

The Rural Tribune

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From left to right are Nancy Beecroft - billing secretary, Julie Arias Stanfield - receptionist, Dr. Mecklem - staff physician, Maria Villarreal - LPN, and Evelyn Koch - R.N.

CLINIC STAFF RESIGNS

Staff of the Virginia Garcia Health Center in Cornelius formally resigned from their positions under Oregon Rural Opportunities-Health Care Services Tuesday, February 1, citing as their reasons continual mismanagement and lack of concern for patient care and needs of their staff. Dr. Greg Mecklem, speaking for the clinic staff, stated the staff would continue working on a voluntary basis to avoid further administrative harassment from ORO-HCS administrative director, Nyong Etuk.

ORO-HCS was established to provide comprehensive family-oriented health care services to migrants and seasonal farmworkers and their family members. Currently, they are the recipient of migrant health funds in the Mid-Willamette Valley and also the recipients of four state grants: Family Planning, Nutrition, Oral Health and WIC.

According to Dr. Mecklem, "Eight months ago (when the Garcia clinic first came under ORO-HCS administration) we were happy and working closely together as a staff; now we feel continually harassed by threats of staff cuts."

The Centro de Salubridad, the Garcia clinic's sister clinic in Woodburn, has also experienced staff turmoil over what some of their staff describe as "heavy handed and dictatorial methods" on the part of Mr. Etuk. The medical director of the Woodburn Clinic, Dr. Britton, resigned recently after a continuing dispute with Etuk over the administration of the clinic. Suspended by Etuk last November, Dr. Britton fought the suspension and won a judgement against Etuk in a grievance he filed with the Oregon Bureau of Labor.

Staff members of the Virginia Garcia clinic have also had to take formal action (outside the administrator and board) in order to resolve personnel disputes between themselves and Etuk. Currently, Jim Zaleski, a past director of the clinic, has a case pending before the Oregon Bureau of Labor.

Since May when the two clinics teamed together, there have been four directors at the Virginia Garcia clinic. Three were fired or demoted by Etuk, and the fourth person resigned; present staff say it was in part because of the difficulty working with Etuk. "Etuk comes around once a week but still isn't aware of how this clinic runs," one staff person reported. According to Dr. Mecklem, a communication problem exists between the staff and Etuk. "It's like talking at somebody, it just bounces off. He came with his opinions and left with them." Other staff sources stated, "He worked his solutions out in Woodburn and brought them to us; if you differed, you were removed."

Attempts to respond to patient need at the Garcia clinic have not been well received by Mr. Etuk. In order to assess patient hour preferences, Dr. Mecklem placed a questionnaire in the clinic asking patients for their choice of hours. According to the results, the patients preferred later hours. Etuk had maintained that the Garcia clinic should keep the same hours as the clinic at Woodburn (9 to 6). When the questionnaire results were compiled, Etuk visited the Cornelius clinic and took the questionnaires. No one, at least in Cornelius, has seen them since

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PERSONAJE de la CLINICA

RESIGNARON

Empleados de la clinica Virginia Garcia han dejado sus puestos el miercoles, February 2, dijeron que sus razones son por el interes del salud de los pacientes y las necesidades del personaje. Dr. Mecklem dijo que el personaje seguira trabajando sin pago para evitar persecucion de ORO-HCS y director administrativo Nyong Etuk.

ORO-HCS fue establecido con el proposito de proveer servicios de salud a migrantes trabajadores de labor y miembros de la familia. Corrientemente esta agencia es la donadora de fondos para el uso de para el salud de los migrantes del Valle Mid-Willamette y donadora de fondos del estado: Planeando la familia, Nutricion, Salud Oral y WIC.

Segun el Dr. Mecklem "Hace ocho meses estuvimos tan alegre y trabajamos en una unidad como personaje, ahora nos sentimos amenazados con personaje reducido."

