

Bread for the World Urges Congress to Increase Funding for WIC, Head Start and Job Corps

Dear Editor:

It's the sign of our times. Our children are hungry, but will Congress hear their plea? This urgent message to Feed Our Children! can be seen on an eye-catching display Bread for the World has constructed near the nation's capitol. (See photo).

The desperate reality is that one in five U.S. children faces hunger each day. In fact, children are the poorest age group and the fastest growing segment of hungry people in the United States. Between 1979 and 1989 childhood poverty increased 21 percent, with 13.4 million children currently suffering from the preventable, debilitating condition known as poverty.

Bread for the World, the nation's largest citizens' lobby against hunger, has recently unveiled its latest initiative to help call attention to hungry children. We've hoisted a construction crane and giant children's building blocks atop our downtown office hoping to generate momentum around our campaign to end childhood hunger in America.

This colorful display is visible to over 200,000 Capitol Hill commuters

who pass by each week on the city's mass transit system and countless others who pass on one of the major thoroughfares. The message is clear: Feed Our Children! Bread for the World urges Congress to Increase Funding for WIC, Head start and Job Corps.

Bread for the World's 45,000 members are calling Congress to help feed our nation's children by supporting the Every Fifth Child Act. The bipartisan measure seeks funding increases for three cost-saving programs proven to reduce childhood hunger: the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Head Start and Job Corps. The Every Fifth Child Act outlines a plan to reach millions more children eligible for these effective programs.

The fires which roared recently in Los Angeles illuminated the unprecedented level of need in our urban communities. Such an effective social investment will not only play a critical role in assisting children at risk of poverty and hunger, but will safeguard taxpayer dollars through future savings in medical costs, an educated work force and increased productivity.

## 1992 Reptile Picnic Saturday, July 25th, 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Yo, reptiles and other friends! It's time again for the annual Reptile Pot Luck Picnic at Hart's Reptile World in Canby, OR. Be creative with the dishes that you bring!

The picnic is for ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, whether long-time reptile owners, proud new beginners, or simply those with an appreciation for these fascinating creatures. Swapping reptile stories is always a highlight of the evening.

This year we are fortunate to have entertainment. One of our very own volunteers, Andrea Rodakowski, will perform traditional belly dances, and will include our Indian python, Mun Taj Mahal, in one of her dances.

