

# Family Living

The Portland Observer

## Working at the Zoo

It takes all kinds of animals to make up a successful zoo.

It also takes all kinds of people. The Metro Washington Park Zoo is one of the largest job recruiters in the region. Some 400 full and part-time staffers make up the zoo's weekly payroll—most of whom have actually little to do with the day-to-day care of animals.

These include office clerks and receptionists, food commissary and restaurant workers, gardeners, maintenance personnel, graphic artists, railroad technicians, security workers, librarians, photographers, educational personnel, and retail salespeople.

"We focus on bringing all types of

people into our zoo family," said Carmen Hannold, manager of recruitment and training. "We especially reach out to minorities, and persons who are mentally challenged and the physically disabled. We believe a zoo is a community enterprise and as such, its staff should represent all facets and walks of life in that community."

This year's summer recruits received 16 hours of both classroom and on-the-job training. Their pay will range from \$5 to \$7 an hour depending on experience.

Hannold noted when she first came to the zoo 17 years ago, there was no recruitment office, much less any policies. "Things just seemed to hap-

pen," she laughed.

The zoo offers a tremendous training ground for job seekers and can be a major career opportunity for some. Hannold herself is a good example of a summer zoo worker who went on to bigger and better things.

Now 34, the amicable Hannold started at the zoo as a food handler while a 17-year-old junior at Cleveland High School. "I simply fell in love with the zoo atmosphere and decided to make it a career," she recalled with a smile.

What reasons do applicants give for wanting to work at the zoo?

"Oh, there's a number of reasons," Hannold said. "Many say they simply like the animals. Others say it sounds like a fun place to work. Some

want to work towards becoming keepers. To those, I always tell them to get a degree first and then be prepared to start cleaning up cages.

"We do have a unique and pleasant environment," Hannold adds. "A lot of people say this is the best job they've ever had."

To obtain its annual summertime personnel, the zoo sends out special "help wanted" posters to more than 200 Portland metropolitan area agencies, including schools, colleges, outreach programs and community centers.

It also advertises in the help wanted sections of *The Oregonian* and various minority and school newspapers.

## Sept. is baby safety month

Today marks the beginning of Baby Safety Month and the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) will again remind parents about the safe use and selection of juvenile products. Although many new parents are purchasing products designed to keep baby safe, not all of them follow the manufacturers' instructions.

For example, every state in America requires that an infant be placed in a car seat, but many consumers are still using car seats improperly.

And, many parents and child care givers are unaware that a rear-facing car seat must never be used in the front seat of a car containing an

air bag. In addition, many parents accept hand-me-down or second-hand cribs not realizing the older models may not meet today's safety guidelines. Parents want to keep their children safe, but many need more information about safe use of products.

Consumers may receive a complimentary brochure, "Safe & Sound For Baby," a colorful 16-page booklet providing information on the safe use of the most commonly used juvenile products, by sending a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to Safety Brochure, 236 Route 38 West, Suite 100, Moorestown, NJ, 08057.

## When do aging parents need care?

As America's population rapidly ages, many adults will be facing the question, "How do I know if Mom or Dad need help?"

While it may seem obvious, discovering whether aging parents or grandparents need assistance is not always easy.

"Many older people may seem perfectly capable of running their own lives and homes, but often they are reluctant to admit they need help," said Patricia A. Lynett, vice president and chief operating officer of Kelly Assisted Living Services, a home health care provider.

Lynett listed a few common symptoms that might indicate whether an older person needs some added assistance.

\* Inadequate meals and nutrition. Older individuals may lose interest in preparing well-balanced, nutritious meals — especially if they live alone.

\* Unopened or piled-up bills. Failing eyesight, recurring memory lapses, or hampered writing abilities are some of the reasons bills go unpaid. Many times older people have difficulty writing legibly or they are confused by particular billing procedures.

\* Recurring memory lapses. Many older individuals can remember events that took place 30 years ago with more clarity than what they did

yesterday. Memory lapses are not uncommon, but if they interfere with taking medications properly or remembering to turn off the stove, daily assistance may be needed.

\* Frequent falls. If a parent or grandparent seems to be falling a great deal, make sure he or she has a complete physical examination.

Many illnesses, as well as the side effects of some medicines, may be causing dizziness or lack of balance. A doctor may recommend using a cane or walker, or suggest personal assistance in the home as an appropriate solution.

\* Lack of interest/feeling down. Although feeling depressed at times is a normal occurrence, continuation of this condition could be symptomatic of more serious health problems and the family doctor should be consulted. In most cases, however, simply encouraging a parent or grandparent to get involved in outside activities may help. Or if they are home-bound, obtain a companion service for them. These steps may help relieve their loneliness and rejuvenate their enjoyment of life.

\* Unsafe driving. With age comes a natural slowing of the reflexes and a decline in eyesight, which could hamper an older person's driving ability. If a parent or grandparent is no longer able to drive safely, dis-

miss the issue openly with him or her, and let the relative know that transportation needs can be met in other ways.

\* A marked change in behavior. Behavior changes — such as no longer attending church or not cleaning the house — might indicate it is time for a frank and open discussion be-

tween family members. A radical change in mood or behavior that persists should be discussed with a doctor as soon as possible.

A variety of home care services are also available to help older persons achieve the greatest possible level of health and comfort in their own homes.

## Vatican says child abuse is challenge for all

The Vatican, on Sunday, welcomed the first global conference on child abuse and called on Christians and governments everywhere to tackle the problem.

"We welcome with hope and enthusiasm the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children," Cardinal Angel Trujillo, head of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Family, said in a document on the subject.

The conference, held in Sweden, closed on Saturday. "It is a great challenge and the Holy Father says: 'How is it possible to remain indifferent in the face of the suffering of so many children, especially when it is caused in this way,'" Trujillo said.

"This challenge represents a particular duty for the Church, for all Christian communities in the world—for bishops, for the bishops conferences, for all families and pastoral agents.

"It is also a challenge for governments, in particular for lawmakers and jurists and for all civil authorities."

Trujillo described children as a "precious treasure" and said the causes of child abuse included the collapse of families and the "widespread banalisation of sex, in particular where the traditional values of the person and the family have been weakened under the Western influence of secularisation."



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MR. CHARLES JORDAN DIRECTOR OF PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

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