

WORKERS AND HEALTH CARE

How much should the people who wipe Grandpa's butt and brush Great-Aunt Millie's teeth get paid? What kind of care does the Eugene-Springfield area expect for its elderly and disabled populations? On Wednesday, May 24, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) held a "Stakeholders Forum" about health care and workers' rights. SEIU 503 Organizer Guillermo Galarreta says that the idea behind the forum was to have community leaders (including City Council member Andrea Ortiz and Rabbi Yitzhak Husbands-Hankin, among others) discuss community standards for elder and disabled care and also to make recommendations for workers' rights standards.

Aides at three local facilities owned by Pinnacle Health Care — Green Valley, Hillside, and South Hills — are following the lead of aides at Pinnacle-owned Lincoln City Rehabilitation Center by organizing with SEIU. Galarreta says Pinnacle is also following a script — one that involves intimidating and threaten-

ing workers.

Bob Bussel, director of the UO's Labor Education and Research Center, moderated the forum. "Health care is a subject of broad community concern that deals with a vulnerable population," Bussel says. Galarreta and Claire Syrett, organizer of the Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network, point out that working conditions and patient care are intimately related.

The panel heard testimony from workers, former patients and relatives of patients.

Syrett says the panel will make recommendations about health care standards and standards of respect for workers.

— Suzi Steffen



CITY HALL FORUM II

A second community forum on the Eugene City Hall Complex Master Plan will be held from 6 to 8:30 pm Thursday, May 25, at the First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street. Participants will examine the options to renovate, build a new City Hall, or a combination of both.

The first forum in March was attended by nearly 100 people and included an overview of the key issues and discussion regarding the project values and police

consolidation options. The summary from the Community Forum is available on the project website, www.eugene-cityhall.com.

The summary report includes verbatim comments from the large and small group discussions and results from the project values and police consolidation small group exercises. The forum was videotaped, and copies are available at Eugene's three libraries.

The forums are designed to provide input to the City Council in order to assist them in the decision-making process around the issues related to the City Hall Complex. The City Council receives a summary report of the forum before voting on the issues discussed at that forum.

For more information, visit www.eugene-cityhall.com or call the project comment line at 682-5222. Child care will be provided with advance notice.

'BADASS' AT THE UO

Even as the UO community debates and discusses the Diversity Plan (see story, page 14), the UO's Bias Response Team celebrates Bias Response Week with performances and workshops by Leroy Moore, a Berkeley activist and poet who describes himself as "a black disabled man with a high IQ."

Kimi Mojica, director of diversity education and support in the Office of Student Life,



Berkeley activist and poet Leroy Moore

says the Bias Response Team wanted to "highlight the intersection between race and disability and build solidarity between the communities." Moore often presents performance art about sexuality, race and disability, among other topics. He writes a syndicated column called "Illin-N-Chillin" for *Poor Magazine* and hosts the show "Pushing Limits" on Berkeley's Free Speech Radio.

On May 24, Moore hosted a conversation about race and disability with UO students in the Multicultural Center. On Thursday, May 25, he presents a 2 pm workshop called "Black Blind Blues to Crip-Hip-Hop" and a 7 pm performance in Gerlinger Lounge at the UO. Lezlie Frye, outreach coordinator in the UO's Office of Dis/Ability Services, says, "Leroy is a badass, and we are totally excited to have him in Eugene." — Suzi Steffen

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