POVERTY Continued from Page 1

Also, there are programs like Medicaid and Medicare that have helped the senior poverty rate."

Eaton said the increasing number of impoverished children may be the result of decreased federal funding for government child relief agencies during the 1980s.

In addition, requests for help have overwhelmed both federally funded agencies and private, non-profit support organizations, such as the Relief Nursery in Eugene.

Relief Nursery executive director Jean Phelps said the compounded nature of most family problems makes her organization's job very difficult. Poverty is usually intertwined with a number of other issues, such as child abuse, unemployment, mental health and drug and alcohol abuse.

mental health and drug and alcohol abuse.

"What we see are people that have many problems that have gone unaddressed," Phelps said.

"If people have one problem, they generally have many. We've never had the resources necessary

to impact the problem the way we need to."

Phelps said demands on social service agencies have grown in recent years to the point where today, the Relief Nursery has more than 200 people on its waiting list.

on its waiting list.
"We've been getting about a dozen calls a week
at the Nursery from appropriate referrals," Phelps

Poverty usually increases the workload for the Relief Nursery, which is primarily a child abuse

prevention program.

"It's very difficult to parent when you're living in poverty without adequate resources," Phelps said.

The 1990 census data shows that in 1989 there were 10.387 children under the poverty threshold in Lane County — 26 percent of all people living in poverty.

Nationally, the average poverty rate for a household of four was \$12,674 in 1989.

Food expenses, household size, number of children and annual income are used to determine if a household is below the poverty line.

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ASSAULT

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Knight said that a fourth white male reported being beaten by a group of black men earlier in the evening. Police believe the two attacks may have been by the same people.

Gordon said he and three white friends were walking home from a campus bar about 1:30 a.m. when two black men walking behind them started yelling racially charged comments.

"Something to the effect of, 'Yeah, 200 to 300 years of oppression against us blacks and now it's our turn," Gordon said. Then, "You'll see how it feels."

"It's kind of funny," he said, "because I'm Asian-American myself." But he said they avoided a confrontation by talking to the men making the

comments.

"We basically said we don't want any problem with you." Gordon said."So we shook hands. They went their own

A few minutes later, he said, he and Blair looked down a street and saw about 12 black men hitting another male.

"They were punching, kicking and jumping on his head," he said.

Gordon said he and Blair went down to see if they might be able to calm things down, but before they could say anything, they were attacked. Gordon said he didn't see the

Gordon said he didn't see the two men from the first incident in the crowd. But, he added, he was preoccupied with defending himself.

Blair and the unidentified man were knocked unconscious, Gordon said. The attackers fled when bystanders gathered around, he said. Two onlookers took Blair, Gordon and the third man to Sacred Heart Hospital.

"What really gets me is that we're not prejudiced," Gordon said. "They were just out to beat up anybody that was white. I can't imagine the hatred that must be felt."



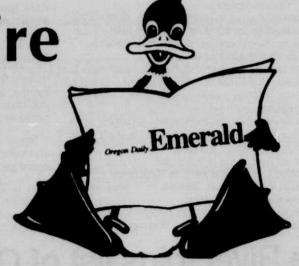
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By GARY LARSON



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