

Emergency shelters help homeless

by Nathaniel Scott

As thousands of Oregonians paid tribute Friday, November 11th, to America's living and dead veterans, the West Women's Hotel and Emergency Shelter, 127 N.W. 6th Avenue, held an open house to thank those who have made four years of emergency shelter service possible. And in view of November 11th being a day for reflective thinking, Portlanders could better serve humanity by paying special attention to the plight of the homeless: those in need of emergency shelter.

Michael Stoops, co-founder of Baloney Joe's, estimates Portland's homeless to be 3,000—three thousand souls who in all probability have been augmented by transients, increased unemployed, newly released mental patients, and those dependent on drugs and alcohol, to mention a few of the categories that could be listed. Yet, Portland's emergency sheltering facilities are meager, if not outright insulting.

The Chamber of Commerce has a list that covers four specific areas: emergency shelter for battered women, emergency shelter for women, emergency shelter for men, and emergency shelter for families—listing 11 emergency agencies. However, the focus of this story will be single men and women.

Emergency shelters for single men and women—the groups that make up the bulk of those in need of emergency shelters—have a total of 291 beds or available space for emergency situations located in the downtown area.

The YWCA, 1111 S.W. 10th Ave., can accommodate 30 women. They have ten beds and one baby crib offered without charge, 12 beds at "very low cost—\$4 to \$6," and eight single rooms in the hotel. In dire need, the YWCA will use any rooms available, in order to meet the emergency situation.

The West Women's Hotel and Emergency Shelter can accommodate 36 emergency situations. They also have twelve "low-rent" rooms.

The Salvation Army Harbor Light, 134 W. Burnside, men only, has 54 beds at a cost of \$2 per night. In the event a person is financially strapped, waiving of fees can be arranged.

The Portland Rescue Mission, 111 W. Burnside, men only, can accommodate 56. Their emergency ser-



Michael Morris (7), Richard Beechler (10) and Rainbow Beechler enjoy a game of checkers in the newly renovated playroom at the West Women's Hotel and Emergency Shelter. The three pairs are children of Hotel residents. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

vices are without charge.

The Burnside Project, commonly called the "Drop-In Center," 523 N.W. Everett Street, can handle 95 people. Seven spaces are reserved for women. To help the plight of the shelterless, Baloney Joe's recently started taking the Burnside Project's overflow. Baloney Joe's can handle 25 people. There is no charge at Baloney Joe's or the Burnside Project.

Funding for the projects is through donations, grants, and in the case of some, County funds.

Kathy Langley, volunteer coordinator at the West Women's Hotel, said, "There will never be enough emergency shelter space with the economy the way it is."

Langley said there are numerous people who are turned away because there are not enough accommodations to fill the need.

Commissioner Miller's office echoed this sentiment. According to Bonnie Morris, the Commissioner

has always been supportive of the West Hotel and emergency shelters in general. And of equal importance, the Commissioner advanced the idea that "a society is judged by the way it takes care of its poor and homeless."

State Senator Nancy Rylkes said, "We need to create more emergency shelters but we also need to give more support to the ones that exist."

The Senator's words were spoken not 15 feet from an ultra-modern kitchen donated to the West Women's Hotel anonymously.

The open house celebrated Phase II of the West Women's Hotel renovation which included remodeling of the kitchen, a playroom, a laundry room; the building of bunk beds, new carpeting, paint and wallpaper in most of the hotel.

Phase I was completed a year ago and included plumbing and rewiring. Labor was donated by Portland area labor unions and the materials

were provided by area suppliers. The project was coordinated by Commissioner Miller's office.

While thousands paid tribute to veterans, the West Women's Hotel paid tribute to those who have helped to alleviate the suffering of the homeless.

A sad commentary to this story is that many of the shelterless are veterans. And even more appalling, the severity of winter has yet to raise its head.

The theme for the West Women's Hotel's open house were words by Oscar Hammerstein: "Love isn't love until you give it away."

Seeks mayor's office:

Liddicoat challenges Ivancie

Twenty-five-year-old political activist Jeff Liddicoat has announced his intention to run for Frank Ivancie's position of Mayor of Portland. Liddicoat, who is one of the founders of the citizens lobby, New Clear Vision of Oregon, commented, "Somebody, despite the odds, must run against a politician like Ivancie. He has no respect for working people, minorities, women, or those in this town that call for an end to Portland's involvement in the nuclear arms race. Ivancie has no clear position on the problems facing Portlanders; his only real platform is to keep things as they are despite

the fact that most of us think there should be changes. I won't have the money to run a standard campaign, but my platform will offer voters a clear choice.