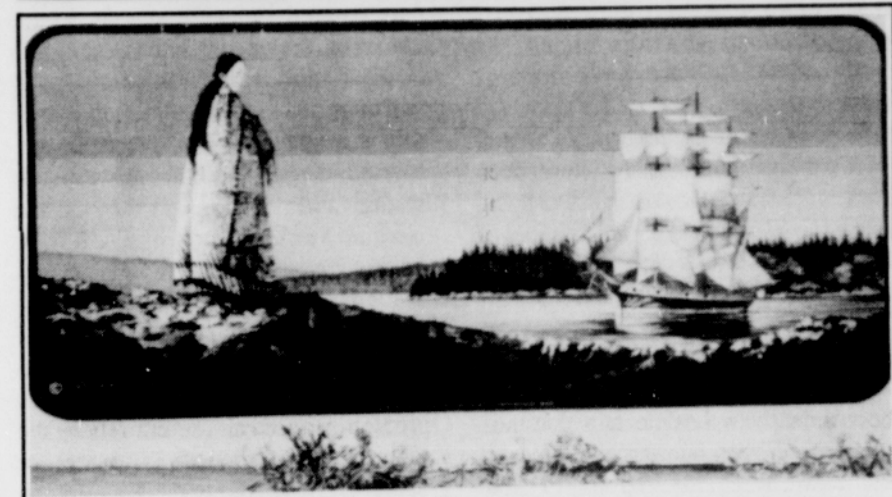
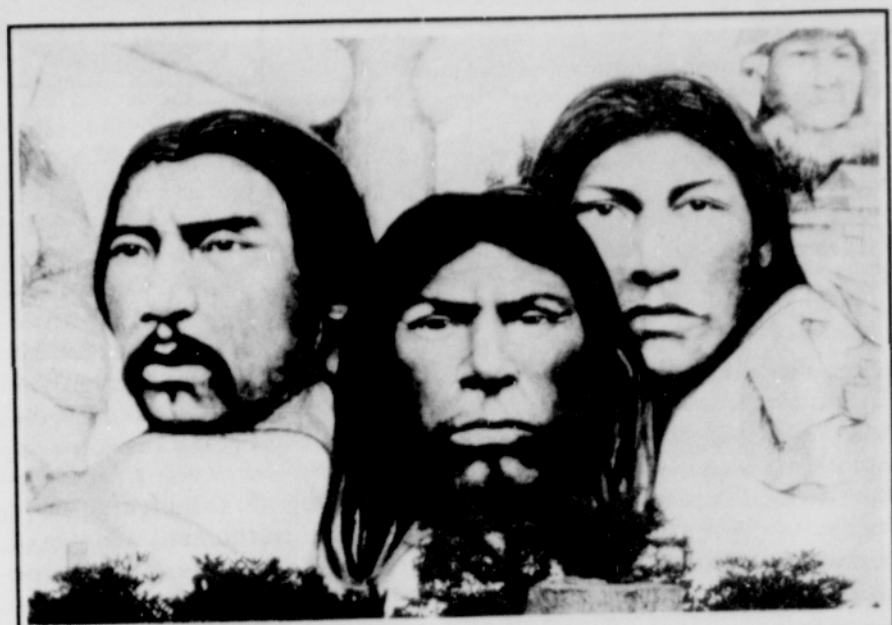
Measure 5 has hit us hard. We have had 75% fewer groups touring the exhibit this year as compared to last year. Company picnics and business promotions are down by 66%, and there has also been a significant decrease in general public admissions. Over 100 reptiles

have been donated to the Reptile World since January 1992 (37 in one single week!), and many others have been taken in after being abandoned by their owners. So, while the exhibit's income has declined dramatically, the necessary costs of housing, food, and medical care for the ever-increasing number of reptiles has skyrocketed.

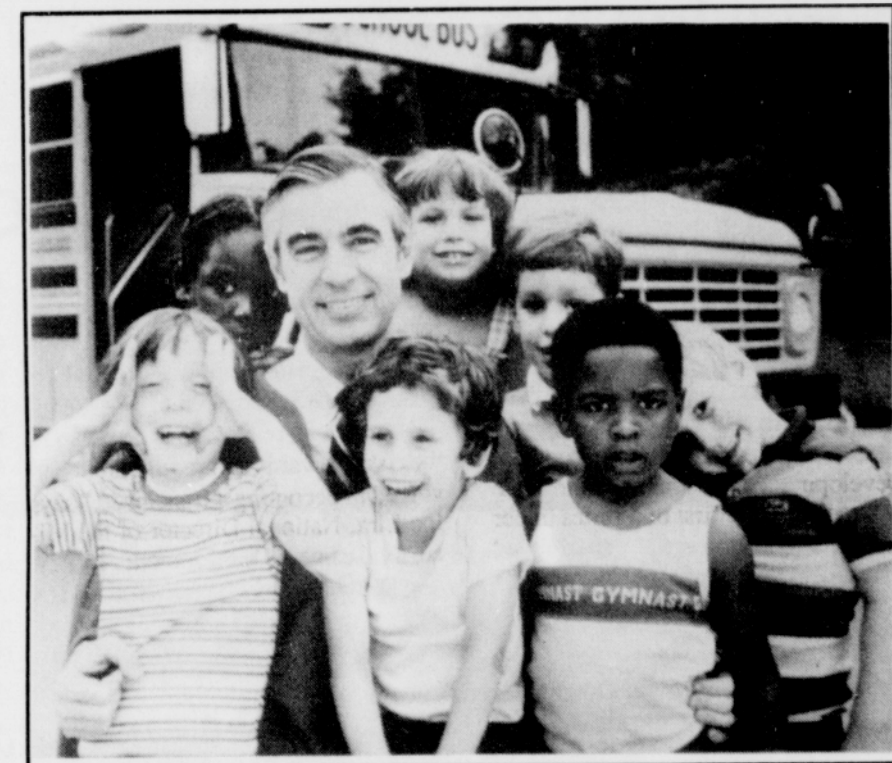
Therefore, along with our reptile picnic this year we're going to have a very low key fund-raiser. We will be selling raffle tickets for \$1.00 apiece -- door prizes will include a Wilbur the Crocodile visit, gift certificates from area merchants, and a few surprises! We will also have a silent auction featuring some of Wilbur's clothing and memorabilia, all "personally pawed" by Wilbur. Please come, even if you are unable to make a donation at this time. We cherish your friendship most of all.