El Centro de Salubridad, hermana de la clinica Virginia Garcia, tambien estan sintiendo rebajo de personaje. Algunos del personaje los describen como "mano pesada" y "maneras dominantes" en el parte de Etuk, sobre la administracion de la clinica. Dr. Britton fue suspendido en Noviembre 30 del año pasado por Etuk. Dr. Britton peló la desicion y lo reporto con el Buró de Labor del Estado y gano su pelea.

Personaje de la clinica Virginia Garcia tambien han tenido que tomar accion (afuera del administrador y la mesa) para poder resolver las problemas contra ellos y Etuk. Jim Zaleski, antes director de la clinica, tambien tiene un caso con el Bpuro de Labor.

Segun el personaje, todo esto viene por lo terco y cabeza dura de Etuk sobre las necesidades de los clientes de la clinica. "Etuk viene como una vez por semana a la clinica y todavia no sabe como corren las cosas," segun Dr. Mecklem. Falta de comunicacion es la problema que existe con el personaje y Etuk. "Es como hablandole a alguien, que nomas salta para otras, viene con sus opiniones y se va con ellos," dijo el personaje.

Atemptos para responder a las necesidades de los pacientes no han sido bien recibidas por Etuk. Por ejemplo, el Dr. Mecklem puso un cuestionario preguntandole los pacientes, que fueran las horas mas convenientes para ellos. Cuando Etuk dijo que las horas sigan igual que las de Woodburn que son de las 9 - 6. Fueron compilados los resultados del cuestionario, y Etuk vino a visitar la clinica en cuanto se llevo los cuestionarios, desde entonces nunca se han visto. Las horas se quedan igual 9 - 6.

Otra queja fue cuando Etuk trasbordo la unica enfermera registrada para Woodburn, y la otra enfermera de alli puede trabajar solamente parte del tiempo. En vez de tratar y suplicar la clinica con personaje bilingue el les dijo que gente de habla espania pueden ir a otras facilidades en esos dias que no haiga personaje que habla espanol. Una desicion ironica, que cuando acá la función bajo ORO-HCS es proveer servicios de salud para gente de habla espana.

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H.O.R.P. Helps Home owners

Does your house suffer from faulty wiring, a leaky roof or lack of plumbing? Are there repairs or improvements that need to be made, but you don't feel you can afford to have them done? Help is now available to homeowners living in rural Washington, Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia counties who need such improvements. If your income is below \$7,000 per year (more is allowed if six or more are in the family) you may be eligible for assistance from a new home rehabilitation project called H.O.R.P.

There are two ways H.O.R.P. can help: They can help you get a loan or grant through the Farmers Home Administration, or, instead of borrowing money, you have the option of paying a low overhead charge for repair services from H.O.R.P. (\$2.00 per hour) and supplying the materials. Suppose you have a lot of extra lumber and need a new porch put on, but you can't do it yourself. H.O.R.P. can supply the labor for their cost and use your lumber. Suppose you need a new foundation, but don't have any money or materials now. You can apply for a 1 percent loan with Farmers Home Administration through H.O.R.P. and borrow up to \$5,000 to be repaid over 20 years. If you are 62 or over, and can only repay part of or perhaps none of the loan, some grant money is available through Farmers Home so there might not be any cost to you at all.

Dr. Warren Pickett, coordinator of H.O.R.P., makes a strong case for home

rehabilitation. He says the value in this area has appreciated an average of 17 percent a year for the past five years. "Any house maintained will protect your money," Pickett says. Dr. Pickett explains "We hope to provide reliable, compassionate and affordable help. We hope to provide a service where we can keep costs down, so people can easily afford it." He also points out the effects of not making repairs on a home, where a home can deteriorate to the point where it becomes a health or safety hazard. H.O.R.P. wants to help people stay in their homes, and realize the value of them. "Moving out of a home because it has deteriorated can also be unhealthy" he points out. "It's a big trauma to uproot a person who has lived in the same house for many years."

H.O.R.P. also sees its aims to include providing jobs and training for people. They operate under a contractors license and all work they do is to code standards. H.O.R.P. wants to help people make and keep their homes safe, and help older people stay in their homes.

