

Clinton Announces \$850 Million in Assistance to Help More Than 330,000 Homeless Americans

BALTIMORE - President Clinton today announced \$850 million in grants to help more than 330,000 homeless Americans get housing, job training, child care, mental health service and substance abuse treatment so they can move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

The assistance announced today will go to more than 300 communities, all 50 state governments, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American territories. In addition, more than 1,000 non-profit organizations such as the Salvation Army, Volunteers of America and Catholic Charities will receive funding for homeless assistance programs.

"The President's policies recognize that if we provide homeless people with the help they need, they can overcome their problems and work their way out of poverty," Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo said. "I have met men and women across this nation who would be dead today or would be living on the streets if not for our programs."

A total of \$700 million of the HUD assistance is targeted to 1,420 long-term programs to help individuals and families permanently end their homeless status, as part of HUD's Continuum of Care approach to homelessness.

Programs funded by the Continuum of Care grants will provide transitional and permanent housing assistance and will help people overcome problems that can lead to homelessness, such as a lack of basic education and job skills, mental illness and drug addiction. The grants are awarded to states, local governments and non-profit groups based on a number of factors that measure the effectiveness of plans homeless people become self-sufficient.

"Every homeless person has a story of enormous personal tragedy and incredible hardship," Cuomo said. "Helping these men, women and children rebuild their lives isn't easy, but it's one of the most important investments we can make it. It's an investment that says America is the land of opportunity not just some of us, but for all us."

Communities submit Continuum

of Care plans to HUD that reflect efforts to address the complexities of homelessness through a range of housing and services. This service have a short-term goal of providing emergency assistance and assessment of a homeless person's needs and a long-term goal of helping the person to obtain permanent housing and become self-sufficient.

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A Columbia University study concluded that HUD's homeless policies spelled out in the Continuum of Care "have had a positive impact on communities across the nation" and were an improvement from past efforts that focused on short-term emergency shelter.

New Weapon Against Cancer

PORTLAND, Ore.- Providence St. Vincent Medical Center has a new weapon against cancer that is dramatically altering how physicians treat their patients.

The first variation of PET (Positron Emission Tomography) scanning, a nuclear medicine imaging system, is now available at Providence St. Vincent. PET scanning uses radioisotopes in order to produce images of metabolic or biochemical activity within patients. In cancer patients, malignant tumors usually have a greater metabolic activity than normal tissue

and this can be detected by the new scanning procedure-a major breakthrough for cancer patients and the physicians who treat them. Some patients who've had heart trouble also may benefit from test.

For the scan, fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) is injected intravenously into patients. The 90-minute scan is performed an hour later with the patient lying flat on a table.

The scan can determine whether a potentially abnormal region in a patient shows what is known as FDG uptake (increasing the probability of cancer) or if it does not (as in benign condi-

tions). The procedure is extremely sensitive in detecting how far a tumor has spread and uniquely valuable when staging or identifying the extent of cancer.

"This information can help determine if surgery or some other treatment may be indicated," says Gary Gates, M.D., Director of Providence St. Vincent's Nuclear Medicine Department. "Such advanced imaging not only helps the physician make a firmer diagnosis, it also improves health care and may save thousands of dollars in the long run. This is truly the wave of the future."

