

Youth employment available

Grassroots News, N.W. — This week Mayor Frank Ivancie announced details of Portland's third annual, "Summer Employment for Teens (SET)." The program is expected to provide jobs for 600 to 800 youth who will work 20 hours a week for \$3.35 hourly. "We have jobs lined up to clean up around the freeways, pick up litter and paint fire hydrants. I think it is a very useful program to provide meaningful work."

Ivancie says the SET program will not conflict with union jobs. "I don't think this program will have any effect on any full-time union job. The work that the kids will be doing is not skilled labor or competitive with the general labor force."

The budget is comprised of resources from the recent federal "Jobs Bill," the Oregon Department of Transportation and the City Bureau of Water Works. "If we think the program has to be beefed up I will go back to the City Council and ask for some general fund monies. I believe this program is so important for our youngsters to have that work experience. Just the idea of doing something for the City, at fairly low pay, is good experience."

He says roughly 50 percent of the slots would be targeted to the minority youth of the city who are disproportionately affected by unemployment. "We are trying to seek those youth out through the schools. We have never been criticized in the

past because the program has been heavily skewed in that direction."

Other than litter collection and fire hydrant painting, Portland's SET workers will clean up city roadside areas and provide clerical support for city bureaus. "Generally speaking, these jobs would not be done if it weren't for this program."

Youth between the ages of 14 and 19 are urged to apply for the SET program. The jobs begin July 5 and will end September 2. The contact person for N.E. Portland is Alene Grice at 287-4284. For the west side it's Miro Hernandez at 796-5372 and for the S.E. side call Holly Schlabach at 248-5174. The mayor indicated that these openings are, "First come, first served."

Oregon opposes Salvador war

Tuesday, May 17, Oregon became the first state in the country to pass a bill through its legislature to formally tell the U.S. government to "stop military aid to government of El Salvador until there is proof that policy of violent suppression of civil liberties and human rights has been terminated." Senate Joint Memorial 6, sponsored by Senator Margie Hendrickson of Eugene, gained bipartisan support, passing the Senate with one single dissenting vote (29-1) and the House by a majority of 40-19.

The Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America, with the support of church and other groups,

helped carry out a concentrated lobbying campaign. Those testifying for Senate Joint Memorial 6 in hearings included the ACLU, Oregon AFL-CIO, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Arnoldo Ramos and Francisco Alchul — diplomatic representatives of the FMLN/FDR, and others.

The bill was also supported by chapters and affiliates of the Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) in 10 Oregon cities. They activated grassroots pressure from the local constituencies in their areas.

The Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC), a CISPES chapter, initiated a similar

bill two years ago... losing by only one vote. Oregon CISPES coordinator Marcia Hamley said of the vote, "This shows what we have known for a long time now — that the majority of people in this country (60-75% depending on which poll you read) oppose U.S. military involvement in El Salvador and Central America. More and more people are becoming vocal in their opposition and finally Congress and local legislators are getting that message."

For information on other PCASC activities, call 235-9388 and leave a message or write P.O. Box 6443, Portland OR 97228.

Voices

(Continued from page 1 column 4)

attitude towards life. How can they understand what they are doing and what it means to rip off your brothers and sisters. The purse you snatch could belong to a lady old enough to be your mother. And going into your mother's purse is just like going down the street and mugging someone. It is all wrong, taking from the poor. Especially, since we all came over on the same ship."

One factor which makes these youth on the streets invisible to local and national statisticians is their abrupt withdrawal from the educational system. Dick Kuczek, Research Director for the Portland Urban League, says males have a higher propensity to drop out. "The early-leaver rate for the last two years has remained constant with 14.3% for Native Americans, 9.2% for Hispanics, 9.2% for blacks and 7% for white."

Jimmy says he and his friends do not care about going to school. "At least no one made me go to school when I was little. I took it for granted that I didn't have to go. So, I just quit because I didn't like it." Jimmy dropped out in the ninth grade. T.J. is still in school but says the kind of education he received is "not a good one." "I'm in my second year of high school and I spend a lot of time downtown. It is like a second home. I know a lot of the people and if something is going on at home I can always come down here. I guess, I can say that I'm learning something. Like mathematics and stuff. That all I can figure out."

Their presence is also not recorded in the various unemployment data that is available for analysis. Kuczek says only the youth who are actively looking for work occupy the embarrassingly high youth unemployment figures. "They are in the hidden unemployment data. With both black and white youth, teenage males show a higher tendency to be unemployed. Blacks are disproportionately hit by this hidden unemployment." He adds a qualifying note by stating the teenage unemployment figures may seem high but the aggregate unemployment data for Oregon is well above the national average. Kuczek concluded by stating, "We are not dealing with simple numbers. These kids 16-21 are in their first job hunting experience. It will shape their whole attitude for years to come. The long-term impact of being told there is no place for them in the system or society is frightening. Ten years down the road there will be problems. And the problems will come because you can't change their minds and convince them that there is a place for them. What shapes their attitudes and behavior now will impact the community in years to come."



Gregory and Lionel discuss their true feelings.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

T.J. says, "They won't hire us (youth). They think we are going to cause problems. The people who run the restaurants and the fast food places just don't trust us. They think we are going to give stuff out or steal." In response to where he might find work, T.J. replied, "I don't know. That is what we are trying to figure out."