H.O.R.P. has its office in the old firehouse in Banks, which has been donated by the city. From there Dr. Pickett coordinates two three-person teams of workers, who travel between counties. Their funding comes from a Governor's grant from revenue sharing monies. The grant, Pickett says, grew out of the awareness that among low income families, particularly the elderly, a lot of home repair work is not done because not

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THE RURAL TRIBUNE
Washington County Community
Action Organization
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FACTS AND DATES

SHELTER HOUSE CLOSURES

Washington County Community Action will be temporarily closing down its Emergency Shelter House on February 4, 1977. They are forced to do this for safety and sanitary reasons because the electrical wiring and plumbing are falling apart. The landlord doesn't feel he can put additional money into this property and Community Action can't afford to foot the bill.

Community Action is planning to relocate the Emergency Shelter operation into a more suitable house by April 1, 1977. In the meantime, with the help of two VISTA Volunteers, they will be looking for another house, reorganizing the whole system, and submitting a grant to finance it beyond August 31, 1977.

The community will no doubt badly miss the Shelter House in the next couple of months - it's the only facility of its kind in the area. WCCAO is looking for volunteers to assist in the reorganizing task. If you wish to help in any way or if you know of a house which might be suitable, please notify Annette Bromberg or Peggy Dowd at WCCAO, 648-6646.

Annette Bromberg

JOB OPENING

A job for a coordinator at Vital Vittles Food Co-op in Hillsboro is now open for application. Duties include overseeing the running of the co-op and coordinating programs of nutrition and health as related to the co-op. For more information call the co-op at 640-1007 or stop by at 1635 S.E. Tualatin Valley Highway.

RURAL BUS SERVICE

The Western Washington County Transportation Project, which serves persons living in rural areas west of Hillsboro, has been averaging 6,000 rides per month. This project now has six small buses and two cars serving the transportation needs of senior, working people, and handicapped persons.

There are regular schedules set up for handicapped riders and some of the senior citizen routes are scheduled to Banks, Gaston, Gales Creek, Cherry Grove, and Cornelius. Rural route schedules are developed at this time to transport Tektronix employees living near Banks and further west to and from the Tek plant in Beaverton.

In the near future a route schedule will be developed for workers at the Stimson Mill. This is a two-year project, and schedules are still being developed. Suggested donation for rides is 35cents. If you want to find out whether you can use the Rural Transportation buses, call 357-7911 for further information.

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FARMERS INTERESTED?

Dear Friends:

Many people have expressed interest in the future of the Tualatin Farmer's Market. We would like to outline some of the problems and possibilities of the Market becoming a permanent establishment. The Market was first opened last September under the sponsorship of Milk and Honey Co-op in Tualatin. It ran three consecutive Saturdays. Farmers were invited to bring produce and other farm products to the Market and sell directly to consumers from trucks or booths.

In the past few years markets of this type have been springing up across the country in reaction to increasing control of food sources by large corporate enterprises. Our Market was conceived with that same purpose in mind, to bypass the middlemen and bring local, farm-fresh products direct to consumers. This also allows farmers to get higher prices for their products than when selling wholesale.

From last year's experience we have seen that there is enough consumer support in this area to warrant such a market. However, our Market was not an outstanding success due to certain factors. The greatest of these factors was the lack of support by farmers. There were only a few sellers with any quantity of goods, consequently the number of customers dropped each market day. Consumers felt that the Market did not have much to offer and sellers were disappointed.

There seem to be two possible reasons for this lack of farmer support. One, the Farmers' Market may not be a good system for the majority of the farmers in this area. Because of the time involved in participating, many farmers feel that this system is not economically advantageous for them. It seems that the smaller the farm, the more interest there is in this outlet.

The second possible reason for the lack of farmer support is a lack of communication to farmers. Because of legal complications with the City, the Market did not receive the final "go-ahead" until six weeks before the actual opening. For this reason many possible means of reaching farmers were not utilized. Also because of the late notification many farmers already had market for their crops.

The question is, are there enough farmers in the area who can benefit by the Market to justify its existence?

