

Helping Hands For Christmas

Brownie Troop 700 gives St. Vincent dePaul a helping hand for Christmas.



See Metro, inside.

Scratch For Charities

Donated Oregon Lottery tickets help out Portland's favorite charities.



See Metro, inside.

Bearcats Go For Gold

Mrs. Frances Schöen-Newspaper University of Oregon Libr Eugene, Oregon 97403



See Sports, page B2

The Portland Observer 25¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Clinton Names Bill Lee

President Clinton is expected to announce the appointment of Bill Lann Lee as the government's civil rights chief. Officials passed the word in advance of an announcement later in the day. Senate Republicans have been blocking Lee's nomination, so Clinton plans to name him as "acting" assistant attorney general for civil rights. That would allow him to serve in the job without Senate confirmation.

Inspector Awaits Reply

The chief U.N. weapons inspector pushed for access to dozens of restricted sites in a second round of talks recently with Iraq's deputy prime minister. Inspector Richard Butler said he expects an Iraqi response to the U.N. demand to allow inspectors into roughly 60 sites before he leaves Iraq. "The talks on that were reasonable and that should be a pattern of the meeting," he told The Associated Press. Chemical and biological weapons programs were discussed, Butler said. "We do have a problem here," he told the AP.

Group makes accusations

Nearly 700 American hospitals have illegally "dumped" untreated patients from their emergency rooms in the last 10 years, but just a handful have been punished, a consumer group said. In a report, Public Citizen blamed hospitals for breaking the law and the Department of Health and Human Services for failing to enforce it. In most cases, dumped patients do not have insurance, according to Sidney Wolfe of Public Citizen's Health Research Group. But he added that an increasing number are not treated because their managed-care plans refuse to pay.

Hanukkah in Space

American astronaut David Wolf and his Russian crewmates aboard the Mir space station plan to celebrate the holidays in style. Wolf, who is Jewish, received a menorah as a Hanukkah gift from his sister. The menorah and gelt, holiday candy that looks like coins, were delivered by a Russian supply ship in October. The 41-year-old doctor and engineer said he feels extremely good after nearly three months in space, although he misses his home - and pizza. Wolf's replacement is scheduled to arrive in late January.

School Shooter Indicted

Michael Carneal has been indicted on murder charges in the shootings at his high school. The 14-year-old freshman is charged with three counts of murder, five counts of attempted murder and one count of burglary. Carneal is charged as a juvenile with murder, attempted murder and burglary for allegedly stealing the gun. The maximum sentence is life with the possibility of parole after 25 years.

Jackson Gets 26 Months

A woman who tried to extort \$40 million from Bill Cosby by threatening to tell tabloids she is the comedy star's illegitimate daughter was sentenced today to 26 months in prison. But an attorney for Autumn Jackson said she might end up serving only six months because the judge said the sentence could be reduced if Ms. Jackson completes a rehabilitation program in prison.

Trial Begins for the Jackal

The trial of the man once known as one of the world's most wanted terrorists began quietly today. Ilich Ramirez Sanchez - better known as Carlos the Jackal, the flamboyant mastermind of bombings, assassinations and hostage dramas - is facing manslaughter charges in the 1975 Paris killings of two French agents and another man. Prosecutors hope to put the 48-year-old former communist terrorist behind bars for 30 years.

Justice For Welfare And Working Poor

By NEIL HELPERN

A barrage of complaints about the lack of justice for people on welfare and what working poor were levied during a rally last Wednesday.

Topics ranged from welfare rules that keep people from receiving adequate training and income to the inability of the legal minimum wage to provide a "living wage."

Several speakers said current statistics showing people leaving welfare rolls were misleading. Laura Rodgers, Oregon Public Employees Union shop steward at Portland State University, noted state and federal officials are "under pressure for better statistics, to remove clients from welfare, but at what cost?"

"The welfare debates in Washington are focused on the needs of politicians, not the poor," said Father Bob Krueger of St. Andre's Catholic Church in Portland, where the forum was held.

"Time limits and lectures are no substitute for wages to support a family."