Bring Family and friends, please RSVP by Friday, July 24th.

## Walls of Beauty



This summer, BC Ferries offers 56 sailings daily between its mainland Tsawwassen terminal (20 minutes south of Vancouver) and the Vancouver Island Cities of Nanaimo and Victoria. For additional information on BC Ferries' service to 42 ports of call in British Columbia's coastal region, call (604) 386-3431; or write, BC Ferries, 1112 Fort St., Dept. L&L, Victoria, BC., Canada V8V 4V2



Mister Rogers Goes To School, an Emmy award-winning week of programs from Mister Rogers' Neighborhood endores the week of August 10-14, 1992 on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). Fred Rogers created the series of five programs to prepare children for their first school experiences. (Editors: Check with your local PBS station for the exact times programs #1461-#1465 are scheduled in your area). Photo: Walt Seng.

## Open House

Saturday, July 25, 1992  
2:00 to 5:00 PM

Please join us as we celebrate our twelfth year of serving the number one resource in our community, **the children.**

Our open house will provide you, our supporters, an opportunity to meet **Mariah Taylor**, the woman whose dedication makes our organization possible. It will also give us an opportunity to thank you personally for your continued support.

Your \$20 tax-deductible donation, or any donation you can make, will provide desperately needed services to the homeless and medically indigent children in the Portland metropolitan area.

Thank you for your support.

5311 N. Vancouver Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97217  
503-284-5239

## Sohm Honored For Work On City Street Lights

Catherine Sohm was honored by Commissioner Earl Blumenauer and Office of Transportation today at a reception and plaque dedication for her 37 years of public service to the City's street light system. Sohm has spearheaded efforts to improve and maintain the City's street lights through her work and dedication on various citizen advisory committees.

In 1953, the National Safety Council declared that the City of Portland had the worst street lighting in the country for a city its size. Sohm was first appointed in 1954 by Mayor Fred Peterson to serve on the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Streetlighting. She was instrumental in the successful passage of the first special street lighting levy and the installation of over 5,000 mercury vapor lights. Since that time, the citizens of Portland have shown their support by consistently approving special tax levies dedicated to street

lighting.

Sohm has also worked to secure a stable funding source for the City's street lights. Last year she served on a special street lighting task force appointed by City Council.

"We are grateful for the energy and effort Catherine has given over the years," commented Commissioner Earl Blumenauer, who oversees the Office of Transportation. "Her work has made streets safer and neighborhoods better for everyone in Portland. Good citizens, like Catherine Sohm, are the riches of the City."

"Catherine's a treasure," said Felicia Trader, Director of the Office of Transportation. "She has been a tireless worker to provide well-lighted, safe streets for Portland. When she started her quest, the City had a few hundred street lights. Today we have 44,000. We need more citizens volunteers just like her."

## AKA Selects Powell For Top Achievement Award

Joint chiefs of staff chairman Colin L. Powell and South Africa's Madama Leah Tutu will receive achievement awards, and Rep. Cardiss L. Collins, Black Entertainment Television's Robert Johnson, and TransAfrica's Randall Robinson will get peace and justice honors during Alpha Kappa Alpha's fifty-fifth biennial meeting, 7:30 p.m., July 19 in Hall F of the New Orleans Convention Center.

