Lions Eye Bank reaches milestone

The Oregon Lions Eye Bank, a statewide center for donor eye tissue, recently received its one-thousandth pair of donor eyes.

This milestone is significant, according to executive director Kristi Voth, because "it has shown there is a definite interest and concern by Oregonians to provide sight to the blind through corneal transplantation."

One thousand pair of donor eyes would not have been realized without the help of Oregonians and cooperative efforts of the state's 200 Lions Clubs, including Sandy and Hoodland, and participating Oregon funeral homes which provide the majority of donor eye tissue, Voth said.

Since January 1975, the Lions Eye Bank, based at Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center in Portland, has served as a receiving, processing, research and distribution center for donor eye tissue. The Eye Bank coordinates donor eye flow with surgeons who use the tissues for corneal and scleral transplants on visually impaired and blind patients.

The cornea is the transparent covering in the front of the eye. The sclera is the white elastic coating that surrounds the eye which is used in eye reconstructive or plastic surgery.

"Six years ago," Voth said, "250 visually handicapped Oregonians were waiting for donor eye tissue. Many of them had to wait months or years to become part of more than 750 Oregonians who have since received the gift of sight through operations using tissue provided by the Lions Eye Bank."

One of those patients is Howard Ogden, 57, of Tigard, who received tissue from the thousandth pair of donor eyes for an operation in which surgeons replaced a perforated cornea in Ogden's left eye with a new cornea. As a result, Ogden has restored vision in his eye, thanks to a donor from Roseburg.

Ogden had the operation after his left eye's cornea became ulcerated due to irritation. The irritation developed when arthritic problems caused his tear ducts to stop working and dryness to occur.

The only source of tissue is the donation of eyes of recently-deceased persons. Any person 18 years old or older may sign a donor card in the presence of two witnesses, and carry this card in his or her wallet at all times.

To provide more donor eyes, 256,655 Oregonians have indicated a "D" on their driver's license to signify they are a potential donor.

Pre-arrangements for donor eye removal can be made through any funeral home.

Because the Eye Bank understands the important concerns of the family in eye donations after death, it always contacts the next-of-kin for permission even though a donor card may have been signed and witnessed.

Carpooling interest grows

Public interest in carpooling continues to surge, according to the latest figures from Tri-Met's rideshare program.

Applications for carpool matching in December jumped 58 percent over the previous December. During the final month of 1980, Tri-Met received 162 new applications for carpool matches. The agency was able to successfully match 63 percent of the applicants.

The December figures continue to reflect an anticipated seasonal downward trend in applications, with 54 fewer applications received in December than November 1980.

Meanwhile, bus ridership was down from November levels, with a weekday average of 136,000 persons using Tri-Met. The December ridership reflects a five percent decrease from December, 1979, a seasonal trend.

The decline in ridership is attributed to unseasonably warm and dry weather, stablized gasoline prices and the October fare increase.

Tri-Met recorded monthly discounted monthly pass sales of 27,087 passes, an increase of almost 17 percent over December 1979.

Alder Creek meeting set

There will be an informational meeting next Wednesday, Jan. 21 for all customers of the Alder Creek Water Company.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Chapel of the Hills in Brightwood.

The meeting is sponsored by the Alder Creek Citizens Advisory Board.

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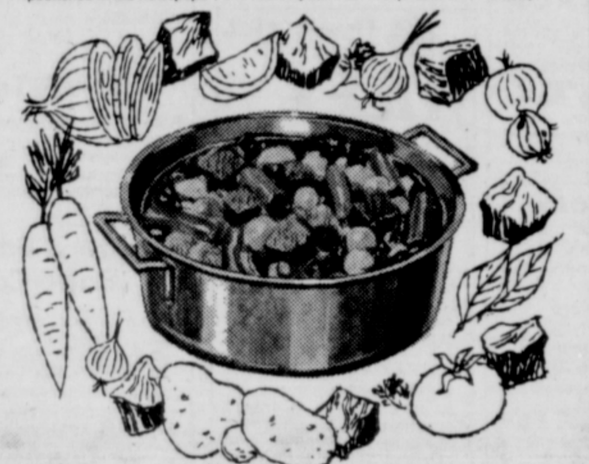

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THERE IS ONLY ONE RELIGION

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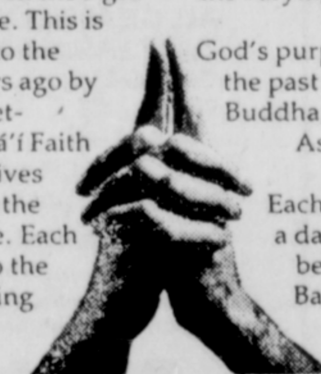
Each religion derives its inspiration from the same Divine Source. Each religion is related to the others in an unfolding revelation of God's purpose for mankind. That they differ from one another is to be attributed to the varying requirements of the age in which they appeared. God's purpose has been revealed in the past through Krishna, Moses, Buddha, Christ and Muḥammad. As they were to their times, Bahá'u'lláh is to ours. Each prophet left a promise of a day when God's will would be done on earth. That day, Bahá'u'lláh proclaimed, has come.



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