## Switchboard: a friend in need

## By BRAD LEMLEY Of the Emerald

Suppose for a moment that your cat has just run away, you are pregnant, you have a broken arm, your landlord has just evicted you unfairly and you need a place to crash as well as a new long-term residence, you are out of firewood, you don't know where to recycle your pickle jars and you need a short term job.

While such royal flushes of bad karma are indeed rare, chances are that the Cosmic Comptroller of Collegiate Calamity will deal you a hot hand someday. That's the time to call Switchboard.

Begun in 1969, Switchboard is a multi-service organization that combines warm human concern

with cold telephones to form a co-ordinating agency that is just seven finger-flexes (specifically, 686-8453) away. It is funded entirely by private donations and staffed by 28 volunteers who man the lines seven days a week from 10 a.m. to midnight.

One of the services of Switchboard that University students most often use is Rides and Riders, according to veteran switchman Tom Ruckman. The procedure is something like this: Horatio calls desiring a ride to Tuscaloosa. The SB file is checked; if such a ride has been offered the number of the offerer is given to Horatio. If not, H's name is put into the file until somebody-

Ambrose, for example-calls to report he is Tuscaloosa-bound,

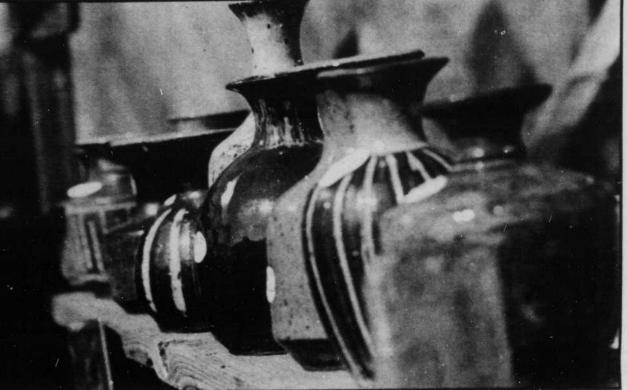
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has space in his car and in his wallet (for gas money) and would like to find someone to help him fill both. Ambrose is given Horatio's number, and the causes of ecology, economy and humanity are all served.

Other Switchboard services are Lost and Found Pets, which oper-

ates in much the same manner as Rides and Riders' dual-file system; a housing list, a program which, Ruckman admits, is "still developing," a health referral agency which will point you toward the appropriate health service agency after hearing out your medical problem, doctor preference and financial situation; and a general referral service for sources of everything from free legal aid to fireplace fodder.

Though most people experience Switchboard from a helpme-out standpoint-the projected number of calls for next year is 40,000-volunteers to man the phones are occasionally needed. If you would like to offer your services-or, more likely, find out about the services that Eugene agencies offer you-the number to call is 686-8453.



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By KAREN HOLT Of the Emerald

Barefoot children thread their way through the grown-up crowd, shouting, demanding treats. A tall woman emerges from behind a macrame display and collars one small ruffian: "If you go over behind the yogurt stand, you'll find a lady telling stories-over there, right behind that tree. See?"

Dragging a few interested companions along behind him, the child runs off to investigate. An hour later, he knows the truth about Little Red Riding Hood.

Meanwhile, his parents have acquired one cedar chest (\$25) and a planter full of Boston Fern. When lunch time arrives, they collect their son and wander over to the crepes booth where they dine on steaming strawberry crepes and herbal tea.

San Francisco, 1968? No. Eugene every Saturday and Sunday. It's the Saturday Market.

Every weekend from now until Christmas, the county parking lot at 8th Avenue and Oak Street becomes an open-air bazaar where

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hundreds of craftspersons gather to display their wares. For the price of a bus trip downtown-30 cents-the curious can treat themselves to an exhibit of every conceivable kind of handicraft: pottery, jewelry, woodwork, weaving, macrame, leatherwork, and clothing. One Saturday, customers carried off tangerine-scented candles, bunches of lupine and Sweet Williams, handmade mugs, hingeless myrtlewood boxes, recycled Levis hats, organic yogurt, and even a wooden hobby-horse or two. Prices are about the lowest anywhere-and the buyer has the unique opportunity of meeting the artist in person. Can Sears Roebuck top that?

The Market is open each weekend 10 a.m.-5 p.m. If you want to sell your wares there, you can rent a booth space for \$2, \$4, or \$6-it depends on how much you make. You can call the market on Thursday or Friday at 686-8885. This weekend, come see America's artisans right here in Eugene.

Monday, June 23, 1975

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