

Project help kicks off with a rap

The 1990 Project HELP fund-raising drive for the needy was launched with a rap song about giving and a blanket brigade made up of two Portland fourth grade classes, Friday, November 9, at 12:30 p.m., at Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Sponsored by Portland General Electric Co. (PGE) and Pacific Power, Project HELP provides emergency heating assistance to low-income families or individuals. At the event, children from the Salvation Army's Moore Street performed the rap tune and some 50 students from Beech and Buckman Elementary schools in Portland loaded blankets donated by the two utilities into a Salvation Army Emergency Canteen.

To supplement the blanket brigade, Pacific Power shareholders are contributing \$115,000 toward Project HELP and other fuel assistance funds this year, with more than \$70,000 earmarked for Oregon Customers. PGE shareholders are donating \$40,000 to the campaign. Customers who wish to contribute should check their November billing statement for donation envelopes. Proceeds will be administered by the Salvation Army Jan. 1, 1991.

Last year, contributions totaled more than \$450,000 and helped some 4,600 families and individuals stay warm.

Avoiding Winter Electrical Hazards
one of the major hazards of fall and winter weather is the increased incidence of power lines being knocked down by ice and wind storms. In case you ever find yourself in a situation involving downed electrical lines, here are some tips that might help get you out of a jam.

* A downed line should never be moved or touched. Even if it is on the ground, the line could still be "alive" (energized) and contact could be deadly.

* If a wire falls on a vehicle, the driver and any passengers should stay inside until help arrives and the wires are removed. If remaining in the vehicle is impossible, each person must jump clear without touching the ground and the vehicle at the same time. All fallen wires should be reported to the local police, fire authorities, or PGE at 464-7777.

* Wind can also knock down television, radio, and CB antennae. Before getting up on the roof to make repairs, make sure there is ample clearance between the antenna and any overhead power lines.

* Wet and freezing conditions increase the danger of electrical equipment. Children should be reminded to stay away from electric substations, transformers, and utility poles.

Energy workshops benefit homeowners and renters

Free energy conservation workshops are being offered to the public through a grant from the Washington County Office of Community Development. Workshops, conducted by staff from the Housing and Energy Conservation Department of Washington County Community Action, will be held from now through March 1991. Interested people should contact Rosa at the Community Action office in Aloha, 642-3236.

Workshops are designed to not only educate the public on ways in which they can save energy, but also to give them training in actual weatherization of their homes. Each workshop participant will receive a free audit of their home to determine how much heat loss could be prevented through eastherization measures. The participants will then receive instruction on installation of these measures.

Homeowners or renters in low to moderate income levels will receive free materials to perform the weatherization measures that will help prevent the continued loss of heat from their homes.



SHARING IDEAS ON WAYS TO KEEP KIDS IN SCHOOL was the thrust of the Burger King Honors Excellence in Education symposium recently held in Washington, D.C. Some 117 outstanding teachers and principals of the year were honored and challenged to discuss strategies for reversing the nation's alarming dropout rate. The program is sponsored by Burger King Corporation in cooperation with the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Pictured are Reverend Jesse Jackson accepting a Burger King Academy sweatshirt from Academy students (left to right) Fernando Pavia of Miami, Fla., Gerald Perdue of Inglewood, Calif., and Gilbert Bland, president of the Burger King

Children are expensive

Parents know it costs a lot to raise a child and now there are new 1989 figures to prove it.

Parents tend to not think about how much a child costs unless they're putting out a lot of money all at once, such as for school clothes or braces. Child-rearing costs are hidden in mortgage payments, health insurance premiums and weekly food bills.

Those are some of the budgetary components considered by the Family Economics Research Group of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that recently issued revised estimates of the cost of raising a child from birth to 18.

An urban family in the West with an income from \$28,300 to \$46,900 can expect to spend about \$188,170 in 1989 dollars. A rural family with the same income will spend an estimated \$105,090.

The figures show that children be-

come more expensive as they age, with peak yearly expenditures coming in the 15-to-17 age bracket, explains Alice Mills Morrow, Extension family economics specialist. Expenditures increase as fall income increases too.

The estimates include housing, food, transportation, clothing, health and education, child care and other expenses. Morrow stressed that the figures don't include costs of birth, saving for post-high school education and indirect costs to the parents.

Urban families earning less than \$28,300 can expect to spend about \$87,000, while families earning more than \$46,900 will spend an estimated \$162-450. Rural families in the lower income level will spend about \$73,200, while those in the highest level will spend an estimated \$149,700 in 1989 dollars.

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CSD RESEARCH PROJECT TO IDENTIFY STATEWIDE NEED

To better identify what resources and staff Children's Services Division needs to protect Oregon's children, the agency is preparing to audio tape incoming phone calls from people reporting child abuse and neglect. The recordings of incoming reports will help CSD determine exactly how many staff are needed to provide services in each community.

During November and December, all branches will have incoming calls recorded. Each branch will participate in this program for three weeks. Depending on the size of the branch, all calls or some calls will be taped.

The completed recordings will go to Portland State University and the University of Oregon. Graduate students, temporarily hired by CSD, will eliminate certain identifying information such as the names of intake screeners, clients and callers. CSD will not touch the tapes from the time they are recorded to the time all that information is eliminated.

After all the calls have been reviewed by the graduate students, a committee consisting of a current CSD worker, a retired worker of retired supervisor, and an academic community representative will listen to the tapes. No current

management personnel will be listening to tapes. The committee will determine what should have happened when the call first came into a branch office.

CSD's research department will analyze the data. Researcher Paul Bellatty believes this project will help the agency standardize its work. "We can't compare branches under our current system. This will allow us to compare branches and project CSD's protective service workload more accurately."

This research project is the first of its kind nationwide. In all other child welfare agencies across the country, workload projections are difficult to make. It is hoped that Oregon's model project will be successful in Oregon and will help other states predict child welfare needs.

Workers who participate in this project have agreed to do so. If callers do not wish to be recorded, they will be referred to another number for assistance.

To keep the cost of this project down, CSD has contracted with graduate students instead of universities. The total cost of the audio taping program is \$15,000.

We feed dreams

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