

Children

Youth Cross Country Ski Trip, grades 4-6, is planned for Saturday, Feb 12 through Eugene Parks and Recreation Dept. A mandatory pre-trip meeting is scheduled for Feb 10, 7-8 pm at Westmoreland Community Center. Cost \$12. Register by Feb 8 at Amazon or Westmoreland Community Centers, 687-5373.

Radio

Ashland Review, the play Hamlet will be reviewed today, 12 pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

Portland Trailblazers play Chicago, 5 pm, KEED, 1450 AM.

International Festivals, Music of Reimann, 8 pm, KWAX 91.1 FM.

Workshops/Classes

Intro to Sri Chinmoy's Sunlit Path, 7:30 pm, Eugene Public Library, 2nd floor Board Room, call Cliff Goodrich, 344-5604.

Wheel Building Class, Eugene Parks and Recreation. Class meets Tuesdays through Feb 15, 7-9 pm, Campbell Center Woodshop, 155 High St. \$5 fee.

Rolling Workshop is offered by Amazon Community Center, \$4.50. Register by today. Workshop on Feb 12, 10 am-1 pm. 687-5373.

How to Become Articulate about the Nuclear Arms Race, sponsored by Citizen Action for Lasting Security, 343-8548. Call for location. 7-9:30 pm. Bring pencil and paper. Local activist Olive Bowers speaks.

Speakers

Gay Mens Rap Group to talk with parents of gays. Discussion of the problems of family relationships with gays and parents. Downstairs at 1236 Kincaid. Gay and Lesbian Alliance. 686-3360.

Care and Treatment—which one's for you? An overview of the various diagnosis and treatment techniques used in caring for the heart patient. A slide presentation will be part of the program. 7:30-9 pm, Sacred Heart Auditorium, speaker is Dennis Gory, MD.

Video/TV

BJO's Follies, a special type of show—a one hour variety show presented by local Eugene performers who are disabled. This is the introductory program for a new series, Can Do, in which disabled persons will be performing. BJO's Follies was videotaped at a live performance at LCC. The program will be shown from 8-9 pm.

Dialogue—Terry, with Birthright of Eugene, discusses the services her organization provides. 6 pm, Cable Channel 11.

Potluck, Jerry Leff's guest tonight is James Thornbury, local rock & blues musician. 9:30, Cable Channel 11.

Winds of War continues tonight, 8-11 pm, Channel 9.



Photograph by Michael Williams.

1983 at the Eugene Mission

What happens when you have no job, no unemployment benefits, and no money for food or rent? If you're like approximately 150 people each day, you go to the Eugene Mission. There, with no questions asked, you can be provided with a meal, bathing facilities, clothing, and a bed for the night.

When I asked the director of the Mission, Ernie Unger, what he would do if in the position of many of the Mission visitors without work, shelter, or friends in the area, he unhesitatingly said that he too would stay at the Mission. He explained that being in such economic need was like being shipwrecked on an island. One first finds a shelter and then goes out to look for possibilities. In the same way, the Mission provides both a place to stay and food to eat so that its visitors can "explore the island" by looking for work.

The lack of work, above all other things, seems to keep the Mission packed. Only three years ago a busy night saw 75 people stay at the Eugene facility. Today, an average number is 150, going up to 200 daily. The visitors are mainly men 30 and under who are unemployed, or older men, some of whom are seasonal crop workers, with the same problem.

Besides providing basic necessities to its guests, the Mission also refers them to free medical help, other social welfare agencies, and even teaches those who have never learned how to drive a car or truck. There is now a women's facility, as well as

one for men, so that anyone with need has a place to go. For families, the Mission refers them to Family Shelter, where they can be together while taking care of their situation.

Should a person want to stay at the Mission for more than one day, he or she may do so with the adherence to a few rules. A curfew is imposed of 7 pm, at which time chapel attendance for up to an hour is mandatory, followed by dinner. Lights go out in the 50-bed dormitories at 10 pm. The director explained that the religious activity is directed by one of fifty participating local churches nightly and that one hour participation by guests was a means of reciprocating the Mission's 24-hour hospitality. At least to me, it seemed more than a fair exchange. The curfew was also explained as a way to ensure that residents get up early to go looking for work or be productive while the day was light. After a three-day stay (which is free), a man can remain at the Mission in exchange for three hours of work each day in the Mission's newspaper recycling operation. If he is willing to make this contribution, he can stay indefinitely (although maximum length seems to be, out of choice, about three months). Women can also stay indefinitely in exchange for helping maintain the new and very large women's facility.

Half the Mission's funds come from private, business, and church contributions, with the remainder coming from the newspaper recycling program. No funds come from government or the United Appeal.

Fortunately in these days of recession and the largest human need the Mission has seen, people in the community have never been more generous. In other words, contributions are up.

If you'd like to be one of those contributors to a very good cause, there are a number of ways to do so. Food in small amounts or large, clothing, and personal effects like bath towels, single-sheet bedding, toothpaste, etc., will be gratefully received at the mission itself (at 1542 W 1st St—go down to the end of Blair to get there) or will be picked up at your home (call 344-3251 for collection). If you'd like to contribute money, which is tax-deductible, you can do so by sending it to the Eugene Mission, P.O. Box 1149, Eugene, OR 97440. Finally, a simple way to help is to put your newspapers in one of the thousand or so red and yellow Mission drop boxes around town. If you don't know where the box is nearest you, call 344-3251 and ask.

We can but hope that our current economic troubles will end soon. Nevertheless, these hard times do have a "silver lining" in that they provide a stimulus for people to work together and display their heartfelt concern for those around them. And, in this light, contributing to the Eugene Mission is a particularly effective way to reach those "chilled" or "frozen" by our economy and to show them that we're with them and that we care.

—Larry Deckman

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