

Students give 'thumbs up' to New Roads School for homeless

■ **EDUCATION:** Supervisor says the program's success can be seen in kids' improvement

By Melissa Lebahn
Community Reporter

It was 3:30 in the afternoon — about a month and a half after the New Roads School for homeless and runaway youth opened — and two students sat in the small room working on projects.

Today was a slow day, not many students were in the room. But the New Roads School, since Oct. 2, has enrolled approximately 45 students — more than was expected in the first month, according to a fact sheet from the school.

Pearl Wolfe, program director, and George Hawley, education supervisor, both agreed that the school was more of a success than they had ever thought it would be.

An average daily attendance is nine students. Students come in and out as they please, Hawley said. Some students will be in for about 2-3 hours a day, which is

an average length of time.

A large table was in the center of the room with chairs all around it where a student sat coloring a picture.

Resources are available for students to use to make the transition into another educational setting. A small library with books and magazines was on one wall. On the floor against a vacant wall another student sat reading a book.

The two students were working on getting practical life skills, education and services from the school so that they can connect back into the community.

Hawley said that he sees the students making educational strides.

"I see five or six making dramatic changes daily, as far as General Education Degree preparation and improvements in math and science skills," Hawley said.

Most of the students who have come to the school during the last few weeks have been referrals from other students, Wolfe said.

"Kids are saying this is an OK place," Wolfe said. "The kids like the teachers."

When students come in for the first time, Hawley gives them a pretest to see where they are in their education. Then an individual learning plan will be set for the student. The student makes a set of goals for the next 10 days.

When the student accomplishes those goals Hawley will give him or her a new set of goals for the next 10-15 weeks or maybe just five days, depending on the student.

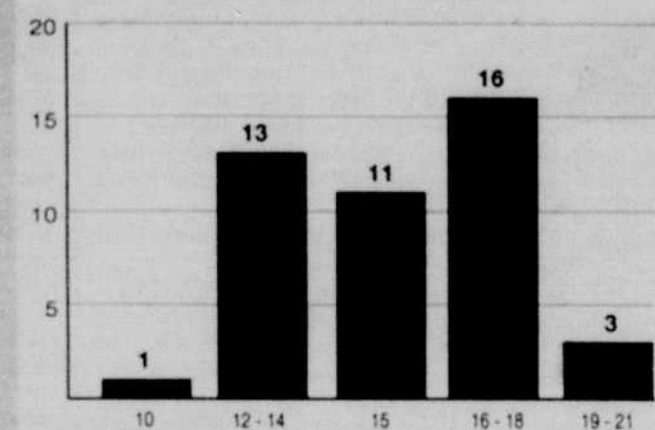
Every day that students comes in, they work on at least three of those 10 goals they made. Those goals mainly consist of math, science, social studies or reading packets. Each packet contains a certain number of problems, which the student has to work through. The student can't move on until he or she understands at least 80 percent of the material.

Students receive a great deal of one-on-one attention so that they can move on through their goals, Wolfe said.

The school has received many donations. The First United Methodist Church donated a large table and the University

RUNAWAYS AT NEW ROADS SCHOOL

Number of students enrolled at New Roads School and their ages as of October 2, 1995.



SOURCE: NEW ROADS SCHOOL

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Bookstore donated several books.

Wolfe said they could still use more supplies. Some science textbooks are needed for the younger students. They could also use some art and science

supplies, a refrigerator, computers, copy machines and a vehicle for transporting the students.

The school is open to any student ages 11-21. The school hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Conference: Key speaker witness of war effects

■ Continued from Page 1
stay in Eugene.

Seven delegates will participate in a free-admission meeting Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Gerlinger Lounge. Carlton and Wilberta Savage Professorship Colloquium on Peace and International Relations will feature 10-minute presentations by each of the delegates on the state of Vietnam in their prospective fields, followed by a question and answer period.

Proudfoot, director of the University of Oregon-Vietnam Sister University Project in the International Studies Program, said 16 different groups and programs at the University helped to sponsor the conference.

Vo Quy, director of the Vietnam University Environmental Institute and recipient of five international awards, will serve as the keynote speaker for the free-admission conference. Registration begins Friday at 7:30 a.m. on the second floor of the EMU.

Quy became interested in the effects of war on Vietnam's environment in 1970, when the large doses of herbicides, known as agent orange, were dispersed in South Vietnam by the U.S. military.

Despite unsuccessful efforts in 1970 to visit South Vietnam to study the effects of the war on the environment, Quy continued until he was granted permission in 1974. He remained in South Vietnam for three months, during which he followed parts of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Two years later, after the

Vietnam War ended, Quy returned and studied the environmental effects on the rest of South Vietnam.

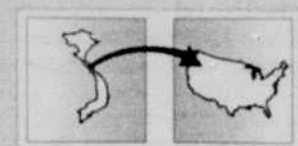
"I saw with my eyes the evidence of what happened ... the effects ... the wounds of war," Quy said.

Quy, who is the architect of the current environmental plan for Vietnam, drafted the Strategy for Conservation of Vietnam Technical Assistance plan in 1985.

"This strategy is recognized as one of the five best strategies in the whole world," he said.

Quy is also featured in the video "Vietnam: After the Fire," in which he discusses the affects of the Vietnam War on the country, including the legacy of 25 million bomb craters pitting the ground of South Vietnam.

Other delegates include Cao Xuan Thu, a member of the Continental Shelf Committee of Vietnam and maritime and international boundary affairs expert; Nguyen Kim Cuc, a pediatric physician who focuses on health issues of women and children and director of International Relations, Vietnam's women's union; Nguyen Thi Canh, a professor at the Institute for Economic Research of Ho Chi Minh City; Phung Huu Phu, the dean of the College of Arts and Humanities and vice rector at the Vietnam National University of Hanoi; Tu Vong Nghi, the chairperson of the Analytical Chemistry Department at the Vietnam National University of Hanoi and environmental chemist; Vu



Vietnam and the United States: Forging A Peacetime Friendship Conference highlights the activities of the nine-member Vietnam delegation visiting the University this week.

■ **TUESDAY, Nov. 28, 3-5 p.m.:** The Carlton and Wilberta Savage Professorship Colloquium on Peace and International Relations
■ **FRIDAY, Dec. 1, 7:30-8:30 a.m.:** Coffee and registration, EMU, 2nd floor

(Opening sessions of the conference begin 8:30 a.m. and end 4:30 p.m. then continue Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

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Khac Nhu, the first secretary of the Vietnamese Embassy to the U.S. in Washington, D.C.; Vu Ngoc Tu, the director of International Relations at the Vietnam National University of Hanoi; and Tran Trong Khanh, a staff member of the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington D.C. and a specialist in educational policy.

For more information on the conference, call the International Studies Program at 346-5041.

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