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# METRO *Life*

LIFE IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

The Portland Observer

## Job Corps A Bold Social Experience

By DAN BELL

During the mid 1960's the Johnson administration recognized the plight of inner city youth and embarked on a bold program to help enable them reach their human potential.

In reality the Job Corps was modeled after the 1930's depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps. (CCC) Though the CCC was successful, it had been created as an emergency relief program and was abolished when World War II ended.

Job Corps presently has 108 sites nationwide. They recruit young people ages 16-24. Although the original mission was to assist city dwellers over the course of the years that focus has been expanded to reach rural residents as well.

Job Corps provides vocational training with an opportunity to either secure GED or secure college credits.

Job Corps returns \$1.46 for every dollar spent on operation of the program back to the commu-

nity. There are six Job Corps sites in Oregon for training, and five sites for recruitment.

The recruitment sites are in Portland, Salem, Eugene, Pendleton, and Grants Pass.

Currently the Oregon Department of Labor under Commissioner Wendy Roberts has the federal contract to recruit Corps men and women for the state of Oregon.

Management Training Corporation, of Utah oversees the placement of Corps men and women who relocated to Oregon. Their offices are located in Grants Pass, Eugene and Portland.

Lana Barr who is the recruitment coordinator for Job Corps states that Job Corps markets its services through advertising. In various papers, speaking at schools giving presentations, attending Job Fairs, as well as working with CSD and welfare.

The recruiting program also works with private non-profit entities such as House of Umoja,

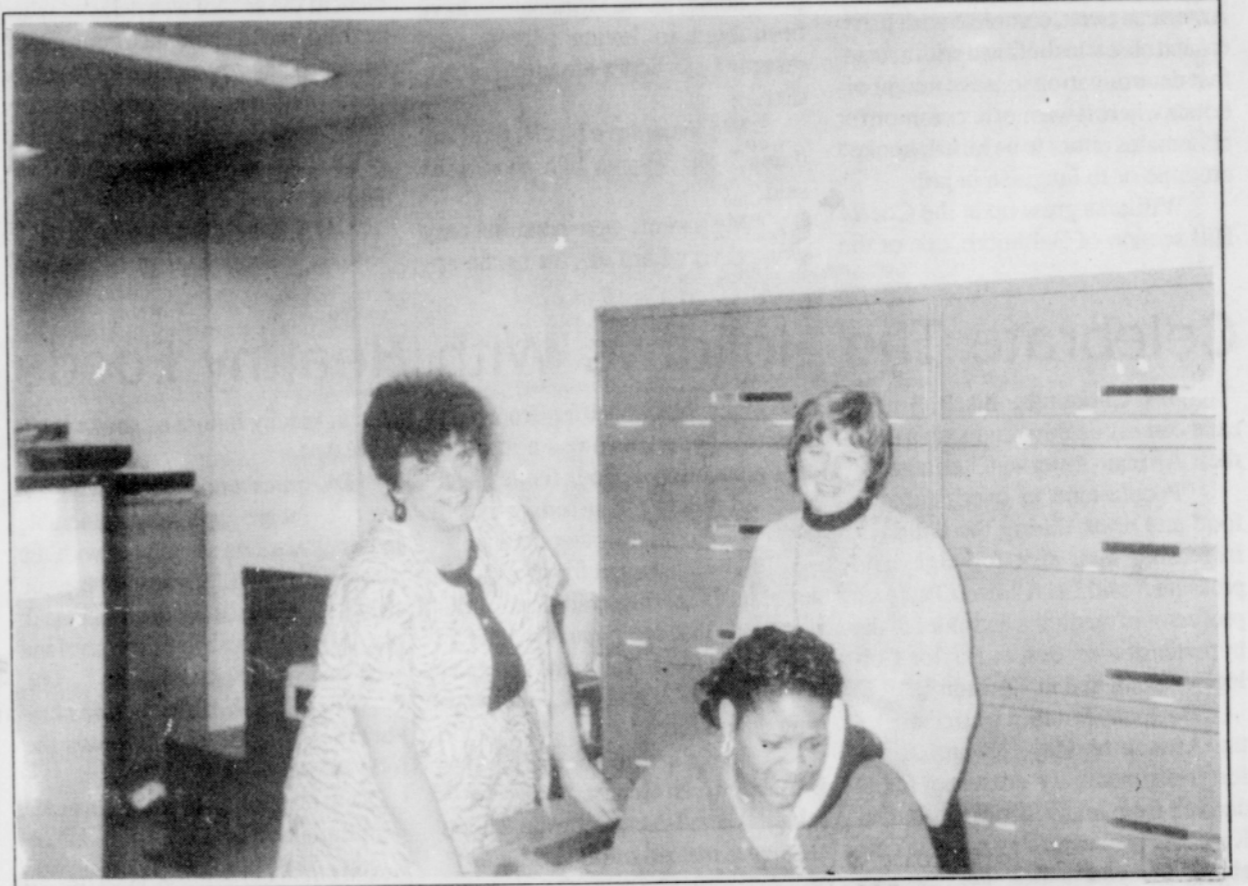
MYCAP and Yaun Center. Job Corps offers its clients an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

