

Burdened by Rent

continued ▲ *from front*

unemployment rates, falling wages, and low rental vacancy rates, has catalyzed housing stability to remain even more out of reach for low-income families throughout Portland and the country.

The latest unemployment rate for the state of Oregon remains high at 8.9 percent.

"The economy has hit people really hard, so people are suffering from low incomes and the ongoing effects of the recession and economic downturn," Byrd said.

The numbers show an estimated supply of 42 affordable rental units for every 100 extremely low income renting households. However, many of those units are not available because they are already occupied by individuals with higher incomes.

This month, the Portland Housing Bureau announced new funds for three affordable housing development projects, totaling over \$9 million.

Lifeworks Northwest plans to develop a unique building combining Lifeworks' drug and alcohol treatment program with affordable apartments serving women in re-

covery and their children located at Northeast Garfield Avenue and Beech Street.

ROSE Community Development Corporation plans to acquire and

apartments will be renovated in Old Town Chinatown. The Medford will provide 60 apartments for people transitioning from the corrections system who are at risk of becoming

state, but some of those are actually in danger of losing their affordability."

Building and developing more affordable complexes is therefore

Last year, the Legislature allocated \$5 million in Lottery Backed Bonds to fund preservation efforts to keep existing subsidized housing in all areas of Oregon, in an effort to ensure that some of the thousands residents with very low incomes living in apartments with federal rent subsidy could continue to live in those homes.

But the need is still great. "We don't have enough resources to



Construction is bringing some new housing to the Portland market, but the city still lacks a sufficient inventory of affordable housing where costs don't push residents into spending more than half their household income on rent.

rehabilitate Greenview Terrace, a 31-unit building in outer southeast Portland that includes a mix of one- and two-bedroom apartments located at 148th Avenue and Stark.

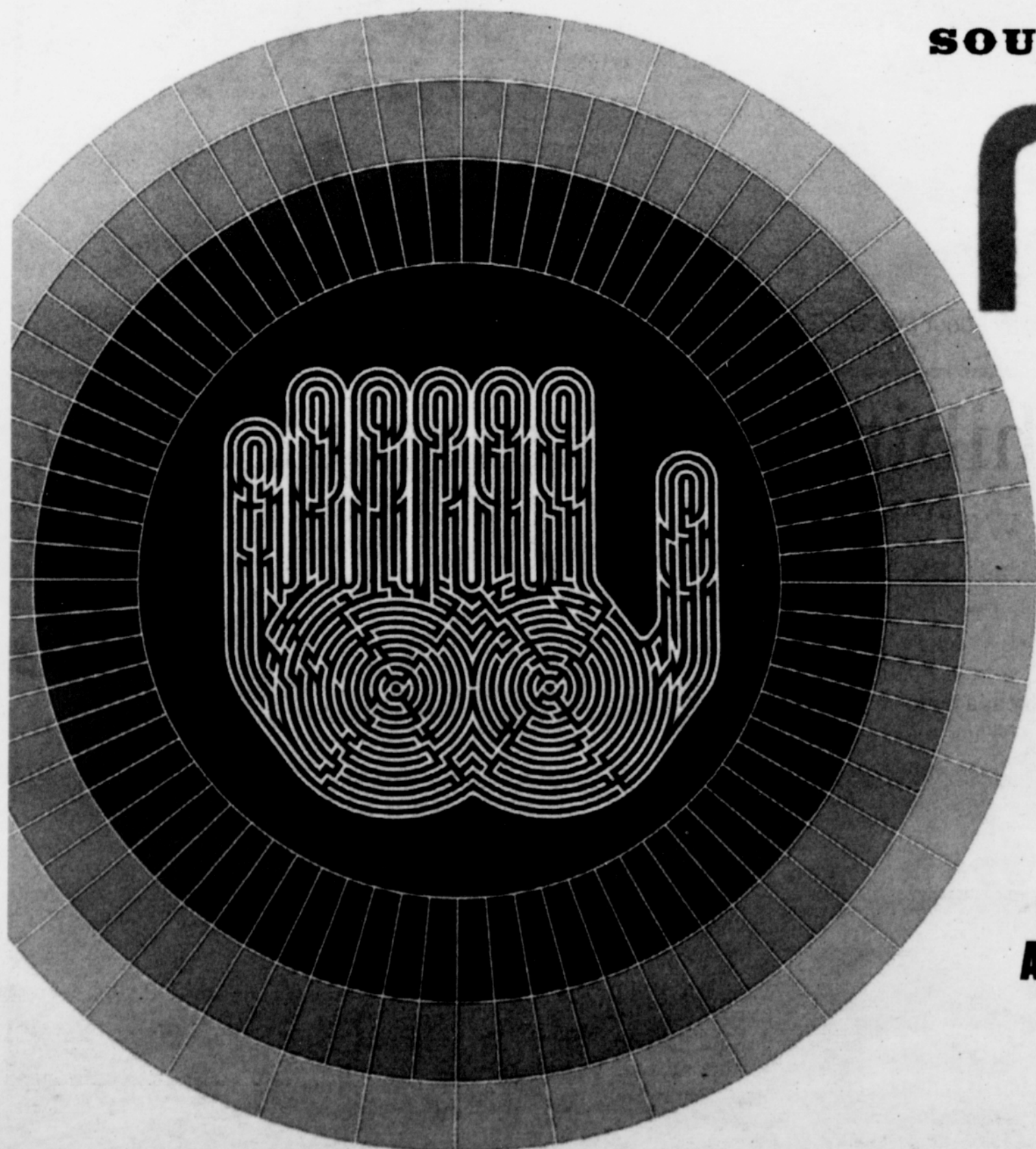
Downtown at Northwest Fifth and Glisan, the Medford Hotel

homeless. But even with new affordable housing units coming on line, Byrd said the demand for affordable housing is outrunning the supply.

"We know that affordable housing complexes do exist across the

only one part of a solution, she said. "We also need to save what already exists and provide residents with flexible resources like the emergency housing account, which will help people while they try to get back on their feet."

serve various low income residents throughout the community," she said. For more information about the Housing Alliance and the state of housing in Oregon, visit oregonhousingalliance.org.



SOUL'D OUT MUSIC FESTIVAL

maze

featuring
frankie
beverly

**ON SALE
FRIDAY!**

ticketmaster

**APRIL 12TH • 7:30PM SHOW • ALL AGES
KELLER AUDITORIUM ALL AGES**

TICKETS ALSO AT FRED MEYER, SOULBOUTFESTIVAL.COM, PCPA BOX OFFICE OR CALL 1-800-745-3000