Other questions that need to be dealt with are: Should other products besides farm products be allowed at the Market (crafts, etc)? Should the Market be set up so that the producers don't have to be there to sell their products? How long and when should the Market run?

A meeting will be held on February 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Tualatin Community Center to discuss these questions. Growers who are in any way interested in the Market are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend we would appreciate a response by phone or mail. We also invite to our meeting people who have had experience with other farmers' markets or other experiences that would be valuable, community members interested in contributing energy in the form of planning, publicity, etc., and anyone else who would like to attend.

Sincerely,
 Mark and Deborah Newman
 the Farmers' Market Committee
 Milk and Honey Non-Profit
 Food Store
 Tualatin

SENIOR POWER

Gerry Nutt, Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and eleven Seniors from Washington County participated in Senior Power Day in Salem in mid January. Nearly 1,200 older adults were present for the Day, which began at the Willamette University auditorium where legislators from throughout the state each made a short presentation.

That afternoon Governor Straub met with the seniors and spoke on Institution Care and the Elderly. Utilities and housing for seniors were also discussed.

Governor Straub read a letter from an older lady on a fixed income who could no longer bake her bread because of the high cost of electricity. He felt this was uncalled for in this day and age and said he planned to do something about it by pushing for legislation to reduce the electric rates for older adults.

Later those attending went to the Capitol where they met with their local legislators. The Day was coordinated by the National Senior Advocate Program, which hopes to place emphasis on problems of the elderly which can be alleviated through legislation.

This legislative session relief is hoped for in the areas of housing, nursing home care, outreach and tax relief.

Gerry Nutt

ORO BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections will be held Thursday, February 17, 6p.m. at the Hillsboro City Library. New board members will be elected to the Advisory Board of ORO (Oregon Rural Opportunities) Region II. To be a board member, you must be a farmworker (a person who has earned at least 50 percent of his income in the last 12 months from farm work, work at nurseries, packing houses or canneries). You must also be at least 18 years of age.

DO YOU KNOW SENIORS IN NEED?

The problems faced by low-income people in Washington County are even more serious and complicated for seniors on fixed incomes. Inflation is always several steps ahead of any small adjustments in Social Security or SSI payments. Retirement incomes which when planned 20 or 25 years ago seemed sufficient, now fail to meet necessities. The population increase locally of recent years has also increased both the confusion inherent in dealing with businesses and agencies and the tempo or pace of the area. This common urbanizing phenomena influences some retired people to limit their activities.

To help respond to those needs, Centro Cultural and Senior Centers of Washington County are employing part-time outreach workers. These individuals are people already involved in their communities. Their employment places emphasis on home visits to seniors in those communities. The outreach workers are skilled in assessing the needs of the shut-in elderly. Following a home visit, they make referrals on behalf of the client and followup those contacts to assure that what services are available and needed are being provided.

At a meeting on January 13, held at the Elsie J. Stuhr Leisure Center in Beaverton, the outreach workers discussed methods and results with Mardi Brandl, outreach worker for Metropolitan Family Services and John Mullin, Outreach Coordinator for the four county Loaves and Fishes program.

At the next meeting in early February a method of telephone outreach used in S.W. Portland will be studied. Also, staff from the Tualatin Valley Guidance Clinic will make a presentation on biological psychology.

Bud Schmidt

TIMBER COMMUNITY MEETING

A second community meeting will take place at the church in Timber on Sunday, February 6, at 3 p.m.

At the first meeting, held January 23rd, about 15 area residents discussed the status of the Fire Department and some of the problems that have lessened its capability. Community Action is participating in these discussions as a source of technical assistance and procedural advice.

All Timber area residents are encouraged to participate in these community discussions.

