



Carl Young, 10, is the recipient of a walkie-talkie set donated by members of Beta Theta Pi fraternity at a party given by the house.

House brings early X-mas joy to kids

By Brad Brant
Emerald Contributor

Those who have never encountered a Christmas season in which Santa Claus didn't show up should count their blessings. Many people suffer through the holidays just trying to get by, hoping their luck will change.

For children of homeless and unemployed parents, the cold of winter isn't always brightened by the warm thoughts so often associated with Christmas.

It's these children the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity wanted to help.

With true holiday spirit, including Christmas lights, a Christmas tree and Santa, the fraternity gave an early Christmas to children of families residing at a local housing shelter.

The fraternity invited the children of the Family Shelter House to its second annual Christmas party, giving them food, drinks and presents.

"Last year it was a success, and this year it was a bigger success," said Troy Whitney, the fraterni-

ty's philanthropic chairman and party organizer. "Hopefully we can keep it going."

The members donate their own money to purchase the gifts, and the food and beverages were provided by the RC Cola distributor in Eugene.

The festivities began as fraternity members and the kids gathered near the Christmas tree to sing carols. Presents were then passed out to the kids.

"Ohhh cooooolll," said 10-year-old Carl Young as he ripped into his package to find a set of walkie-talkies. Other presents included a remote control car, a pogo stick and a football, which was put to use later during an impromptu football game in front of the fraternity.

Once the gifts were opened, fraternity members and kids teamed up to assemble presents where needed, and then the toys were tested — by both the kids and the fraternity members.

"Usually the members have at least as much fun as the kids," said Cameron Shaw, a fraternity member.

"Merry Christmas and thank you," shouted the kids simultaneously as they gathered in front of the fraternity to leave.

AIDS video gives personal view of disease

By Rene DeCair
Emerald Associate Editor

Tom Fox, a man who died of AIDS, said something on video Thursday night that may surprise people.

"AIDS has had a very positive effect on me," Fox said. "It's hard to say that but it's true."

About 15 people turned up at the New Zone Gallery Wednesday night to view the video, which had Fox narrating the last few months in his life as he underwent treatment and saw many of his own friends with AIDS die.

The video showing was sponsored by the Community AIDS Consortium as part of events in Eugene this week, observing Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. This is the fourth year Oregon has officially recognized the day.

Fox said AIDS improved his quality of life because he met many new people and gained an appreciation for everyday

things.

"That's the hard part about this disease sometimes," Fox said in the video. "You go somewhere and wonder if you'll ever be back again."

Fox spoke frankly about living with AIDS, recounting the \$130,000 he spent on treatment. That included taking the drug AZT, undergoing chemotherapy, which he said gave him third-degree burns, and inhaling vapors that he said smelled and tasted like battery acid.

The end of the video shows Fox lying in a hospital bed at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene with his family around him, holding his hands and kissing his forehead before his respirator was removed at his request.

After viewing the video, the spectators sat in silence for a few moments, wiping away their tears and discussed their own experiences and thoughts on AIDS.

Fox's friend, Eugene resident Bonny Baratta, said Fox's comment in the video that he had one hundred friends die of AIDS, made her think how different things are in Eugene compared to bigger cities.

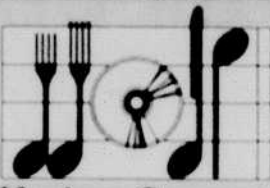
Here, she said, fewer people are affected, people with AIDS have fewer resources, and the community gives less support.

Shirley Whitehead-Freeman, an outreach worker with Shanti in Eugene, said during that "Magic Johnson scare" people were very eager to get information on AIDS.

Now, she said, people take the material, which is better than before Johnson announced he was infected with HIV, when people would not even take the material if someone offered it to them.

"Before Magic Johnson, they wouldn't take the material," she said. "It was like if they touched it, they would get it. We have a lot of educating to do."

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ET ALS

MEETING

Incidental Fee Committee will meet tonight at 6 in EMU Century Room A. Call 346-3749 for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cry Freedom, a film about the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, will be

shown tonight at 6:30 in IMC Studio B. **High School Equivalency Program** graduation will take place tonight from 7 to 9 in the Agate Hall Auditorium. A reception will follow from 9 to 12 p.m. Call 346-3531 for more information.

OPPORTUNITIES

Sexual Harassment Workshop for GTFs

will take place today from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Room 101 Gilbert. Call 346-2804 for more information.

RELIGION

The Gospel According to John will be the topic of a Bible study taking place tonight at 7:30 at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St. Call 346-4468 for more information.