A recent survey of 40 social agencies in three Portland area counties showed most people whose benefits were stopped after finding jobs were still economically strapped, according to Wendy Lebow of Multnomah County Department of Community and Family Services.

"They have cut one third of the caseloads in three years," noted Nancy Weed of Portland, "but they haven't cut poverty."

She objected to instances of blatant neglect of poverty issues. "If a woman and her



Laura Rodgers (right), of Portland State University, spoke at Jobs With Justice rally. Event organizer Nancy Haque is at left. (Photo by Neil Helpern)

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Christmas Food Drive To Feed 5,000 Families

Think of a Christmas dinner table set with turkey, ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls and pie. Now add spaghetti, cereal, peanut butter and jelly, bread, tuna, canned and fresh fruit, soups and cookies. All together this does not make your traditional American Christmas dinner. However, this list does make up the ingredients in a Christmas Food Box from St. Vincent de Paul.

"Most people think the food we provide is just for Christmas day," said Janice Pelster, the Executive Director for St. Vincent de Paul. "But we know that low-income families often need food for a week, so we provide enough to last families four to

seven days."

St. Vincent de Paul plans to make 5,000 Christmas food boxes this year for families in the Portland metropolitan region. At 65 pounds per box, that amounts to 325,000 pounds of food, most of which is donated during the months of November and December.

"Unfortunately, more people are coming to our door for help this year than ever before," said Pelster. "This increase in need seems to be a result of the lack of affordable housing and cuts in government programs. I hope that those who are able to help will be generous this holiday season to help us help others."

The food is collected from numerous sources including door-to-door food drives, food barrels placed in businesses, and food

drives in churches and schools. St. Vincent de Paul also participated in the NEST (Network of Emergency Service Teams) door-to-door food drive in November which collected a total of about 60,000 pounds of food total for the participating agencies. This was the first year for this collaborative effort.

This is the 58th year the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Drive will collect and distribute food. Food boxes will be distributed on December 20 to families in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Columbia, Tillamook and Clatsop Counties. St. Vincent's is also running an "Adopt-A-Family" program to find sponsors for over 500 families that need more than food.

Food barrels are now placed in many busi-

nesses, churches and schools through December 18. People who wish to contribute non-perishable food may bring contributions to any St. Vincent de Paul thrift store, any Catholic church or to Central Catholic High School (at the corner of SE 24th and Stark Streets) between December 8 and December 18.

Anyone who would like to help by collecting food or sponsoring a family in need can call St. Vincent de Paul at 235-7837. Financial contributions can be mailed to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas food program, 3601 SE 27th, Portland, OR 97202.

St. Vincent de Paul is currently taking requests for food. People in need should call 232-9797.

"Portland School Board Fails to Comply"



A. Halim Rahsaam (left), Richard Luccetti, Charlotte Brown and Ron Herndon of CMAC held a press conference on Dec. 10 to address their concerns over the Portland Public School Board. (Photo by M. Washington)

By JOY RAMOS

A press conference was held at the King Neighborhood Facility on Wednesday, Dec. 10

by the Community Monitoring Advisory Coalition (CMAC).

It was determined that the School Board has failed in meeting their

commitments to properly educate students who are academically performing below grade level.

The School Board had regarded this

deplorable condition as an "emergency situation" and passed a resolution on May 8, 1997 to remedy the situation. So far, no progress.

The purpose of the conference was to address the Portland Public School Board's failure to comply with the School Board's resolutions.

Several members of CMAC were on hand to deliver comments. The keynote speakers were A. Halim Rahsaam, Richard Luccetti, Charlotte Brown and Ron Herndon.

CMAC members are concerned parents advocating better education for all children.

Each member of CMAC represents one of five different races: Asian, Hispanic, African American, White and Native American.

CMAC was formed in September of 1996 to oversee the quality of education given to students throughout Portland public schools.

The School Board has written in their resolution a visionary message, "Everyone Achieves; no exceptions, no excuses."

If this is the case, CMAC representatives seriously question the delayed reactions by the School Board.