

Announcements

Planned Parenthood Association of Lane County will be accepting applications through Sept 1 for positions on the Board of Directors. Information and applications can be obtained from PLanned Parenthood at 134 East 13th Ave., Eugene, 97401. Responsibilities of Board members include fundraising, policy setting and program evaluation.

Actors and actresses with singing ability are invited to audition for **Under the Shadow of The Golden Key**, a musical comedy fantasy to be performed at the Hult Center in October. Dancers, set and costume designers, and young performers are also needed. Auditions will be held Saturday and Sunday, August 6 and 7, from 2-5 pm at the U of O School of Music, Room 186. 687-1005.

Your Time is a new program on Cable Channel 11. An entirely volunteer production crew makes it possible for easy access. You can present your ideas without having to be knowledgeable about TV production techniques. Dean Camarda will host and direct this show. It will be cablecast every Monday at 7 pm. If you would like to participate, plan a show, share your skills or inform the public about something, call the Cable Access Center between 3-10 pm, 343-2089.



Readers • Listers • Advertisers PLEASE NOTE

The next issue of *What's Happening* will cover 3 weeks of events: **August 18-September 7**. The deadline for submitting calendar listings, classifieds and copy for the Aug. 18 edition is **Monday, August 15**, at noon.

On **September 8**, we will return to weekly publication of *What's Happening*. The new deadline for calendar listings, classifieds, and copy will be the previous **Thursday at 5 pm**. For the September 8 edition, deadline is Thursday, September 1, 5 pm. We'll be picking up listings and classifieds at our same drop spots: Red Barn Groceries, Kinko's, and Eugene Copy Center.

The new deadline will allow us to continue providing you with the expanded publication which we have developed over the summer as a bi-weekly paper—only now, you'll be seeing a new *What's Happening* on the stands each week!

Plug this new deadline into your planning and scheduling of events for the fall: Thursday at 5 pm for the following Thursday's publication, beginning September 1 for the September 8 edition.

Examples of Successful Political Fasts

By Charles Gray

Political fasting has been used by the well-known and by the unknown; by persons of many nations, cultures and religions; by single individuals and by small and large groups; for both short and extended periods of time. Fasting has been used with limited and also with life-demanding levels of commitment; with no political consequences and with revolutionary consequences. Here are some examples of success.

Early in American history a day of fasting and prayer was declared by the Legislative Assembly of the Colony of Virginia as an expression of solidarity with the people of Massachusetts after the British closed Boston Harbor. The fast was widely observed throughout the colony, and played a significant role in raising consciousness and mobilizing resistance to British rule. This is an example of the success of a fast in which large groups were involved for a very brief period.

Hunger strikes were important in both the English and American women's suffrage movements. In America a hunger strike climaxed the campaign that won the vote for women. Alice Paul, Lucy Burns and other suffragettes were jailed in 1917 for picketing the White House and insisting that President Wilson make good his election promise to support a Women's Suffrage Amendment. The women refused to do prison work and demanded to be treated as political prisoners. When this was refused, the women began a hunger strike. The strike won the attention of the public, and many were outraged as reports of forced feeding reached the press. Wilson faced a dilemma. Forced feeding was costing public support. Women dying on his hands would cost more.

Granting political status would open the doors to war resisters asking for comparable status. He solved his dilemma by offering the hunger strikers their primary goal of his support for the Suffrage Amendment. Wilson pushed the 19th Amendment through Congress early in 1918 and its ratification was completed in 1920.

Most leading apostles of non-violence have used fasting in their struggles for social change. Over the past thirty years Danilo Dolci has fasted alone and with groups as large as a thousand to protest poverty in western Sicily, to win major slum clearance programs, to gain the construction of a major irrigation dam, to break the Mafia's monopoly over water, and to empower Sicilians in their struggle against Mafia control and corruption. His fasts have been remarkably successful.

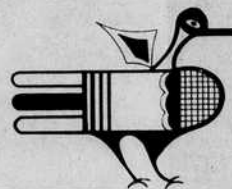
Lanza del Vasto fasted for forty days in 1963 after having written Pope John XXIII of his hope and prayer that the Pope would issue a strong condemnation of preparations for the impending nuclear holocaust. Del Vasto did not announce his action to the media, but relied on his private letter to the Pope. Shortly thereafter *Pacem in Terris* was published. It included a strong denunciation of nuclear war.

Jim Douglass and members of the Pacific and Atlantic Life Communities engaged in a 30-day private fast in 1974 directed to the British Columbia legislature, and won over many of its members to opposition to the Trident weapon system.

Perhaps the most remarkable hunger strike of recent years occurred in Bolivia in 1978 where a small group of women organized a fast in response to the firing and exile of their husbands or male relatives for labor organ-

izing. The observer Wilson Boots wrote: "In the Bolivian context what the women demanded went beyond reason. They asked an immediate, unrestricted amnesty for political exiles and refugees, restoration of jobs to workers fired for organizing, reinstatement of labor unions and removal of the army from the mines. A remarkable set of aspirations for such a group! But less than a month after they announced the goals, the movement they launched had forced the military dictatorship of General Hugo Banzer to grant the substance of all their demands."

The struggle gained important support from Archbishop Jorge Marique and the participation of 1,380 persons at the height of the struggle. In the final hours, with the women who started the fast in serious condition, two powerful acts broke the resistance of the government. Archbishop Marique announced that if the government did not grant the demands within 24 hours, he would close the Cathedral of La Paz except for services for the seriously ill and dying. At the same time the four women leaders announced they would henceforth not even take water until agreement was reached. Within a day the government conceded. Nineteen thousand political prisoners and exiles benefited by the amnesty. A short time later the dictatorship itself fell and the succeeding government began reforms leading to elections in 1980.



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