LEADERSHIP SHORT COURSE

Washington County Extension Office will be conducting a Leadership Short Course for persons interested in improving their organization's effectiveness. Topics to be covered include: Styles of Leadership - "Who Runs the Show"; Roles People Play in Groups; Group Communication - "Is Anyone Listening?" Decisions! Decisions! Who Makes Them? ; Delegation - Sharing the Work Load. Four separate sessions will be held, to make the short course available to more people. They will be: February 22, 9 a.m. to noon and 7:30 to 10 p.m. and March 1, 9 a.m. to noon and 7:30 to 10 p.m. Each session all topics will be covered. To sign up, call 648-8708 or 648-8878. The course will be held at the Port of Portland Conference Room, Hillsboro Airport, 3151 NE Cornell Road, Hillsboro.



If you like peanut butter like I like peanut butter, you're in for a real treat! Vital Vittles, with the help of a Kentucky-based vending company, has put within our reach, instant fresh peanut butter. At 72 cents a pound for non-member, and a ridiculously low 61 cents a pound for members, the Nolte Meyer machine will grind out enough fresh peanut butter to satisfy the largest appetite.

Vital Vittles Co-op at 1635 SE Tualatin Valley Highway has had this wonderful machine since November. Since that time over 400 wonderful pounds have been spread on bread, covered with jelly or just eaten right out of the container. The Co-op is open from 10 to 6, Tuesday through Friday, and Saturday, 12 to 4 p.m.

Don "Peanuts" Patch

H.O.R.P. HELPS HOMEOWNERS Cont'd. from page 1

enough funds are available to help them get it done. Small improvements or repairs are really not that profitable for contractors and because many of these families live in isolated areas, a large part of the cost might include travel time for workers to and from the job. This can make small repair jobs very costly for people living in rural areas. So many people too often forego even small repairs that would greatly enhance the quality of their homes, and their lives.

Carol Buck at the Farmers Home Administration Office in Hillsboro pointed out that money is available for home rehabilitations that is not being used, chiefly because most people don't know about the programs. "Housing values are appreciating very rapidly, almost overnight." She explains that because of the

demand for housing and the increased inflation rate, many younger people cannot save for a down payment on a new house. The value of an older home should not be overlooked, she says, especially when it can be rehabilitated and give you a greater return on your investment than money in the bank.

Certain areas in the county are outside of the eligible area according to FmHA and H.O.R.P. guidelines. These are areas that fall within city boundaries of Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Cornelius, Beaverton and northward to North Plains - chiefly the metropolitan areas of the county. Check with H.O.R.P. or FmHA to see if you are eligible for their home rehabilitation programs. H.O.R.P.'s phone number is 324-6881. Call FmHA at 648-0621.

Judy Schilling



PERSONAJE DE LA CLINICA RESIGNARON Cont'd. desde pagina 1

En Feb. 2, se llevo acabo una conferencia donde el Dr. Mecklem presento la resignación que expresa sentimiento y especificas cargas del mal manegamiento de la administración - tres paginas. El Dr. Mecklem expreso la importancia de su resignación "Para proteger el morale de nuestro personaje, y para mantener una clinica lo mas suave posible."

Dr. Mecklem tambien dijo que quieren seguir su credibilidad con HEW, y créen que con la resignación van a cumplir esto. Son nuestras intenciones de seguir dando nuestros servicios a la comunidad, sin pago, dia por dia.

El Sr. Etuk estuvo presente en la conferencia pero no quiso hacer ninguna declaración o decir nada a los reporteros o television. El dia siguiente el Rural Tribune le llamo a su oficina en Woodburn, pero la respuesta fue que no estaba disponible para comentar.

La decisión de simplemente salirse bajo de ORO-HCS es una de gran con-

secuencia para el sobre viviente de la clinica. Pero por el interés de la salud de los pacientes, exigió la decision. Los fondos se acaban en March 31. Nuevos fondos esta alineados para que empiezen en Mayo que va incluir las dos clinicas. Pero según el personaje de la clinica Garcia, ellos no quieren parte de eso. Personaje de la clinica no les tiene confianza al a administración de ORO-HCS y no piensan que les var a dar suficiente personaje.

Cerca a 100 gente se juntaron en la escuela primaria de Cornelius el Jueves Feb. 3 por la noche para soportar y discutir el futuro de la clinica.