While attending Job Corps young people are provided with the opportunity to learn a skilled craft which in turn is sanctioned by the union. The relationship Job Corps has with the various unions ensures a greater chance of employment upon completion of their training. Job Corps also provides educational options. Job Corps also provides a bi-weekly stipend with incentive bonus intermittently.

Corps men and women are also provided with free medical and dental benefits while enrolled in the program.

Upon completion of their training Corps men and women are assisted by a placement component to help them find a job, enter higher education, or join the military.

For those interested in further information you may contact Susan St George at 731-4086.



Lana Barr, Recruiting; Aretha Brown, Job Corps graduate and Rachell Raymorg, Placement.

## Transitional Housing Needs Support Families

Ujima is Swahili for "collective work and responsibility" and the third principle of Kwanzaa, to build and maintain our community together and make our sister's and brother's problems our problems and to solve them together." The small membership-based, grassroots community development corporation located in Sabin neighborhood is doing just that by developing long term affordable drug-free housing for women making the transition from correctional institu-

tions and treatment centers back into the community. The Ujima project challenges the fears and stereotypes associated with special needs housing and NIMBY (Not-In-My Backyard) problem by pairing a special needs house with community members who will act as its support system and first line of defense in dealing with any problems that might arise. Ujima provides an opportunity for monitoring and celebrating success, rather than leaving progress to

chance.

Sabin Community Development Corporation (SCDC) received a small grant from McKenzie River Gathering Foundation to develop a community outreach program for the Ujima Project and another small grant from Meyer Memorial Trust to recruit and train support families for the Ujima women. Although SCDC will act as the housing developer, other social services and an Advisory Council are developing the program components.

The Sabin neighborhood is located in inner Northeast Portland in an area roughly defined east/west by NE 23rd and NE 10th and north/south by Alberta and Fremont.

SCDC is focusing its efforts in target areas west of 15th and north of Prescott between 15th and 23rd. Approximately 17% of SCDC target area homes are vacant and almost entirely consists of single-family homes with vast majority being over 50 years old in need of substantial repairs.

According to the 1990 census, the percentage of African-American residents in Sabin is more than five times that of the city of Portland as a whole. Sabin is proud of and wants to preserve its diversity which makes Ujima all the more important. In the targeted area, female-headed households make up almost half of all family households as compared to 35% in Sabin and 19.8% citywide. In Sabin 91% of renting households make less than \$20,000 per year and spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Based on recent newspaper listings, a two bedroom house in Sabin rents for \$500+/mo, three bedrooms \$650/month, and four bedrooms \$725+/month. It is the goal of SCDC to provide housing to the Ujima women with rent beginning under \$300/month.

The Ujima Project concept is simple: provide affordable drug-free housing coupled with "real life" skills celebrates success!

Many community organizations, social service agencies, government agencies, churches and self-help support groups are continuously being contacted in order to obtain support

families, feedback, partnerships and letters of endorsement for this project. The partnerships between the community and existing service providers will provide a unique public/private response to cutbacks in services. From these contacts an Advisory Council was formed. A partial list of representatives are: Albina Ministerial Alliance, Center for Community Mental Health, Maranatha Church Women's Ministries, State of Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, Stay Clean, Inc. and Louise Memorial Day Care. More important is that women that will be served are represented on the Advisory Council, which currently has two openings for recovering women and/or a female ex-offender.

Continued on page 7

## Hales Appoints New Fire Chief; Breaks Long Standing Tradition

Portland City commissioner Charlie Hales appointed Palo Alto Fire chief Robert Wall to head the Bureau of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services today. It is the first time in the City's history that a fire chief has been appointed from outside the Bureau.

"There are four key tasks facing the Portland Fire Bureau in the next few years," Hales explained. "They are: creating a workforce that reflects the diversity of our community; streamlining and modernizing the management of this public agency; preparing our city and the metropolitan area for earthquakes and other natural disasters; and bringing fire professionals and neigh-

borhoods together. Bob Wall has both experience and proven leadership in each of these four areas."

