

English professor wins MLA prize for book

James Crosswhite's book explores the ways in which people handle conflict and argument

By Nicole Kristal
Higher Education Reporter

You've had them with family members.

You've had them with your roommates.

You've possibly had them with your co-workers.

Most people, at one point or another, have had an argument with someone in their lives.

Associate English Professor James Crosswhite recently won the Modern Language Association of America's Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize for his book, which examines the nature of argumentation and conflict, titled

"The Rhetoric of Reason: Writing and the Attractions of Argument."

"The core of the book is human beings have conflict," Crosswhite said.

He said people deal with conflict in many different ways, such as avoidance and violence. However, some people approach conflict with reason.

"Arguing's the best way to get your reasons out," he said. "The notion of argumentation is people argue when there's a conflict, and they're willing to change their minds."

The book is aimed at teachers of writing with the goal of encouraging them to think for themselves about the definition of reason.

He also hopes education policy-makers will read his book and

question what the core of a college education should be.

"A liberal arts education should be an education in communication and reason," he said.

According to Crosswhite, students should graduate from college and be able to write and speak well.

"Writing is the core of a liberal arts education," he said, "and the core of a liberal arts education is argumentation and reasoning. I use rhetoric to do this."

He emphasized that rhetoric was the backbone of a liberal arts education until about 150 years ago. Since then, rhetoric hasn't been taken as seriously.

"The fact that the MLA gave this book a prize is in a way a sign that people in language and literature are taking rhetoric more seriously," he said.

ly," he said.

Crosswhite has a background in philosophy and received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from UC Santa Cruz. He then went on to receive his doctorate in philosophy at UC San Diego.

Crosswhite said because of his predominately philosophical background, he was surprised to win the prize.

"It was courageous for the MLA to give this award to someone who's trained in philosophy," he said.

Crosswhite said writing a book is a lot like putting a note into a bottle and throwing it into the ocean.

"When a group sits down and reads your book carefully and decides it's going to get an award like this, you feel like, 'Oh good, someone was listening,'" he said.

Campaign: Rent prices keep rising

Continued from Page 1

University also enrolled fewer students this year, he said.

The campaign doesn't assume every landlord in the West University area exploits students, Paustian said. In fact, an ASUO Web page that asks for comments on the campaign has already attracted a few positive stories.

"Not all landlords are bad," Paustian said. "But it seems to be a theme that a lot aren't being all they can be."

The ASUO chose rental rights as its major campaign because of its broad scope and the need for improvement, DePoe said. Most ASUO teams will help out on this campaign.

Students need to consider where they live and what they get for the money they pay, DePoe said. The ASUO plans to give them the information they need to make those decisions, she said.

"Landlords need to get their stuff in shape," she said. "The students are actually caring about where they're going to live and thinking twice about living in a slum."

ODE Serving 10,000 Daily

Local religious centers open parking lots to homeless

Several churches and a synagogue are screening car campers with St. Vincent de Paul's help

By Michael Burnham
Community Reporter

When the Eugene City Council repealed an ordinance on Nov. 17 that limited the legal places homeless people could camp, it afforded religious communities the right to open their parking lots for over-night car camping until the end of June. Four churches and a synagogue are already practicing what they preach by allowing car camping.

The churches and synagogue currently allowing camping are using the services of the First Faith Family Center of St. Vincent de Paul to screen and approve potential car campers with a stamped parking invitation on a nightly basis.

According to Tim Rockwell, assistant director of the First Faith Family Center, these religious organizations use the center as a middle man in screening car campers. Rockwell said the City Council chose the First Faith Family Center to contact and solicit additional religious organizations to open their lots to the homeless.

About 130 religious organizations have been contacted, he said, but the center has encountered mixed feedback from some of those that have replied. Rockwell said some religious organizations have expressed a reluctance to allow car camping on their lots because they have encountered various problems with the homeless in the past.

Many other religious organizations, he added, have expressed willingness to open their lots but have yet to formally consent. The number of churches expressing in-

terest is mounting.

"By the end of January, I'm expecting 10 or 11 — maybe more," he said.

One church that has already opened its property to car camping is the St. Jude Catholic Church at 4330 Willamette St.

According to Father Pete Roerig, the church takes in a single car camper every night. He said the process has run fairly smoothly and that the church has received a lot of positive feedback from its campers.

The church usually has a camper stay overnight in its lot, but he said there have been some nights when there were no campers.

Roerig said the church is in an ideal situation for car camping because of its remoteness; however, he said the practice does not resolve the homeless problem.

"This is a stop-gap measure and

not a solution to the problem," he said.

The Council's decision to expand places where the homeless can camp came after urging from the Homeless Action Coalition and public testimony during the November meeting.


Charles Gray of the Homeless Action Coalition said he is in favor of the Council's decision to allow camping at the church parking lots.

"It was a step that made it possible for religious organizations to expand their religious freedom and compassion for homeless families," he said.

However, Gray said he believes that allowing car camping at churches will not have a major impact on Lane County's estimated 3,000 homeless, and the coalition is waiting for a better solution from the council in the next few months.

Share the GOOD NEWS!

CONGRATULATIONS



Katie Nesse and
Wedding/Engagement Announcements

Place your **FREE** WEDDING/ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT in the Bridal Guide Wed, Jan 14. Call **346-4343** or fill out this form and stop by Suite 300, EMU. Deadline: January 12, 1 p.m.


for ODE use only.

Name: _____
Phone: _____
Address: _____
Add \$2.00 if you would like a photo included in your announcement. Payment: _____

Information to be printed in announcement

Bride's Name: _____
Bride's Hometown: _____
Bride's Major: _____
Groom's Name: _____
Groom's Hometown: _____
Groom's Major: _____
Wedding date (if engagement, tentative wedding date): _____
Location of wedding: _____
Additional info? _____

If you would like to include a photo, please write your name and phone number on the back of the photo and attach it to this form. You may pick up your photo after it runs on January 14.



Laura Kemp

Free performance this Friday night.

Singer songwriter
Laura Kemp from
Babes with Axes
entertains you with her
distinctive musical
style in a FREE
performance this
Friday, January 9.

Opening performance by Lael Alderman

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Collier House
(on the corner of 13th and University)

First Fridays are back!
Start off the new year and winter term with coffee, dessert, friends and music!

First Fridays.
Now Students have an alternative.
Sponsored by the UO's Prevention Team.
346-1212