Unas cuantas personas que estuvieron presentes, expresaron confusión sobre el desafío hecho por el Sr. Guadalupe Bustos contra la mesa.

Miembros de la mesa y de la comunidad votaran, y enseñaron el apoyo para la clinica. Habra peticiones disponibles en soporte de la clinica en la Iglesia de San Alejandro en Cornelius, Feb. 10 y se solicitan sus firmas.

CLINIC STAFF RESIGNS Cont'd. from page 1

and the clinic hours remain 9 to 6.

Another complaint against the apparent lack of care about the patients was voiced when Etuk transferred their only Spanish-speaking RN to Woodburn and their LPN went on part-time. Instead of supplying the Garcia clinic additional bilingual staff, Etuk told them that Spanish-speaking people could go to another facility on those days that bilingual help was not available - an ironic decision, since the clinic's function under ORO-HCS is to provide health care for clients who are Spanish-speaking.

On February 2, Dr. Mecklem announced the staff resignations at a press conference in Cornelius and expressed the staff sentiments as well as presenting a list of specific charges of administrative mismanagement - 3 pages long. Dr. Mecklem explained the importance of resigning "in order to protect the morale of our staff and maintain a smoothly running clinic." An additional purpose, Mecklem stated, is to maintain their credibility with HEW by getting away from the continuing ORO-HCS staff-administration turmoil. He continued, "We fully intend to continue offering medical services to our community. We as a staff plan to offer our services on a voluntary, daily basis and have secured some sources of private funding with which we will continue

to operate until further funding becomes available."

Mr. Etuk was also present at the conference but refused to make any public statements to the press or TV crews. The following day The Rural Tribune called Mr. Etuk but we were told he was out of his office and unavailable for comment.

The decision to walk out from under the ORO-HCS rule is one of great consequence to the clinic's survival. But its supporters have gone through many struggles to get the kind of clinic they want and need.

In a show of support for the staff's actions, nearly 100 people gathered in Cornelius Thursday evening, February 3rd, to discuss the future of the clinic. There were a number of people who expressed confusion and dismay at Mr. Lupe Bustos' challenge of Washington county representation of the ORO-HCS Board, as it seemed to ignore and disregard the issue at hand, which is the survival of the Virginia Garcia clinic.

Board members and members of the community voted to support the clinic and sign petitions for its continuation, which will be available at St. Anthony's Church, 10th & Adair in Cornelius, next Thursday, February 10th.

Don Patch
Judy Schilling

ROCK CREEK Responses

Two months ago The Rural Tribune published a questionnaire so that people could express their opinions about classes and programs which they feel Portland Community College could bring to this community through their new Rock Creek campus. The effort was made on our part because we were concerned that not enough input was being considered from the people we consider a vital part of the community - people who have been alienated by educational institutions, people whose educational needs have not often been considered or met by existing schools. Here are the results of our questionnaire:

AGE of those responding:	21 & under	20%
EDUCATION background:	Primary only	4%
	High School	19%
	Some college	77% (35% had attended or were attending PCC)
PRIMARY LANGUAGE:	English	63%
	Spanish	37%
CLASS PREFERENCES:	Music/Art	20%
	Bilingual/Bicultural Education	20%
	Business	16%
	Mechanics/Shop	11%
	Sociology	11%
	Languages	16%
	P.E.	4%

Other classes which people expressed interest in were Creative Writing, Real Estate, Environmental Law, Psychology, Electronics, Homesteading, Alternative Energy Sources, Home Economics/Sewing, Crafts and Photography.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A BILINGUAL COUNSELOR?

Yes	82%
No	11%
No Opinion	7%

WOULD YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION TO ROCK CREEK?

Yes	29%
No	71%

Of those replying yes, 72% were ages 17-24.

WOULD YOU ATTEND ROCK CREEK IF MORE BILINGUAL CLASSES WERE OFFERED?

Yes	41%
No	32%
Doesn't matter	18%
Perhaps	9%

These figures indicated to us that many English-speaking people would be interested in some kind of bicultural classes, not just Spanish-speaking people.