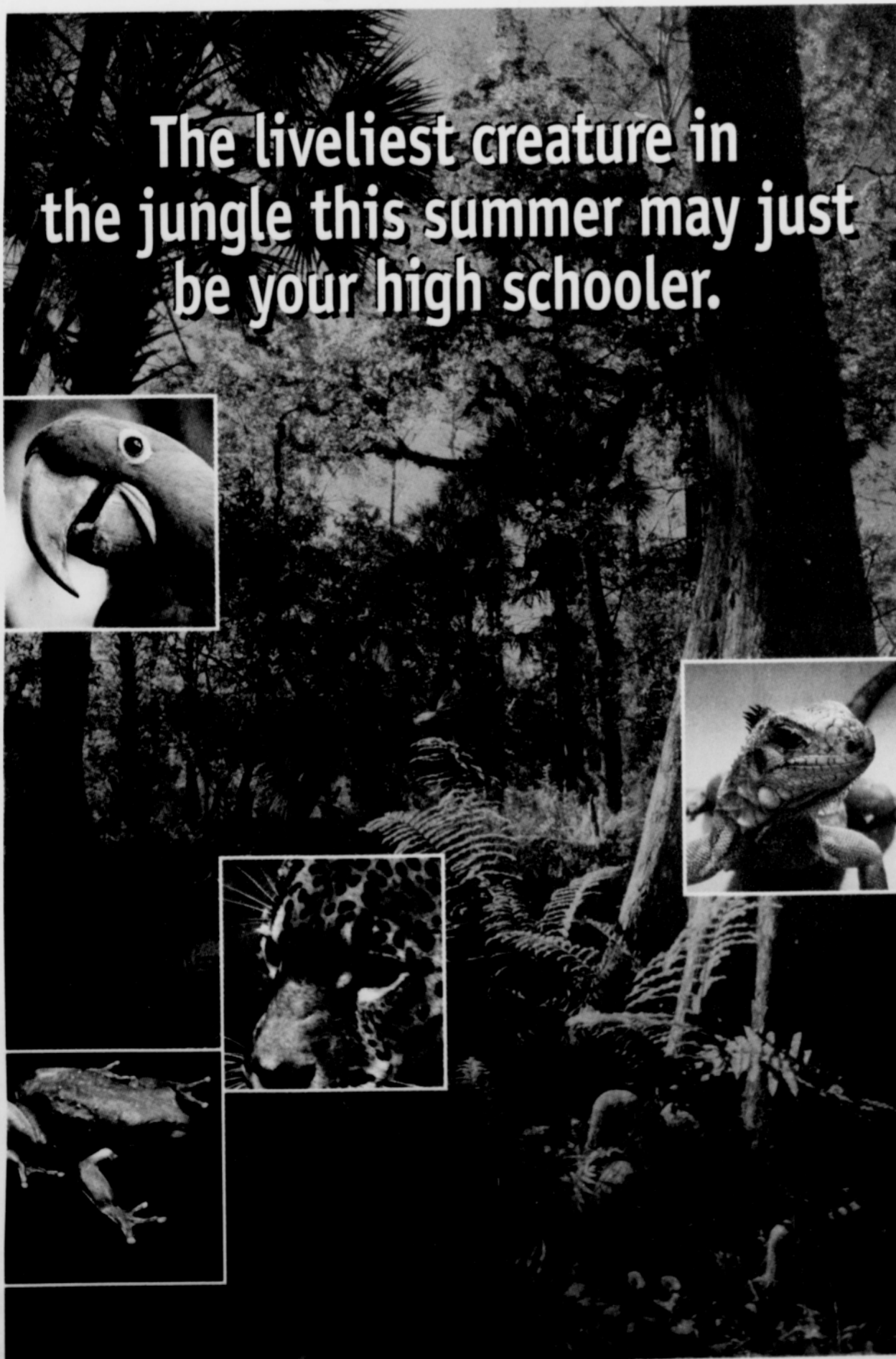
Wyden Named To Serve As Top Democrat On Forestry And Public Lands Panel

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) was chosen to serve as the Ranking Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management. The Subcommittee is chaired by Republican Senator Larry Craig of Idaho.


"This is going to present a great opportunity to develop policies to form what I've called the 'Third Path Through the Woods', said Wyden, "protecting our natural treasures while still giving timber workers and their families the opportunity to do well. I'm looking forward to working with Chairman Larry Craig in a bipartisan way to try to get beyond the divisive debates of the past and find common ground that helps our region keep and build upon our remarkable quality of life."


The Subcommittee has jurisdiction for all legislation relating to public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, as well as continuing oversight of those agencies. Wyden has served on the Subcommittee since his election to the Senate.

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