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War symposium examines health effects and safety

The presentation discussed the detrimental effects of U.S. government spending and foreign policy

BY EMILY SMITH
NEWS REPORTER

Currently in Iraq, the suicide rate among soldiers is 35 percent higher than it was among soldiers in the Vietnam War and "it is estimated that somewhere between 15 and 30 percent of all soldiers who come home from Iraq have clinical Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome," Dr. Paul Kaplan said during a symposium Wednesday in the Robert D. Clark Library.

Kaplan and Dr. Richard Barnhart, representing the Lane County Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility/Beyond War, presented "The Health Effects of War and a Sensible Approach for a Safe America," a speech about the far-reaching health effects of war and alternatives to the way the U.S. government is dealing with terrorism.

PSR/BW is a non-partisan group whose premise is to solve conflicts without violence.

"Since World War I there have been 250 wars in the world and over 110 million war-related deaths," Kaplan said.

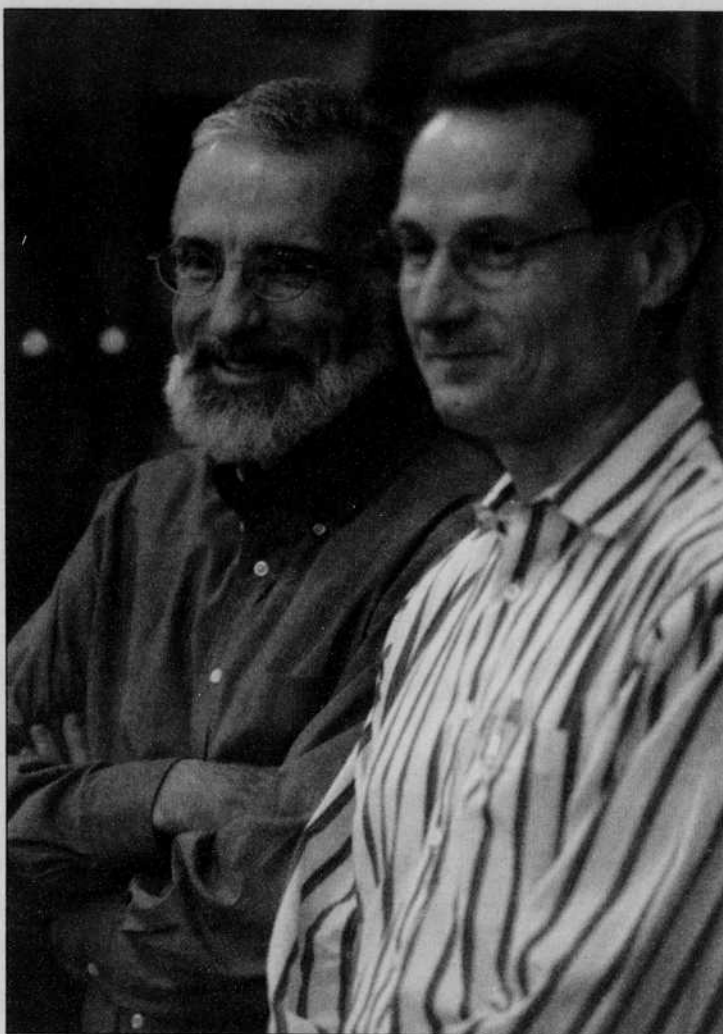
As he spoke he showed slides depicting the physical damage war can induce, apologizing for the graphic nature but insisting they were necessary to get his point across.

"In World War I, about 14 percent of the people that were killed were non-military people," Kaplan said. "In the 1990s, in the Gulf War and in the Iraq War, 90 percent of the casualties are now civilian."

Kaplan went on to discuss land mines and the consequences of cluster bombs.

"It's estimated that 120 million land mines are still buried in 70 countries around the world," he said as he showed a slide of an elephant with its hoof blown off as a result of a land mine.