These young men have entered adulthood at the climax of the sexual revolution. The practice of homosexuality, for economic or sexual reasons, surprises many of them. Gregory says, "There are a lot of brothers going around playing with other brothers. I had a couple of friends into that and I didn't know until a couple of months ago. You just got to know what is out there. This really surprised me." T.J. believes some of his friends engage in male prostitution as a means to an end — survival. "Some of my partners are prostitutes. They make good money. Some may even sell a little drugs on the side."

The young black males are maturing into a society which, on the surface, tolerates interracial relationships. How do Lionel and Gregory feel about their peers dating white girls? "I believe that the brothers don't have respect for the sisters and the sisters don't have

respect for the brothers. Every brother has a desire when he walks down the street for a sister to recognize him. The brothers who go for white girls feel a sister can't stand up to their needs. The bottom line is the brothers don't feel proud and the sisters don't feel proud." In Gregory's opinion, some black males are attracted to white girls because they succumb to the domination of the male. "Many guys feel a white girl will give in more than a sister. Me, myself, I'm going with a black girl and we're thinking about getting married. I don't like seeing black guys out with white girls, but it's happening."

The fragmentation and disunity of today's society stays on the minds of these two young males. "We can't talk to one another anymore. Brothers want to shoot and kill one another. It's not like what it used to be. I would just like to see us get along. After all, we're in this thing together."

Lionel wants to see his community acting and reacting like it did in 1972. "When we went to the parks and listened to good music and everybody didn't get bold. And everybody didn't get hit. There was unity then and there could be unity now. There was a time in Portland when brothers were 'Live.'"

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

Education was the topic for this week's Street Beat with, "Should Oregon institute a minimum competency test for teachers and students?"



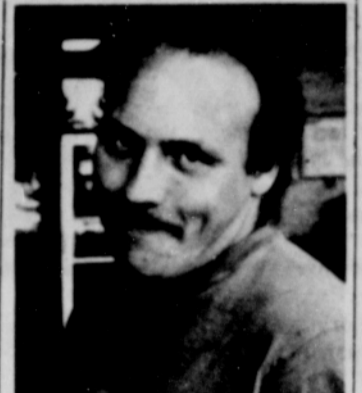
Bob Moore
Store Clerk

"It would be a good idea. This way kids coming out of school at least will know their basic skills."



Aneesah Haamid
Housewife

"I like the idea of a test. If they do not pass they should be held back for their own good."



Harry Schwartz
Painter

"I think they should to ensure competency. When you go to school you're there to learn. We have to make sure when you hit the streets you are prepared."



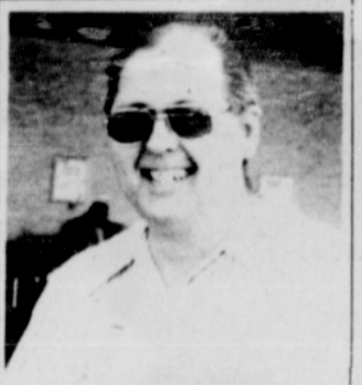
Ruby Patterson
Beautician

"I believe in a test for teachers. If the teachers know they could pass it on to the students. Maybe this is why we are having as many problems as we're having."



Sammy Lathen
Mechanic

"I think so. We know that the quality of education is not what it should be. And, like all jobs, you are tested to ensure competency. A mandatory test wouldn't hurt."



Jim Bergstrom
Unemployed

"We have to have certain standards of education and criteria to follow. We should remember that some people can't retain it all and we should have a special process for that."

FREE

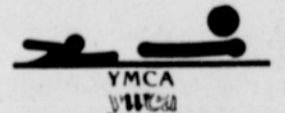
LEARN to SWIM WEEK JUNE 6-10

Pre-registration is by MAIL ONLY. Deadline is June 1. REGISTRATION LIMITED.

AGES 8-12

Your child can learn to swim with the Y... for free!

Orientation sessions for parents and kids will be held June 4 (see pool list for exceptions). Participants must attend orientation.



The free YMCA/YWCA Learn-to-Swim week will be offered at the following pools throughout Portland:

Buckman
320 S.E. 16th

Columbia
7701 N. Chautauqua Blvd.

University of Portland
5000 N. Willamette Blvd.

Moore St. Community Center
5430 N. Moore

Other locations listed below

YWCA 1111 S.W. 10th YMCA Metro Center 2831 S.W. Barbur Blvd. John R. Leach YMCA 6036 S.E. Foster Northeast YMCA 1630 N.E. 38th Couch 2033 N.W. Glisan

The swimming lesson will be after school

Y.M.C.A. Y.W.C.A. Learn To Swim Week June 4-10

Registration is by MAIL ONLY. Deadline is JUNE 1, 1983. MAIL registration to Y.M./Y.W. SWIM, Y.M.C.A. Metro Center, 2831 S.W. Barbur, Portland, OR 97201

Child's name _____ first _____ last _____

Parent/guardian's name _____ first _____ last _____

Address _____ street & no. _____ city & zip _____ business phone # _____

Home phone # _____

Child's birthdate _____ month _____ day _____ year _____

Child's swimming ability (circle one) _____ Novice (afraid) _____ beginner _____ some swimming experience

At which pool will you participate? (See list above.) Due to space limitations, please indicate three choices.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Registration for the free Learn To Swim Week will be on a first come, first served basis. Youngsters will be registered according to postmark date on this form. You will be notified regarding registration.

Sponsored by Portland YWCA & YMCA of Columbia Willamette

Portland State University Health and P.E. Bldg. 930 S.W. Hall *Orientation June 3

