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Homeless family finds housing in Springfield

Living: Social services advocate helps car camp residents relocate

Suzanne Marta
Oregon Daily Emerald

Flushing a toilet may not be a thrill for most people, but for Carolyn Blagg and her family it's an exciting change.

Blagg and her two children will move from the Centennial Car Camp into a two-bedroom mobile home this week; their 90-day stay limit at the camp has expired.

"I can't wait to move in," Blagg said. "You learn to appreciate things like a flushing toilet after you've had to live without one."

Blagg and her family have been homeless since she left her husband last year.

Steve Amundson, the camp

social services advocate, helped Blagg and her family find housing in Springfield.

"I didn't even think I was eligible for 10K assistance, so I wasn't even going to fill out the application," she said. "But Steve was able to help us."

Blagg is one of 14 families Amundson has helped find housing for in the last few weeks. The 90-day stay limit has expired for 19 families who will have to leave the camp this Friday.

Blagg said a major roadblock for homeless parents is finding affordable housing with enough bedrooms.

"If you have a girl and a boy and they're over 6 years old, they force you to rent a three-bedroom place or bigger," she said.

Another barrier for low-income people looking for housing is

application fees, she said.

"If you don't have \$300 to \$500 for application fees, it's like being in a boat without paddles," she said.

Many low-income people face discrimination, especially those with children, she said.

"I've had people tell me outright that they'd rather rent to people with pets than rent to someone with kids," she said.

Blagg receives state assistance now, but she hopes to find work after they finish moving.

"I'd like to work as a mechanic," she said.

Growing up in Klamath Falls as the oldest of 10 children and the only girl, Blagg said she is not afraid to get dirty.

"I knew how to hot-wire a car before I knew how to cook," she said.



Nathan rides his big wheel around Centennial Car Camp.

NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

Breakin' for a date



NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

Aaron Maldonado, bachelor number three, break dances at the request of the bachelorette as the other contestants, John Fern and Andy Nicholson, watch, trying to think of what hot dance moves they can come up with to win. Alpha Chi Omega sponsored the Dating Game. All proceeds go to the chapter's national philanthropy.

University designs program to improve diversity awareness

Diversity: IntroDUCKtion, the summer orientation, will pilot a program to expose students to cultural differences

Tasha Eichenseher
Oregon Daily Emerald

When new students come to the University, they meet people with different beliefs and backgrounds. Some students have a hard time accepting this.

In an effort to make incoming students aware of diversity on campus, the University Race Task Force, with help from the Office of Orientation, is designing a one-hour diversity program to be included in the school's summer orientation sessions.

"IntroDUCKtion," which nearly 80 percent of freshmen attend, will now focus on diversity issues, said Jackie Balzer, director of orientation at the University.

The hour set aside during IntroDUCKtion to focus on diversity issues will be used to introduce people to other cultures in a non-threatening way, said Laura Blake Jones, assistant dean of students and member of the task force.

Emphasizing diversity during IntroDUCKtion has been a priority of the task force for some time, Blake Jones said. The program is needed because the student body at the University is predominantly white, and

Turn to **PROGRAM**, Page 4

ASUO close to hitting budget mark

Budget: LGBA, Legal Services get small increases Tuesday

Patrick Minford
Oregon Daily Emerald

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee appears to be on track to meeting the zero-increase bench mark set by the Student Senate.

The committee's budget allocations are 1.4 percent less than the amount it awarded this time last year.

"We think we can meet the requirement," said Committee Chair Joey Lyons. The committee has allocated \$11,783 less this year, Lyons said.

Of the four groups that had budget hearings Tuesday, three received increases, but none got as much as they requested.

Legal Services, a program that provides legal representation for University students, received \$80,687, an 8.8 percent increase over its 1994-95 budget. The group's increase, the largest of the night, was approved by a four to three margin.

Legal Services has won nearly \$27,000 this school year for students the group has represented, said director Ilona Koleszar.

"I think this is one of the most important student-funded groups on campus," committee member Chris Kantrowitz said. "It's probably one of the best

deals we get with our student fees."

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance's 2.3 percent increase was approved by all committee members except Matt McGinnis. The LGBA, which claims a mailing list of nearly 300 students, will receive \$8,667 next year.

"I'm glad the committee was willing to acknowledge that the LGBA has an important place on this campus," LGBA Co-Director Mark Ditton said.

MEChA, which initially wanted a 6.4 percent budget increase, came to the hearing with a revised budget requesting \$14,209, the same amount the

Turn to **ASUO**, Page 4

GOOD MORNING

► **CHICAGO (AP)** — A stockbroker flew his balloon into Canada on Tuesday, becoming the first person to successfully fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.

Steve Fossett, 50, also broke the distance record of 5,208 nautical miles, according to his flight crew.

"He's very laid-back about it," flight manager Alan Noble said. "When he crossed the coast, he said, 'I've flown the Pacific. I'm over Canada.' No 'Whoopie!' or anything like that."

Fossett likely was a little too cold and tired for elation. He planned a landing attempt late Tuesday despite a warning from his ground crew that the winds

were too high.

Soon after Fossett took off from Seoul, South Korea, on Saturday, the two propane heaters in the balloon's gondola failed. Fossett pressed on, enduring temperatures between 4 degrees below zero and 10 degrees with only a sleeping bag to keep him warm in the cramped gondola. He had to keep his drinking water close to his body to thaw it.

Throughout the trip, Fossett could sleep for only three hours at a time because he had to check his position, said the flight's U.S. project manager, Timothy Kemper.

"He's tired, he wants to come home," Slavsky said.