Further, Hales says Wall has managed a fire department that provides ambulance transport, a service the Portland Fire Bureau plans on starting next June.

In explaining his decision, Hales noted: "There is a wealth of talent inside the Fire Bureau. This decision was a difficult one and not taken lightly. But it is time to bring someone in with a new perspective and that is what I've done."

Wall, 52, began his career

Continued on page 11

## Gap Helps Low Income Families Pay Heating Bills

In order to help low-income families stay warm this winter, Northwest Natural Gas Company is soliciting donations for the Gas Assistance Program (GAP). GAP funds are distributed throughout the utility's service area to help low-income people pay their heating bills.

"Every dollar given to GAP goes to those who need help", said Robert L. Ridgley, president and chief executive officer of Northwest Gas Company. "Not a penny of the contribution goes to pay overhead or adminis-

trative costs.

"Because of the generous support the program has received over the years, GAP has helped more than 27,000 households stay warm during winter."

GAP funds are collected by the United Way and are then dispersed to community action agencies throughout the company's service area. Each applicant is screened by an agency to determine eligibility.

Since its inception in 1982, GAP has collected \$2,090,968 from North-

west Natural customers, employees, shareholders and others. Last year, 1,816 households received approximately \$161,500 in assistance.

Natural gas customers should look for the red and green envelopes in this month's gas bill to send in their tax-deductible donation. Others should send their donations to: United Way/Gap, 619 S.W. 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97205.

Those needing assistance should contact their local community action agency.

## Jefferson To Select Parents & Community Reps For Site Council

Jefferson High School is currently seeking applicants to represent parents and the community at-large on its new site council. Pursuant to provisions of House Bill 3565, known as the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century or the Katz Bill, all schools in the state are required to establish such councils, composed of teachers, classified district employees, administrators, students, parents of students and community members by September 1995.

Two parents of Jefferson students

and one community member at-large will be selected as representatives of the Jefferson council.

Representatives will meet twice monthly for two hours each session. Interested applicants may contact Jefferson High School, 280-5180, for an application. Applications must be received by November 27, 1993. The local school advisory committee, chaired by Deborah Leopold, will coordinate the selection process.

The duties of the building site

committee include the development and implementation of a plan to improve professional growth and career opportunities for school staff; improvement of the school's instructional program; and the coordination and implementation of the Katz Bill at the school site.

Faculty, Classified and administrative council members have already been elected by their peers to serve two year terms. Two students will also serve on the council.

## Community Calendar

"Northwest Soundings", Saturday, December 4, 1993, at 8pm. First Christian Church, 1350 SW Broadway. (503) 236-8678

Enchanted Christmas at Eola Hills Wine Cellars, Thursday, December 2, 7pm to 10pm. (Reservations required) (503) 623-2405

Come See Our Kids, December 18, 1993, 7pm, Grace Collins Memorial Center 128 NE Russell (503)281-6930

Portland Fire Bureau's Toy & Joy New Request Number (503) 823-6250

Humorist LuRain Penny (December 3rd show sold out) December 12 & December 19, at 7:30pm; Friday & Saturday thru December 18 at 8pm. At the ARC 718 W Burnside (223-7279)

Christmas Around the World, Rose City Narzarena, 7016 NE Sandy, December 4, 7 to 8:30pm (503) 287-8473.

We Are Tubas, Hear Us Roar, Sunday, December 12, 1:30pm, Pioneer Courthouse Square, (503) 223-1613.

Scrooge Lives Arts and Crafts Fair, December 1 to 2, 10am to 8:30pm, Mt. Hood Community College in the College Center Fireplace Lounge, 26000 SE Stark St., Gresham (505) 667-7214.

James Griener To Star As Mythmaker At IFCC, December 9 to 12, 8pm, IFCC, 5340 N. Interstate (503) 335-3590.

Sisterhood Luncheon, Rip City Diner, 3100 NE Sandy Blvd., Friday, December 10, 11:30am. (503) 282-7973.

Community Service Conference, Senator Mark Hatfield one of the speakers, Portland State University, December 11, 8am to 4pm. (503) 725-5484.

Economic Development Policy Discussion, Thursday, December 2, 7pm, Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th (503) 823-3323.

Historic Oregon City Annual Main Street Holiday Parade and Trail's End Lighting Event, Saturday, December 4, 3:30pm (503) 650-6010.