

Mission turns out turkey feast

The Eugene Mission, which is open all year, offers special services during the holidays

By Allyson Goldstein
Freelance Reporter

The holiday season is fast approaching, and for many Eugene residents this means warm food and festive gatherings. For others, it brings concerns about cold and hunger.

This Thanksgiving, hundreds of people who are unable to provide a Thanksgiving for themselves will sit down to a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings at the Eugene Mission.

The Mission, which opened in 1956, provides food, clothing, shelter and a work therapy program to people struggling financially. The Mission has a Christian focus, and volunteers conduct chapel services for residents and guests each evening.

Lynn Antis, the assistant director of the Mission, keeps rough statistics on the number of people who use the facility.

"We have three lodges which offer over three hundred beds, and we provide three meals a day, three hundred and sixty five days a year," Antis said.

Antis also described the Mission's plans for Christmas, when volunteers plan to continue the annual tradition of spreading holiday cheer to

the residents.

"At Christmas, everyone gets a gift package full of toiletry items, candy and age-appropriate toys for the children," Antis said.

While the mission offers special meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas, its services extend far beyond the holiday season. Residents at the Mission stay for varying lengths of time depending on their specific situations, and most say the Mission provides a good environment to get back on their feet.

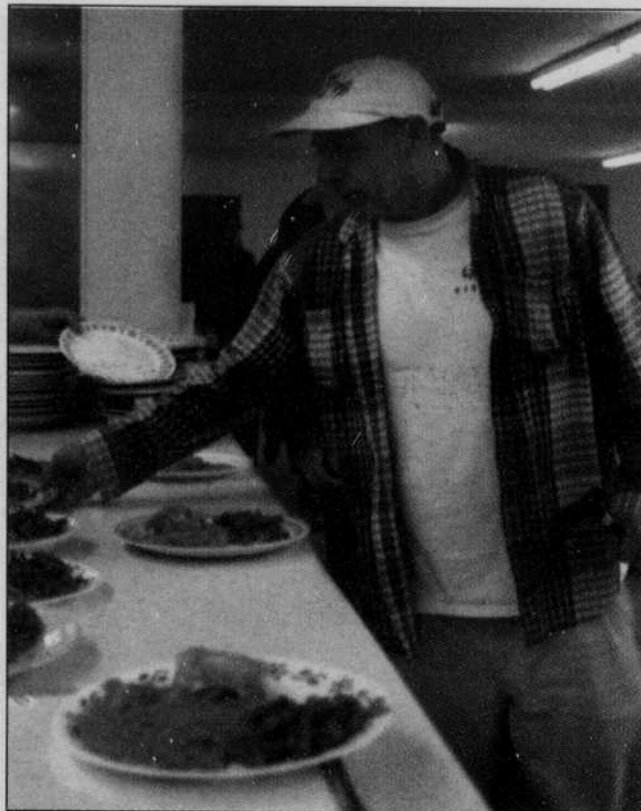
Michael Stolberg, who is currently between jobs, has been staying at the Mission while he looks for work. He likes the safe Christian atmosphere and plans to eat Thanksgiving dinner there this year.

"The Mission provides a chapel, meals and a bed, and expects nothing in return except for a little help with the day-to-day work," he said.

Many Eugene residents, like University sophomore Corinne Cox, are unaware that the Mission even exists and are astounded by the number of people who use its services every day.

"I've never heard of the Eugene Mission, but I think that it's great that there's something like this in the community, and it's amazing that they are able to help so many people on a daily basis," said Cox, a cultural anthropology major.

The Mission receives most of its funding through private



Tim Kupsick Freelance Photographer

Patrons get a hot meal at the Eugene Mission on Tuesday.

donations, business donations and its newspaper recycling program.

The Mission has many sources of community support, but it can always use extra help in the form of donations of food, clothing and toiletries, especially during the holiday season. Donations can be brought to the Eugene Mission, located

at 1542 W. First Ave. in Eugene.

Stolberg, like many others who are grateful for the services the Mission provides, said he feels that it is a real asset to the community.

"It's a good place for people who have nowhere else to go," he said.

Allyson Goldstein is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

'Amigos' helps victims of war, students alike

The non-profit group offers legal services and therapy for war crime victims

By Athanasios Fkiaras
Freelance Reporter

Many University students celebrate Thanksgiving with their families and come to expect the love and security they have known without ever questioning it.

Others, however, no longer have this luxury. Some people have no living family members. They have difficulty trusting people. They fear anyone who displays the slightest hint of authority. Many have experienced torture and rape. These are the survivors of the numerous military takeovers that took place in the mid-1970s in Central and South America.

"It's not very easy to forget. It's something that scars you for the rest of your life," said Rogelio Salec of Guatemala.

Salec, 31, came to the United States and moved to Eugene after running from the government, which he says killed his brother-in-law and his cousin. He said that both were blacklisted — watched closely by the government — but had done nothing and were politically inactive.

"At one point, we had to

sleep under trees and bushes," he said, adding that he spent much of his time in such conditions until he found refuge in the United States.

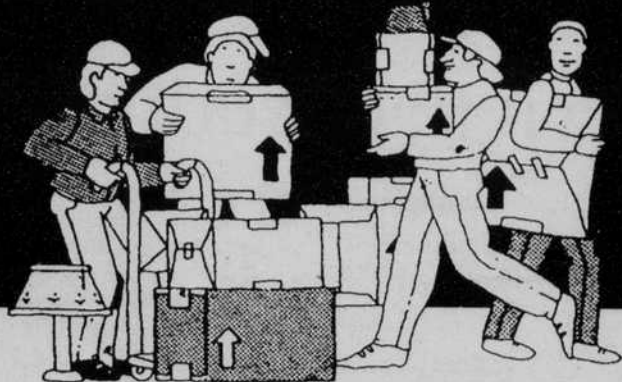
Salec said that the transition from a life of fear to a brand new beginning was difficult and confusing. Many survivors like Salec feel alienated due to language and cultural barriers. The terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 also added an unexpected dimension to the transition many survivors were going through. Not only did these events take away from the security refugees thought they had in the United States, but the attacks happened on the date that Chile fell under autocratic rule in 1973.

Salec's feelings of uncertainty and fear changed, however, when a close friend introduced him to the non-profit organization Amigos de los Sobrevivientes (Friends of the Survivors).

German Nieto-Maquehue, the executive director of Amigos, said that victims of war crimes remain traumatized long after conflicts cease and possibly for life. Amigos de los Sobrevivientes caters to any needs these victims might have. Established 10 years ago, the organization offers therapy, legal advice, fi-

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