

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Group rallies against daycare closure

In response to the Eugene downtown YMCA daycare closure, a parent group is sponsoring a rally today at 12:30 p.m.

According to a press release, the daycare facility, located on the corner of Broadway and Olive streets, is closing because of a \$5,000-per-month budget shortfall and security problems in the downtown mall.

The rally will be called "A Place for Our Kids" because the closure of the facility leaves 40 children without care.

According to the release, YMCA Executive Director Dave Perez said if the parents find a way to fund the program and deal with the security issues, the board of directors will give them a two-year commitment to keep the center open.

The parent group has contacted a variety of people, from Hillary Clinton to Eugene City Council members. U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio and City Councilman Bobby Lee have been invited to speak at the rally.

Auction will include sports memorabilia

The third annual Lane ShelterCare Benefit Celebrity Auction is offering a chance for participants to acquire items from such NFL players and former Ducks as Chris Miller and Bill Musgrave.

Miller and Musgrave will be at the auction in the Wheeler Pavilion, located at the Lane County Fairgrounds. The doors to the pavilion will open at 2 p.m. on Sunday. The silent auction will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., and the oral auction will be at 4:45 p.m. There is no entrance fee.

Proceeds from the event will go toward providing emergency housing and services for families of Brethren Housing in Springfield and the Family Shelter House in Eugene.

Other auctioned items will include a basketball autographed by University men's basketball coach Ernie Kent and baseballs signed by Willie Mays, Joe DiMaggio and Nolan Ryan. Local businesses have also donated items, such as art, tools, sculptures, jewelry, gift certificates and recreation equipment.

State will pay for assisted suicide

The Oregon Health Plan may help cover the cost of assisted suicide for people who are poor

By Brad Cain
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon taxpayers should help pay for the doctor-assisted suicides of terminally ill poor people, a state panel voted Thursday.

The Health Services Commission decided, 10-1, that delivering lethal doses of prescription drugs should be covered as a "medical service" for the state's 270,000 low-income residents covered under the state's health plan.

"The most discriminatory thing would be not to give this choice to the poor," said commission member Ellen Lowe.

The question had been left unanswered when the nation's only doctor-assisted suicide law passed in 1994 and was affirmed in 1996.

Oregon's Death with Dignity Act allows doctors to prescribe lethal drugs at the request of terminally ill patients who have less than six months to live.

Commission chairman Alan Bates said his experience as a family physician convinced him the

law is a compassionate policy that eases people's suffering. He said religious opponents have no right to push their moral views on others.

"Physician-assisted suicide has been going on for years. In Oregon, we're just bringing it out in the open," Bates said.

The law's most outspoken opponent by far was the Oregon Catholic Conference, which contended making taxpayers pay for assisted suicide forces many people to abandon the values of their faith.

"There would be no more tragic discrimination against the poor than to allow them to be killed," said conference spokesman Bob Castagna. "That is the ultimate discrimination."

At a hearing before commission members voted, some doctors said some poor, distraught terminally ill people could face pressure to choose suicide for lack of money for better medical care.

"In rural communities, neither hospice care nor psychiatric care may be available for miles and miles," said Dr. Gregory Hamilton, president of Physicians for Compassionate Care. "To offer state-funded suicide while failing to offer adequate care is unconscionable."

Ellie Jenny, representing a group called Not Dead Yet, said state residents may have voted for the law, but they never voted for paying for it.

"There was never any mention in any of the election rhetoric that this would be funded by taxpayer money," she said.

The new policy is scheduled to take effect in about two months, but it still must withstand federal scrutiny because Medicaid receives federal matching funds. Congress passed a law in April that forbids federal money from being used to cover doctor-assisted suicide.

But that doesn't necessarily preclude coverage under the Oregon Health Plan. Abortions can't be funded with federal dollars, but Oregon covers the service by using only state money.

Most private insurers have said they are prepared to cover the costs of lethal prescriptions. The exceptions include Catholic health plans such as SelectCare and Providence Health Plan.

The law has technically been in effect since last October, but because of strict state confidentiality laws it is impossible to know if anyone has used it. Exactly how much it will cost also has not been determined.



University of Oregon School of Law
Women's Law Forum presents
its 1998 Conference

Gender Fairness in Oregon?



Friday, February 27th

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. **UO Survey Results:** Join Professors Nancy Shurtz and Dom Vetri as they moderate an open dialogue between law faculty and students as we discuss whether gender plays a role in legal education.

6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. **Kickoff Party:** A chance to socialize, network and eat. Come watch one of our favorite movies, "Thelma and Louise."

Saturday, February 28th

8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

Registration: Main floor of Grayson Hall. A continental breakfast will be provided downstairs in the student lounge.

Introduction: Fairness Survey: A look at the survey commissioned by the Oregon Task Force on Gender Fairness led by Professor Michael Rooke-Ley.

Women in Prison: Do women receive the same education and work training opportunities compared to male inmates? What about child visitation? Hear from panelists Polly Nelson of the ACLU; Susan Pease, attorney-at-law; Jean Daugherty, director of SPONSORS; Carla Page and Lisa Gosney, successful ex-offenders; Melissa Talent, Correction's Officer for the Oregon Women's Correctional Center.

Lunch: Fundraiser with food including enchiladas, lasagna/baked ziti, and fresh salads from El Torito, Bellizzi's and Giant Grinder available at a nominal cost.

Women in the Workplace: What fields of law have women found the most success in? Are certain disciplines more conducive to balancing a career and a family? How does gender affect hiring, promotion and representation decisions? Hear from practitioners from different areas of law — Debra Pilcher, attorney-at-law; Speer, Hoyt, Jones, Poppe and Wolf; Debra Gilcrest, associate at the Law Office of Michael Phillips; Debra Vogt, Assistant District Attorney, Lane County; Rhonda Fenrich, Hoag, Garrettson, Goldberg, Fenrich and Makler, and Nancy Savage, FBI Special Agent.

Women in the Courtroom: How are women perceived by jurors? By judges? How are women lawyers treated by their male counterparts? Get some different perspectives from the Honorable Lauren Holland, Lane County Judge; the Honorable Jan Holcomb, Benton County Judge; Caren Tracy, Assistant District Attorney, Lane County; Janise Auger, attorney-at-law, Public Defender Services of Lane County.

Keynote Address:
Justice Susan Graber
Saturday, from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Phoenix Inn — free of charge

To Register:

For more information or to register, call conference co-chairs Heidi Barker at (541) 338-8969 or Sara Burke at (541) 334-5041.

You may also contact the Women's Law Forum via e-mail at wlf@law.uoregon.edu, or by mail at 1221 University of Oregon Eugene, OR 97403

Pre-registration is encouraged.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served, no-host bar with wine and beer

•All events are
**FREE at the
Law School!**
•All events are ADA
accessible.

Oregon Supreme Court Associate Justice Susan Graber discusses why gender fairness is an important subject to study in Oregon, and why she and Eugene Attorney Robert Fraser co-chaired the Task Force.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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