Kaplan criticized the war on WAR, page 3



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Local doctors Paul Kaplan and Richard Barnhart, members of Physicians for Social Responsibility/Beyond War, gave a presentation on the health effects of war in the Robert D. Clark Honors College on Wednesday night.

Residents continue to debate over ex-convicts

Sponsors, Inc. has assured the West University neighborhood that parolees pose no extra risk

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

West University neighborhood residents had the chance at the monthly neighborhood meeting Thursday night to ask questions and voice their concerns about felons living in the neighborhood, the state of the Eugene Police Department and how to properly throw parties in the neighborhood without warranting noise complaints.

About 40 people attended the meeting, including Eugene Police Chief Robert Lehner and four representatives from Sponsors, Inc., a non-profit organization looking to purchase property in the neighborhood to house parolees and ex-convicts. Sponsors provides treatment and rehabilitation programs as well as supervised living situations.

Richard Greene, chair of the Sponsors, Inc. board of directors, introduced the program at

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Executive campaign efforts elicit grievances

With ASUO primaries drawing to a close, some have accused candidates of harassment tactics

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Three students have filed grievances against ASUO Executive candidates Ashley Rees and Jael Anker-Lagos alleging they violated Oregon and ASUO election rules, including those governing campaigning in the residence halls and intimidating voters. But the elections board dismissed one of the grievances in a ruling Thursday and one of the students told the Emerald he no longer wants to pursue the allegations he made.

Rees said some campaigning rules weren't clear and refuted two of the grievances, saying they contained inaccurate accusations.

"In general, I think that we had a few miscommunications about what the rules were, and once we were informed about a rule we instantly complied," she said.

Elections Coordinator Kelly Cheeseman said the board is reviewing the remaining grievances and will likely rule on them before 5 p.m. today when the primary

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African Culture Night tackles old stereotypes

The second-annual event will feature traditional foods, dress and a Portland dance troupe

BY SHELDON TRAVER
NEWS REPORTER

The dinner was laid across several tables. The smell of African cuisine permeated the air as students lined up to taste traditional foods from several nations. Chicken, lamb, beef and vegetarian dishes. Injera, an Ethiopian bread, and Sambusa, a pastry filled with beef, cabbages or lentils. Students representing more than seven nations dressed in the clothing of their homelands and mingled with the crowd that surged through the doors just for the opportunity to taste, hear and see African culture, if only for a few hours.

That's how African Students Association Director Haben Woldu remembered last year's inaugural African Culture Night, put on by her group.

Woldu said she hopes the group's second-annual African Culture Night, to be held Sunday at 5:30 p.m., will be just as successful. The event is free for University students and \$3 for non-students. Tickets are available through the EMU Ticket Office.

The event, labeled "Africa Is Calling," not only gives University students the chance to enjoy a meal, but it also allows students from Africa to



ZANE RITT | PHOTOGRAPHER

Left to right: University senior Haben Woldu and sophomore Ariam Fesaha, and LCC sophomore Mehret Haile practice their dance routine Wednesday night in the EMU Fir Room for Sunday's African Culture Night.

teach others about the Africa they may not see on television, Woldu said.

"We want them to be entertained and be educated by Africans," Woldu said. "To get education from the source, not from TV."

The group will host the meal to give the audience the opportunity to taste foods they may not otherwise have the chance to eat. Attendees will also be treated to a fashion show featuring authentic dress from 10 African nations.

"The clothes are very colorful and vibrant," Woldu said. She said students from Congo, Zambia, Ethiopia and other countries will represent their own nations in dress.

Also planned are a skit, songs from Africa, an awards presentation, a raffle with prizes from Swahili Imports and traditional dance by an African dance troupe from Portland.

ASA member Leonidas Watson said although he isn't African by birth, his involvement in the ASA has been a rewarding experience. He was one of the dancers during last year's event.

"It erased a lot of stereotypes for me," Watson said.

Woldu said members have each contributed more than 100 hours to prepare for the event.

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