

METROPOLITAN

Mason elections



JOSEPH L. HARVEY

At the recent summer election held during the 25th annual conference of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oregon and its Jurisdiction, Portlander Andrew Childs, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, turned over the gavel to Joseph L. Harvey of Boise, Idaho. Harvey stepped up from his position as Right Worthy Deputy Grand Master in the

hierarchy of the Lodge, after serving the Grand Lodge of Oregon as Grand Junior and Senior Warden.

The new MWGM hails from Sturgeon, Missouri, and Topeka, Kansas. Higher education was received at Washburn University. A former member of the U.S. Air Force, he functioned in the branch of Medical Material Services. His duties during his 20 years took him to Europe, Africa and England and finally to the Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. It was there he was introduced to Masonry.

"I am currently a career agent with Ohio National Life Insurance Company," Harvey said. "I also belong to the National Association of Life Underwriters, and I am a member of the Boise State University Athletic Association Board of Directors. For the local chapter of the NAACP, I am working as publicity chairman."

Harvey, 53, and his wife Jeanne have five daughters and one son, and four grandchildren. They are active members of the Hillview United Methodist Church.

Tri-Met proposals

Concerned over what could be a substantial drop in ridership following a steep fare increase, Tri-Met General Manager James E. Cowen has asked the District's Board of Directors to consider a balanced revenue package including a proposed 10-cent increase in adult cash fares only. Cowen also recommended a freeze on the current adult discount tickets and PASS PLUS prices.

Cowen requested the Board to hold a second reading on the revised fare schedule and adopt it for implementation in September. The revision would increase the base cash fare to 85 cents and keep discount tickets and PASS PLUS prices stable. Youth cash fares and discount tickets, however, would be eliminated, and youth PASS PLUS would be increased to

\$20.00, Cowen said.

"The recommendation on Youth fares is in line with what two citizens' committees have been saying. Unless there is some subsidy of the substantial Youth discount from a source outside Tri-Met, the committees believe the Youth fares should be brought more in line with Adult fares," Cowen explained.

Cowen also proposed three business license taxes as part of the balanced revenue plan. "These new taxes on gross receipts from wholesale petroleum distribution, commuter parking and new and used vehicle sales also responded to the committees' recommendations that motorists share in the operating costs of the District since they directly benefit from its operation," Cowen said.



Lisa Hodges, manager of Portland Plasma Corp. on N.E. Union Ave., attends to a donor. (Photo: Robert Lothian)

Portland Plasma Center helps people in need

by Robert Lothian

"Unemployed? Make immediate cash by becoming a regular donor at Portland Plasma Corp., 3726 N.E. Union."

This ad appears daily in *The Oregonian*. It attracts donors from throughout the city to the plasma center which opened last August.

Some of the center's mostly unemployed male donors receive up to \$100 a month for donating approximately a pint of plasma as many as nine times in a 30-day period.

Contrary to common perception that plasma centers exploit transients, Portland Plasma manager Lisa Hodges said they actually offer those down on their luck an opportunity to make a few dollars while contributing to a worthy cause.

The 1,200 units a month of plasma collected by Portland Plasma is shipped frozen to hospitals and clinics to help hemophiliacs, burn victims and to produce hepatitis vaccine, Hodges said. Laboratories separate out six plasma components valuable to drug companies, she added.

Portland Plasma, owned by North American Biological Corp., operates one of three plasma centers in Portland. Several men often lounge outside the center's entrance on Union, talking and smoking cigarettes. There is a no smoking rule inside, where pastel colors, music and laboratory cleanliness contribute to a soothing, if businesslike atmosphere.

The center makes an effort to keep its donors happy — a table in the large waiting area holds a suggestion box, and a wall poster announces a bonus promotion for July.

Donors lie comfortably on contoured couches in the spacious donor room. Plastic tubes carry blood from their arms to plastic pouches. The plasma is separated from the red blood cells in a centrifuge, and then frozen in plastic bottles at minus 25 degrees centigrade. The red blood goes back into the donor's arm.

The donor only loses a small amount of protein which the body reproduces in 48 hours, said Hodges.

Donors can give a maximum of two times a week, and must wait 48 hours in between sessions, she said.

"There are no side effects," Hodges said. Donors are screened for hepatitis, AIDS, and other diseases, she said, and they must take a complete physical exam, which is free of charge.

An instruction sheet indicates something about the clientele — it advises donors who carry knives to check them at the desk.

"Most of our donors are people who have been unemployed for some time," said Hodges. "A good percentage of them have either recently lost a job or their hours have been cut."

Donors who spend 1½ hours on the couch for each session often tell their hard luck stories to the staff, she said. "Sometimes if they come in too soon they're worried about whether they're going to eat," she said. "I think most people use their money for groceries."

