

Have a home to share?

By Alise Refson
Of the Emerald

A service aimed at finding homes or roommates for those who want companionship is being tested by the Lane County Housing Authority and Community Services Agency.

A similar idea has already proved successful in Seattle where elderly residents were matched with college students. In Eugene, "Project Share" serves the senior population primarily, but the project also matches different age groups. For example, the project recently placed an Arabian Lane Community College student in a home with three other young people. The student said he wanted a stimulating environment in which to make friends and learn English.

Intergenerational matches have many advantages, says Sharon Leggett, a housing counselor aide.

Eugene has a fairly large senior population, Leggett says, and many seniors lack companionship. With fixed incomes, many have a hard time making house and heating payments. Sharing a home can make sense, she says.

For students, an intergenerational match would be more conducive to a home-like atmosphere. While the rent might be lower for an apartment, the home may have domestic lures such as a yard, a kitchen or a pet.

"A lot of people like to come home and have a couple of lights on," Leggett says.

Unlike most rental referral agencies, Project Share charges nothing for its service. The workers put no pressure on the participants to make decisions, Leggett says.

The project works through a number of stages, beginning with the screening process — an interview during which the aide fills in a questionnaire. The

questions are designed to help ensure a complementary match. The interview covers such particulars as smoking habits, noise or music tolerance levels, overnight guests, rent contributions and what the participant hopes to get out of the new arrangement.

Next the aide tries to find a suitable match with records already on file and, if successful, arranges for a meeting between the two parties. The aide acts as a mediator during the initial introduction. If all goes well, the aide suggests a trial period of a few days.

Phase three is a follow-up during the first three months, which Leggett says is when most problems arise. Once a week, the aide makes contact with the parties to see if any friction points need to be resolved.

Anyone interested in the project should contact Leggett at 343-6081.

Anti-crime programs win

By Richard Burr
Of the Emerald

Rapes and burglaries have declined substantially in the West University area because of the neighborhood's crime prevention program, says a Eugene Community Officer Patrol team officer.

While other neighborhoods show slight increases or no changes in those crimes since 1978, in the West University Neighborhood burglaries dropped 43 percent and reported rapes dwindled from 11 to one, says Officer Skip Stokes.

The reason is the West University neighborhood crime prevention program, Stokes says.

Two neighborhoods — West University and Whiteaker — are the only Eugene areas where crime rates have fallen that substantially — and they are the only neighborhoods with crime prevention programs, says Charleen McLean, the director of the program.

A lock program and a community education program are two elements responsible for the crime decline in the West University area, she says.

The West University neighborhood association subsidized a lock installation program for low-income people as well as other neighbors, Stokes says. Neighbors are required to have a

home security check before a lock installation to encourage prevention awareness, McLean says.

Since the program began, 350 locks have been installed and 50 more are scheduled for installation this year, McLean says.

The crime prevention program receives funds from the city's Community Development Block Grant program.

The dead-lock bolts installed in the neighborhood also help deter some rapists, Stokes says.

"Many rapes occur because residences are being entered very easily," he says.

The neighborhood's rape awareness program also offers self-defense classes and rape and assault workshops, McLean says. A West University safehouse program, where neighbors volunteer their house as a refuge for emergencies, is in the steering committee stage and will be designed to aid in rape prevention, she adds.

She says an organized community is a substantial deterrent to the burglar or rapist looking for an easy mark because isolated neighbors are the most frequent victims of crime.

"I think the program has the potential for more impact," McLean says. "With more people involved, the neighborhood is not as vulnerable."

Prosecution of non-registrants to begin on the first of March

When Ronald Reagan was running for president, he criticized then-president Jimmy Carter for reinstating draft registration. Reagan called it an invasion of personal privacy and another example of government bureaucracy.

Now Chuck Boyer, of the National Inter-religious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors, is criticizing Reagan for the same reasons.

When Reagan was elected, registration continued, and on Monday prosecution of non-registrants begins.

"In this nation we've never had a registration that didn't lead to a draft," Boyer says. "Registration and the draft go hand-in-glove."

"Some people say, 'Why get so vexed over registration? It's

just a registration,'" Boyer says. "But any time you have the machinery all primed and ready, the government is less likely to negotiate and mediate to reach a peaceful settlement."

Boyer is an ordained minister in one of the three "peace churches," the Church of the Brethren. They, along with the Mennonites and Quakers, sponsor a national organization called New Call to Peacemaking and the local chapter is in turn sponsoring Boyer's visit here.

According to the Selective Service System about 800,000 eligible young men, or 23 percent of those born between 1960-64, have not registered, an estimate Boyer says is conservative.

Boyer thinks that initially stiff sentences will be handed out to

a few in order to persuade others to register. Failure to register is a felony punishable by up to five years in jail or a \$10,000 fine. Boyer says the government believes most non-registrants are just apathetic.

Once conscription begins, potential c.o.'s can go before their local draft boards to convince them of their "sincerity." But Boyer recommends filing a form with an agency like New Call now, stating one's reasons for requesting c.o. status.

Estimates of registrants claiming c.o. status in late 1972 run as high as 45 percent.

"That's why we got out of Vietnam," Boyer believes. "If the registration now is stopped, it will be because the president and the legislators think it is politically wise to do so."

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