Competitor, Russian professor will teach Sambo spring term

Dawn Paugh
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

When Russian born Sergei Matveev, 37, competed in the 18th World Sambo Championships, it was the first time he wasn't on the Russian team. He was competing against them for the U.S. team.

The University Student Affairs Division sponsored Matveev, a masters student, to travel and compete with the U.S. team last October at the World Championships.

After six days in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, Matveev came back to the United States with a fifth and sixth place standing out of 24 contestants in his weight division. A total of 900 athletes from 37 different countries participated in the World Championships.

It was Matveev's childhood dream to compete in the World Championships. Not only was he the oldest man on the U.S. team, he was the only Russian.

"It was a very unusual thing being a Russian guy on the U.S. team and competing against the Russian team," Matveev said.

"The opportunity to help sponsor an international student as part of the U.S.



MATVEEV

National Team was too exciting and unusual to pass up," said Gerry Moseley, vice provost for Academic Support and Student Services.

Matveev has 25 years experience teaching Judo, Jice-Jitsu and Sambo in Russia. His interest in Sambo, the Russian form of Judo, began when his father introduced the sport to him at the age of 12.

His honors include All USSR Judo Champion and the bronze at the 1994 U.S. Judo National Championships.

"Sambo [which means the gentle way] is a sport which you enjoy," Matveev said. "You feel comfortable with your own inner power and strength. It is a small model of life. Sometimes you win, other times you lose. You have to learn to be disciplined and well organized to succeed in Sambo."

Last Saturday, Matveev taught a free Judo workshop, which focused on the

mechanics, basic aspects and philosophy of Judo. He also stressed the importance of falling down correctly. Matveev presented video clips from the 1982 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Italy. Judo is the only Olympic sport among all martial arts, and it is very popular in more than 140 countries.

Judo, whose terms are all in Japanese, allows a person the ability to get maximum effect with minimum effort. Throwing your competitor, using a sweeping action technique, using an arm lock, using a leg lock and choking techniques are some various ways to win a Judo match.

Matveev said there are thousands of styles of each of these techniques. These forms of controlling an opponent are powerful and sometimes dangerous because it can cause the person on defense to pass out.

At the beginning of a Judo match, Matveev said it is important to get a good grip of your component.

The competitors gain control of one another by how good of a grip on the Judo uniform they can get. After a good throw,

the thrower is the "winner by ippon." When there are no throws and no points awarded to either side within a six-minute match, then it is up to the judges to decide who is deemed the winner.

Matveev said in some cases where one person has another person in a choking lock, the one being choked will give a sign to one of the three judges or the person being choked will simply roll over. This is how some competitors pass out from lack of oxygen as a result of refusing to submit to a loss.

The clothing worn for Judo practice and competition is what is called the Judo Gi. The Gi consists of a long sleeved white jacket, long white pants and shoes that look much like free-style wrestling shoes.

A class in Judo, composed of instruction, demonstration and application will be offered this spring at the University. Matveev will be offering Judo to both students and community members that will be taught Monday and Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m. The CRN number for the class is 36179.

For more information, call 346-4113.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Student Senate will hear special requests from Amazon Childcare Co-op, ASUO Executive, Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Alliance and the Philosophy Club tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-3749.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Group will meet today at 5 p.m. at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-3360.

Student Senate will meet tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Board Room. For more information call 346-3749.

EMU Board of Directors will have a Budget Committee hearing today from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room C and D. For more information, call 346-3720.

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Continued from Page 1A

ocean.

The process of applying for research grants begins when the federal government puts out a request for proposals on various electronic billboards. Faculty members from across the country, interested in that particular field submit proposals.

Ronald Kellett, associate vice provost for research, said government funded research is much more focused on finding answers to particular problems. However, research funded by a foundation is more flexible and interested in discovering new information rather than measuring it.

About 670 faculty research proposals were made last year, 549 of them were granted.

The only money provided directly by the University includes seed money for summer research. Every year a faculty governance committee provides 20 professors with \$4,000 stipends to conduct such research as starting a new program or finishing a book.

RESEARCH

This is the first story in a five-part series on research at the University, the people who make the breakthroughs and how they do it.

■ **TODAY:** A look at the University's research program

■ **TUESDAY:** An explanation of research funding and how faculty get it

■ **WEDNESDAY:** A feature of the great discoveries made by University faculty

■ **THURSDAY:** A look at the Oregon Research Survey Labs

■ **FRIDAY:** A feature of the summer research

Otherwise, faculty members must find external funding resources.

The Office of Research and Graduate Education has eight full-time staff members who help

faculty members with budget proposals, keep track of accounting expenses and monitor compliance of mandates set by the federal government.

"We have full service support for faculty that wish to seek external funding," Upham said.

Kellett said the pressure of faculty members to conduct research depends on the field. He said in the sciences, there was more federal money available to conduct research than in a field such as humanities.

"Depending on the discipline the pressures are different," Kellett said.

University researchers have studied everything from what happens in the brain when it hears things moving, to analyzing if mass communication changes public opinion. The sky is the limit, according to the fall 1992 issue of *Inquiry*.

Inquiry was a full-color publication used for the purpose of highlighting the research of University professors to the outside community. The magazine was done away with after 1992, the result of a budget cut.

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