

METROPOLITAN



Zoo to You: a first hand look at a visitor from the Washington Park Zoo is featured at Portland parks this summer.



The incredible Shawnte Harris: three years old and full of energy. A variety of summer programs can help channel that energy into fun. (Photos: Richard Brown)

Summer time at work and play

by C. Eddie Edmondson

For a while it looked like a modern news program in June about refugees in the Falkland Islands, or in Beirut, Lebanon, or wherever nations stand toe to toe settling disputes with guns instead of butter diplomacy.

What it was was young people, varying in ages from 14 to 21, representing every kind of ethnic and national group in inner Northeast Portland, coming by twos and threes and more to the King Neighborhood Center, looking for jobs.

In their hands were job applications, handwritten and typed resumes, newspaper want-ad clippings, letters of recommendations. And tight faces of despair for there are obviously too few jobs for too many people.

"We have four times the number of applicants who have applied for the positions we are going to fill," said James Mason, coordinator with Renee Watson of the Urban League's youth summer program.

Of the eight organizations and agencies with offices at the King facility, at least five have hired young people. At least 187 youths work for the organizations with offices at King, many in programs operated there.

"It's been hectic," said Judy Maszy, facility secretary, who is responsible for day-to-day management of the building while the facility director, James Loving, is on vacation.

With very little of July being cooled by the Portland rains, and very few jobs for the thousands of young men and women seeking summer employment, what's available for those who can't find work or are too young?

"Well, we have the swimming programs," said Gail Meredith, information manager for the Portland Bureau of Parks. "There are 14 pools—all heated—throughout the city which will be open through August."

In addition there are many neighborhood parks with staff on hand between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., providing games and crafts available for the children of all ages up to 18, she said.

For youth between 12 and 18, Meredith pointed out the new basketball program which is being sponsored by City Commissioner

Charles Jordan and Congressman Ron Wyden. At least 500 kids are involved in 3-on-3 basketball, in three basketball leagues.

Young people in inner Northeast will find games close to them at Woodland Park, (NE 11th and Dekum), Irving Park, (NE 7th and Fremont) and at the Matt Dishman Center, (77 NE Knott).

Musical entertainment is a big highlight. Meredith said that there are several summer concerts being sponsored by the Park Bureau. The most prominent, she said, is "Oklahoma," which will open at the Rose Garden Aug. 22nd. And there is the Washington Park schedule which begins July 23rd.

"We're only scratching the surface," City Commissioner Charles Jordan said, admitting that more young job seekers are finding less and less opportunity for employment this summer. "But perhaps, coupled with the recreation and leisure activities available throughout the city, we can provide an active and meaningful summer for those whom we are to serve."

The Portland Urban League, which is operating a summer youth employment program, has several contracts to provide youth employment opportunities: One contract with Multnomah County provides employment opportunities for 93 youth; 20 youth will receive employment with Tri-Met through a city-funded program; the Metropolitan Private Industry Council will place 20 young men and women in private industry positions, and the Urban League's "casual labor" program provides employment for 5 to 7 young people a week who are under 14 years of age.

Mason said that the "casual labor" program involves youth under 14 who are seeking employment. The Urban League recruits job assignments from community residents and sends the young people, who are too young to qualify for the federally-funded or -subsidized youth employment programs, to do such time-honored chores as cutting grass, painting houses and fences. (The lowest age to qualify for federally-funded or -subsidized summer youth employment is 14.)

The city's CETA program is offering employment opportunities for over 1,000 youth, and, Mason said, the Mayor's youth program, which is also operated through CETA, is providing employment for

400 additional youth.

Ted Johnson, an aide in the mayor's office, confirmed that a request would go before the City Council on Wednesday to add an additional 400 to 500 jobs to the mayor's summer youth program—70 per cent of which would go to minorities.

"We have to recognize that these are very difficult times," Jordan said. "We have many adults who are also unemployed." Noting the recent Channel 6 TV show on unemployment, the Commissioner continued: "We are going to have to employ the efforts of both the private and public sector. But certainly the city cannot do it alone."

Mason said that these low-income jobs, generally paying the minimum wage or less, don't really benefit people who need jobs to earn money. The summer employment jobs that they go after, he explains, are generally governmental and social services programs. Most last only two months, Mason said.

"After eight weeks, they go back to a year of idleness. It's like a stay of execution, if you will," Mason said.

"The [paycheck] money turns over so fast," Mason said, "that it primarily benefits the private sector

who provides entertainment, fast foods and gasoline."

The federally-funded summer youth employment programs are of value to those youth who are 14 to 18 who haven't worked before, Mason said. But for those over 18 with high school diplomas and some work experience, "This is not an appropriate avenue for seeking employment."

What is not happening, Mason said, is that black people, both young and old, turn to government and social service agencies seeking employment rather than going to the private sector for work.

"It's an inter-generational thing," Mason said.

"I would suggest that in March or April [of next year] that young people start asking private sector employers for summer job applications. Even if they say they are not hiring for the summer, fill out an application in case they set funds aside," said Mason.

"Most large corporations do hire for the summer," he said. "Apply for those jobs!"

"I remember when I was a youth, I got a job with John Deere [Tractor Corp.] and I got almost as much money as I'm getting now," he said. "All I'm saying is get out of being satisfied with minimum wage jobs."

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ATTEND A
PUBLIC COMMENT FORUM
 MONDAY EVENING, JULY 19,
 ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO UTILITY POWER SALES CONTRACTS.

Bonneville Power Administration's utility customers have until August 28, 1982, to accept new contracts offered a year earlier.

Various customer groups filed lawsuits challenging the contracts as offered and later proposed several contract amendments.

Bonneville has agreed to consider offering the customers' proposed amendments in order to settle the lawsuits and achieve full implementation of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act.

We welcome your comments, either orally at a public meeting or in writing until July 26, 1982.

For information on the utility power sales contracts and proposed amendments, call our Public Involvement Coordinator toll-free: in Oregon, 1-800-452-8429; in other Northwest states, 1-800-547-6048.

JULY 19 FORUM LOCATIONS
 Registration 7 p.m., meetings 7:30 p.m.

Portland, Oregon
 Willamette Center
 Activities Building
 Conference Rooms A and B
 121 SW Salmon Street

Seattle, Washington
 Seattle Center, Fidalgo Room
 First North and Republican Street

Boise, Idaho
 City Hall, Bonneville Room
 150 North Capital Boulevard

Missoula, Montana
 Missoula County Courthouse
 Annex, Room 201
 200 West Pine Street

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Bonneville Power Administration

Measles cases reported here

Five cases of measles have been reported to the State Health Division. All cases are in the greater Portland area. Four of the cases have been laboratory confirmed and the fifth is a case resulting from contact with one of the other children. Two other suspected cases are pending final laboratory test results. Six of the seven young children had not been immunized.

Kristine Gebbie, Health Division Administrator, stated: "If this outbreak of measles had occurred last year, prior to the implementation of the new school immunization law, it

is likely that many more children would have become ill with some serious health effects as a result."

Measle symptoms include: 1) a generalized rash beginning on the face or head lasting more than three days; 2) a temperature of 101°F or higher, accompanied by one or more of the following—a cough, a runny nose, eye irritation or light sensitivity.

Any person presenting these symptoms should contact their family doctor or local county health department and avoid contact with non-immunized people.

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