Terry Bichoff from Vancouver came to the center for the first time recently after she lost her job and her wallet. "It's just for the money, really," she said.

Northeast Portland resident Rufus Williams, 30, said the \$90 a month he earns as a regular donor supplements what he makes as a part-time cook for the Portland School District. He said he appreciated the free physical exam and blood pressure screening. "You can't beat it, plus you're helping people," he said.

About 25 percent of Portland Plasma's donors come from the Albina area. "That surprises me," said Hodges, who said she expected a higher percentage of donors from the low-income neighborhoods near the center.

She said the center is operating at about 75 percent capacity, and even though it processes 90 donors a day, it could use more. "I'd like to do some community education," said Hodges. Five out of 14 staff members reside in Northeast Portland, according to Hodges, who said she hasn't advertised in community papers.

Project HELP helping

Project HELP, the winter heating assistance program Pacific Power & Light Company started in the Northwest in 1982, has completed its third year of helping customers meet their heating needs.

The program offered an emergency fuel fund of public donations, matched by Pacific Power shareholder dollars up to \$100,000, to distribute to customers needing temporary help.

Most of the funds were collected and distributed by the Salvation Army, the rest by a number of other social service agencies in five of the company's six-state service area.

Nearly \$23,000 was distributed in 246 grants to Pacific Power customers in the Portland area alone, said Jack Samper, PP&L regional vice

president. The dollar total and number of requests both were down slightly from the previous two years, reflecting a milder winter.

Statewide, more than \$111,000 in Project HELP money was distributed by the agencies, including individual contributions from members of the public plus matching funds from Pacific Power.

"Even though the weather was milder last winter, a certain amount of unemployment and sluggish economy affected some of our customers, and they sought temporary help," Samper said. "Project HELP has been a useful program for the past three years, and the company will evaluate the results and decide whether to continue it next winter."



CITY schoolchildren need more help than program gives. (Photo: Kris Altucher)

CITY programs less than helpful

by Nathaniel Scott

Judging from the Citizens Involved in Teaching Youth (CITY) program, Portland's public schools educational system is in shambles. To put it mildly, the public school system seems to be in gross error of misrepresenting itself as an educating body while children go lacking in the very basics: reading, writing and math.

The gross neglect, according to Sandra Harris, a volunteer math instructor with CITY, is atrocious. "Some of the kids [the ones she teaches] will be going into the sixth and seventh grade level in September and they don't know the basics of math," Harris said. "The kids should not be passed on without knowing the basics."

Harris added that there is "definitely" a need for the tutoring she performs because "there is definitely a problem [in the public school's educational system]."

CITY, "Organized under the auspices of people to people ministries — a private non-profit service organization — was designed to involve the community in helping children achieve their highest educational and human potential," said Dr. Carl Parker, the founder of CITY, who also is a full-time counselor at Portland Community College (PCC) Cascade campus.

CITY began the volunteer program last spring and this summer, with books borrowed from the school system's library and donated space from the King Neighborhood Facility, CITY has been teaching 30 or more children on a daily basis.

CITY has a volunteered staff of 11 people, seven adults and four youth, who teach regular class periods.

Parker contends that the children come from all areas of Portland and that the program is open to children regardless of race, creed or color. However, he adds, "Thus far the children have been minorities [Blacks]."

Valerie S. Currie graduated from Portland State University in June with

a Bachelor of Science in business administration and accounting degree. Instead of relaxing after the rigors of four years of academic grind, she is volunteering her time because she "sees a need for education in this [the Black] community."

"I would like to see the kids understand the basics; I don't understand how they get into the grades they are in," Currie said. "I am looking at too many children who don't understand the basics; it's kind of a shuffle."

Dr. Parker maintains that the program has been helpful, reaching a minimum of children who need help.

In the fall, in addition to "tracking" some of the students, CITY will continue to work with children in grades three through eight.

But what about the problem? What about the responsibility of motivating children to learn? And what about the duties of the parents and the schools?

The argument is twofold. The problem belongs to the parents and the school system, equally, one educator said. But that does not condone a system that passes children who don't deserve to be passed.

Debbie Doyle will be a freshman at Wilson High School this fall. Someday she intends to become a teacher. She enjoys working with children and this summer, instead of "hanging out," she is a volunteer math teacher with CITY's program.

Doyle's commitment is worth reflecting on. A young lady who has not begun high school, one who has just graduated from the ranks of those she is trying to help, sees a need. She sees and understands (even if she doesn't articulate it) that the public school system has too many cracks, that too many children are falling through those cracks.

Perhaps the Portland School System could use a pledge. CITY has one. It goes like this: "Today is a new day. . . what I do today affects me. . . I realize it is mine to use or to throw away."

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