

## Homeless Continued from Page 1

house the families in apartments or hotels.

Casey said Catholic Community Services then assigns a case manager to each family. This family must establish a savings account with the case manager as co-signer.

Parents are provided employment training by the St. Vincent De Paul Society and are paid \$5 per hour.

At the end of four months, the family has enough money to rent its own space and is then offered job training by the Southern Willamette Private Industry Council.

"I think our transitional housing program is really exciting because it's a four-month program," Casey said. "One week or even

three months just isn't enough time to change someone's life."

Lane County Administrator Jim Johnson said he agreed that churches may not be the ideal place to house homeless families.

"The problem with housing people in churches concerns the physical characteristics of the churches themselves," Johnson said. "You need showers, security, parking, and the right to come and go. There just isn't a perfect fit between a family and a church."

Johnson added that churches are not zoned for residential use and that permanent changes would have to be made for the buildings to pass inspection as residences.

## Power Continued from Page 1

However, Jaros said, the congressional Office of Technology Assessment last summer released a report comprised of a number of studies indicating that EMFs may pose public health problems.

Jaros takes the news seriously, and he said he and other residents are prepared to fight the power line plan.

"If the BPA intends to pursue plan A (the south hills route), they will face a multiparty lawsuit," he said.

Similar suits in other states, he said, have forced utilities to delay, reroute or abandon construction of power lines.

He opposes the south hills route for aesthetic reasons as well, he said. A row of 130-foot towers flanking Spencer Butte and Ridgeline Park would destroy an otherwise beautiful city vista, he said. Jaros met with BPA representatives even before he became concerned about EMFs.

"What was clear in meeting with BPA is that their main goal is getting from point A to

point B at the least possible cost," he said.

Running the power line via an alternate route would cost an additional \$1 million to \$5 million, "a drop in the bucket compared to the consequences to the city of Eugene," if the cheaper route were chosen, Jaros said.

Lane County Commissioner Jerry Rust is part of a subcommittee that is looking into effects a high-voltage power line would have in residential areas.

Rust said he has received an "avalanche" of letters on the subject, and in terms of input from the public, the power line issue is by far the biggest issue of his political career.

Health effects were cited most often in the letters he has received, Rust said, and they were a leading reason he opposed the project.

Besides health effects were concerns about livability and aesthetics. "Something emitting a hiss and crackle would really not be pleasant to live

around."

Rust said a number of neighborhood groups, each in different proposed routes, had similar reasons for opposing the plans. The subcommittee's task is to effectively focus the different opinions to move the utility.

Rust said, however, that whatever happens, the need for local power requires that a line be constructed somewhere.

What is needed, he said, is to select an alternative that would affect the lowest number of people. "A 'no-build' is not an alternative," he said.

Bob Laffel, BPA Eugene District Manager, said the utility is receptive to, and is expecting, public input on the decision. Since 1985 the BPA has consulted with the Lane Council of Governments as well as the cities of Eugene and Springfield, he said.

"We have not made a decision. We don't know that our route is the best one. If we knew that, we wouldn't be open to the public arena for comments and suggestions."

"If someone can come up with a better proposal, we could come up with a different route," he said. Within five to ten years, a new power line will be needed somewhere, though, he said.

Public testimony will be aired during meetings Feb. 21 and 28, the first of their kind since 1982.

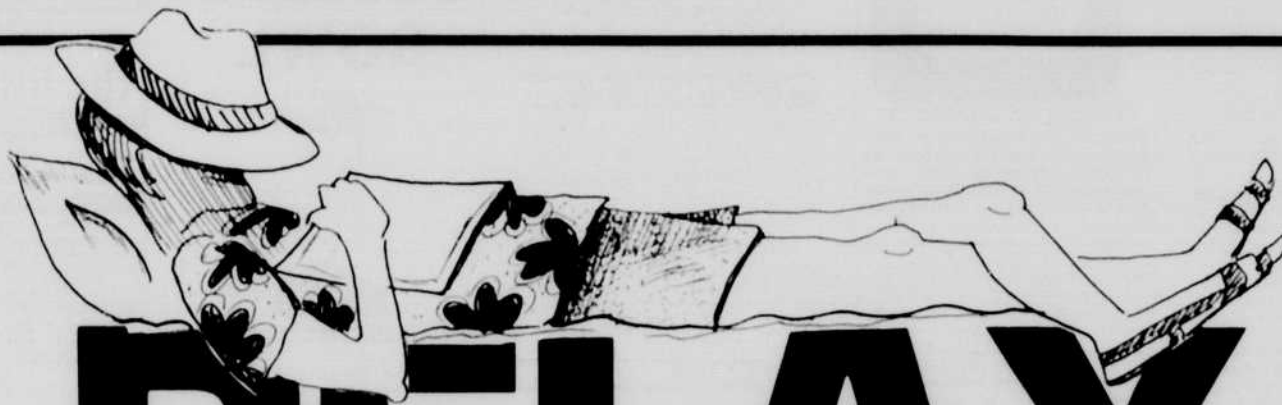
Citizens not along one of the four proposed routes don't seem to have the same level of alarm or awareness, Laffel said.

Laffel said the evidence linking EMFs to health risks is inconclusive, and that high levels of EMFs are emitted from many household items, electric blankets, for example.

He also said evidence does not seem to indicate a maximum level of EMF activity that poses a risk to humans. "We don't know what that is at this time. We don't even know if there is a (maximum) level, because the evidence is so inconclusive."

"The goal is for the least impact, but I'm not saying no impact. That's a hard one to call. Face it, no matter what route you take, it's going to have impact on someone or something."

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