DO YOU FEEL SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN SENSITIVE TO YOUR LINGUAL OR CULTURAL NEEDS?

Yes	42%
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50% of these answered they felt it was because they were white, middle class people.

No	58%
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Reasons given were: because of being female; because of strict rules; because nothing was offered about Chicano art, history or culture; because classes were not individual-oriented and not responsive to needs for alternatives to the present system; classes were too academic, and too program-oriented.

Many replies, some from those now attending PCC, expressed a desire for some kind of child care, possibly through child care co-ops run by students.

Other comments: "I believe they should be making a concerted effort to meet the needs of the total community, not just the middle class Anglo, English-speaking population such as me."

"The community college concept is excellent as long as it continues to respond sensitively to the educational needs of the community."

"I would like to see some classes aimed at sharing cultural awarenesses and insights between Anglos and Chicanos, taught by a team representing both cultures."

"I believe schools should reflect the cultural, social and class differences of the area they serve, and not just provide a mold."

"If Rock Creek is to truly serve the people of Washington County, a broader program of subjects should be available to us who are interested in subjects less academic."

"I feel transportation is the responsibility of the student."

"As a person seeking options to the capitalistic system, the system has not responded to my needs for alternatives."

"Tri-Met should have bus service to the campus, a drop-in day care center should be available. Teachers should be sensitive to people's needs and assess skill levels before making assumptions because someone looks different."

"More and better counseling should be available to help people who need it."

"I am of Mexican background and PCC does not offer a very important aspect needed for my education."

"Society is not what it should be in the realization of cultural pluralism based on an individual's right to self-determination."

Portland Community College possesses a power of educational and cultural enrichment because it is a tax-supported learning institution, taxes providing people interested in enlarging their worlds of understanding a place and environment conducive to that process. PCC is also a business and as such survives from the backing and support of patrons. If it does not succeed at providing its patrons with their educational needs, fewer and fewer people will patronize its services. But what can you do if it's the only one in town, like PCC is? You can let them know what you want and need and why. If they are good businessmen, they will respond.

We will continue our efforts to be a place where people can voice their opinions about their individual needs, which, if met, can only enrich our community by strengthening its commitment to better education for everyone.

Hotline—Hotline

Was your welfare check stopped?
Have you been turned down for help by Food Stamps or Welfare?
Have you been told that you must repay an overpayment?
Can you get medical benefits after you go off welfare?
Can you get food stamps if you have no money?

These are some of the questions that have been brought to the Washington County Welfare Hotline in its first two months of operation. Since its opening in November, the Hotline has served more than 80 people who have had problems with or questions about welfare or food stamps. The purpose of the Hotline is to help people know their rights with regards to the Public Welfare Division, and when necessary, to act as their representative in dealing with the PWD.

If you are unsure if you qualify for food stamps or welfare, call the Hotline. Hotline staff can help determine your eligibility and calculate what your benefits should be. If you are currently receiving assistance and your grant has been cut, held or terminated call the Hotline if you are not sure why the action was taken or disagree with the reason you were given. Even if your application has been turned down, you may want to call the Hotline. The people working for agencies do not always have the correct information and mistakes are made.

In some cases, an answer over the phone is all that is needed. Sometimes, however, negotiation with the agency is necessary. If the problem results in a request for a hearing, Hotline staff will act as your representative in preparation and presentation at the hearing.

The Hotline is open every weekday from 12 noon until 4 p.m. The phone number is 648-0513. The address is 276 E. Main Street, Hillsboro. There is no charge. A Spanish-speaking staff persons is available. *Carol Woods*

Fue discontinuado su pago de Welfare?

Le han negado ayuda con estampillas de comida o Welfare?

Le han dicho que tiene que pagar porque le han mandado de mas?

Puede recibir beneficios medicos despues de que no reciba pagos de Welfare?

Puede recibir estampillas de comida aunque no tenga dinero?

Estas son unas de las preguntas que nos han traído al Welfare Hotline en los primeros dos meses de operación. Desde que abrio sus puertas en Noviembre han visto como 80 gente. El proposito del Hotline es dejar saber a la gente sus derechos sobre la División de Asistencia Publica y cuando necesario ser su representante.