Asked about his age and experience, Liddicoat responded, "I'm old enough to have experienced Ivancie's inadequacy as a Mayor and I will be guided not by money but by the citizens of Portland and other politicians who stand in opposition to Ivancie's policies. Also, I may be willing to bow out of the race if another progressive alternative to Ivancie begins running a more effective campaign."

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PCC co-op, hospital train youth

Dong Dao appreciates the opportunity she's getting to apply her classroom learning in a real work situation.

The native of Vietnam found it hard at first to adapt to the customs of the United States and a different language, but now she's at ease in a cooperative work program through Portland Community College at Holladay Park Hospital.

Andy Cheers, director of both the hospital's biomedical division and hospital safety, was hesitant at first but now supports the cooperative program.

"I could see how a co-op might be good for the student, but I thought it would make the work environment more like school. But Dong's won the heart of everybody here," Cheers said.

"Maybe Dong's an exception. She understands very quickly and has a drive to learn more about the job. She also had to overcome the fact that there are not very many girls in this business of engineering discipline," Cheers continued.

Dong started classes two years ago at the Sylvania Campus, thinking she wanted to try electrical engineering technology. Then last year she changed to the electronic service technology because "maybe it would be easier to find a job."

Neal Naigus, the co-op specialist for Cascade had visited with Cheers to see if there might be an opening for some of the electronic students. "I was making contacts at that point and developing a network for future slots. Hospitals provide an excellent training site for our electronics service students," Naigus explained.

Chears expressed his initial skepticism at that point, but said to Naigus, "Your approach was just right... not pushy. I felt that it couldn't hurt to try."

Now Cheers considers Dong a valuable addition and would be interested in offering her permanent



Rick Rosalter, biomedical technician at Holladay Park Hospital, explains equipment to Dong Dao who works at the hospital 12 hours a week through the Portland Community College cooperative work program.

work if he didn't think it would interfere with her future education. "She's very bright and I want her to continue in school. She's at a crossroads in terms of what direction to go in electronics. Whatever she chooses, she'll do well."

Dong started at the hospital this summer and works about 12 hours a week. She repairs hospital equipment and does safety checks in patients' rooms.

Along with the safety checks Dong trouble-shoots the equipment to find problems. "I like working both with the equipment and talking to the patients," Dong said.

Chears explained the hospital has extensive electronic equipment for heart monitors, pacemakers, ultrasounds, x-ray, light optic devices, pagers and numerous others. "There are 2,500 different varieties of hospital equipment with electronic parts," Cheers said.

Dong has good rapport with the other technician in the biomedical department, which Cheers said is worth its weight in gold. "He enjoys explaining things to her and they get

along well," Cheers said.

The purpose of the Cooperative Education Program is to provide students an opportunity to apply information they learn in the classroom in a practical, hands-on work experience. The program also establishes linkages between education and industry.

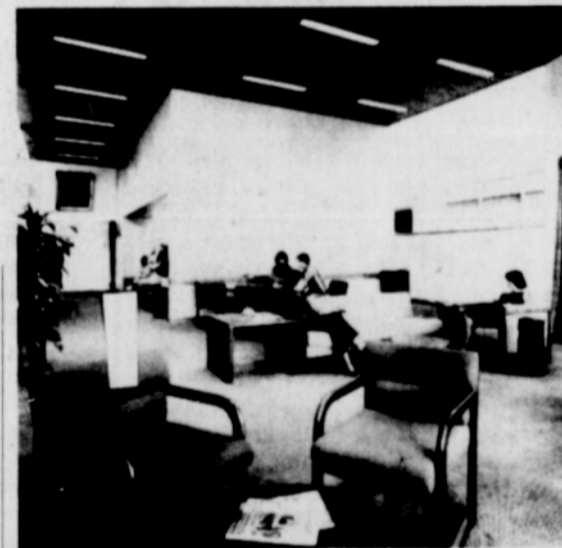
The co-op programs at PCC not only give students real work experiences, but Naigus said, "In many instances it gives an employer an opportunity to actually train someone for the future and to screen potential employees."

Dong says that she is able to learn basic principles in school, but is able to apply them at the hospital. Since summer she has learned how about 40 percent of the equipment works and Cheers said she easily adds a new piece each week.

Comparing her life in Vietnam where she worked for her father (he had a number of businesses including selling gas, tires and wine), Dong said simply, "Women stay home more."

Good news for Kaiser members.

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An inside look at the new Bess Kaiser Medical Center.

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