The awards will be presented at the

public meeting, one of many activities opened to the New Orleans community during the convention which runs July 18-24. An ecumenical service, political and health forums, a health fair, and a salute to the Black press round out the public events.

Powell will receive the Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Medallion of Honor, AKA's top award. He is the youngest man and the first black ever named chairman of the joint chiefs. Powell

designed the Persian Gulf plan that mobilized the fastest large-scale development of U.S. forces since World War II.

The 3:00 p.m. Salute to the Black Press July 23 will recognize the contributions of the black press and spotlight Ida B Wells who used her pen to protest racism, sexism, and other indignities during the Reconstruction era.

## "Learning How to Help" Evening Series

Wednesday, July 15, 1992  
7-8:00 p.m. at  
Woodland Park Hospital  
in the Child's Auditorium

"Learning How to Help"

● A Free Series ●

- Explore options for helping yourself or others who are experiencing chemical dependency and/or mental health problems
- Learn available services
- Learn what to do first, second, . . . .
- Gain the knowledge and motivation it takes to take the first step to getting help

Sponsored by: Woodland Park Hospital's  
Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Services  
10300 N.E. Hancock Street  
Portland, Oregon 97220 (503) 257-5500

## Household Timers Can Help Prevent Those Summertime Burglary Blues

SPRING GROVE, Ill.—While vacationers take a few weeks away from it all this summer, burglars may be taking a few prized possessions away from them back home. But household timers and some other simple precautions can help prevent those summertime blues.

"Homeowners have recognized for years that timers help prevent burglaries," says Michael Einstein, marketing manager for Intermatic Inc., a Spring Grove, Ill., manufacturer of security timers and safety lighting products. "And by turning lights and appliances off when they're not needed, timers also are a practical way to reduce wasted energy."

### Create an occupied look

Lamp and appliance timers make a vacationer's house look occupied by creating the impression of movement and activity throughout the home at different times of the day. An around-the-clock illusion is important because most burglaries actually occur during daylight.

A timer connected to a radio or television, for instance, can make it appear that someone is sitting in the living room during the afternoon or working in a den at night. Lamp timers can create the impression of someone moving from room to room over the course of an evening.

Special programmable and random on/off security timers also mislead those housebreakers watching for a predictable, "timer-controlled" look that says no one is

home. Such devices are inexpensive and easy to use.

"Sound-activated security switches are another effective way to deter burglars," says Einstein. "They're designed to turn indoor lights or outside floodlights on when sound is detected, and keep them on until the sound stops."

### Take other precautions

Vacationers should take a few other simple precautions, such as having neighbors gather the mail and newspapers, and having the lawn cut if necessary. Never leave notes saying no one is home. In many communities, particularly smaller towns, the local police department will send patrols past the homes of vacationers who have notified them.

In addition, Einstein advises vacationers to trim the shrubbery and bushes that give burglars the perfect place to hide outside their homes. Police also suggest leaving only a few scattered lamps on, so that anyone peering through the windows won't have a lot of light to see what is happening inside.

### Recommends installing floodlights

Since nighttime burglars love alleys and dark walkways next to houses that allow them to work undetected, Einstein suggests installing floodlights in appropriate spots to reduce the chances of theft.

"Homeowners also might want to add a set of low voltage outdoor lights," he adds.



CRIME STOPPER—Indoor timers such as this Time-All model from Intermatic can help homeowners reduce their chances of being burglarized.

"Because low voltage outdoor lights use safe, 12-volt current, a typical set costs just pennies per night to operate."

Considering that the average value of the possessions stolen in a home burglary is more than \$1,000, the cost of protecting a home with timers and low voltage lighting is very low. As a result, vacationers should have enough money left over to think about where they can afford to go next year.

Portland Observer encourages our readers to write letters to the editor in response to any articles we publish.