Si Usted no esta seguro si califica para asistencia publica o estampillas de comida, personaje del Hotline pueden determinar su elegibilidad. Si al tempo presente ud. esta recibiendo asistencia publica y le han reducido o terminado los pagos, llame al Hotline si no esta seguro porque la acción fue tomada. Tambien llame si le negaron su aplicación. La gente trabajando por las agencias no todo el tiempo tienen la información correcta.

En unos casos, una respuesta por telefono es todo lo que se necesita. Al veces tienen que llevarse acabo negociaciones. Personaje del Hotline pueden ir de abogado si a eso llega.

El Hotline esta abierto cada dia de la semana de las 12:00 - 4:00. El numero es 648-0513, 276 E. Main, Hillsboro. Hay personaje de habla espana.



Teresa Boyle, Peggy Dowd, and Alan Siegel, pictured above, are three national pool VISTAs who have recently joined Community Action's staff. As new staff they have spent their first week becoming oriented to the local area and the programs they will work with during the coming year.

Teresa Boyle, 23, is a graduate of the University of California at Davis, with a degree in Administrative Science. She will be working with the Translator's Bureau, helping with the legislative effort.

Peggy Dowd, 23, is a graduate of Brooklyn College in New York. She has been assigned the shelter home resource mobilizer position and will be helping to fill the daily needs.

Alan Siegel, 25, is a graduate of Idaho State University with a degree in American Studies. As a VISTA he hopes to "direct my energies in a positive way, both for low income people and myself." His assignment will be with Community Education, helping to develop bi-cultural education in schools.

City Rules Keep Teens Out

Members of the T.S. T. Teen Club (Tualatin, Sherwood, Tigard) are having problems obtaining an occupancy permit for their newly acquired meeting place.

The T.S. T. Teen Club has been in existence about 4 and 1/2 years and serves young people ranging in age from about 13 to 16 who live in the Tualatin, Sherwood, Tigard area. Despite many problems such as lack of funds and volunteer aid at times, the group continues to thrive. This indicates a real interest and concern for such a social structure to respond to the needs of these young people.

About the middle of last year the Club members, because of conflicts at the Tualatin Community Center where they have been meeting, decided they needed another meeting place. The Club did not have funds to rent a space, however, so they had to look for a place that would be donated, something not easy to come by. After a long search a property in Tualatin was made available to Washington County Community Action for use by the group. It seemed perfect, an old garage somewhat removed from residential buildings.

When the property was secured the members made plans to fix it up and move in immediately. The situation at the center was beginning to reduce membership. It was learned however that before water could be turned on or the group could legally occupy the building a conditional use permit had to be obtained from the city.

Chuck Smith, volunteer coordinator of the Club, made an appeal at a November City Council meeting that the young people be allowed to occupy the building without further delay. Mr. Smith and members of the Club were told a permit had to be applied for at a cost of \$150. This sum was lent to the group. Since the building was donated to WCCAO the application was handled by staff.

The application and required materials along with verbal testimony by Dianne Elia, WCCAO, Chuck Smith and Wes Nelson, a T.S.T. member, were presented for consideration at the January 10th Tualatin City Council meeting. At this meeting the council approved the conditional use and issuance of an occupancy permit, to be renewed in 6 months, provided certain conditions were met. These conditions include complying with certain fire regulations regarding building exits and the removal or filling with sand of an underground gasoline storage tank, and paving a parking area for four (reduced from eight) cars. The planning department had also recommended that additional land on either side of the road bordering the property be dedicated to the city to allow widening the road. The council dismissed this condition on advice that it was inappropriate after it was pointed out that there would only be an increase of about four cars a week on the road.

These conditions, while not appearing unreasonable, could keep the club from being able to occupy the building. Jobs such as filling the gasoline tank and paving the lot require special equipment, knowledge and money. The members of the T.S.T. Teen Club are making an appeal for help in bringing the property up to standards. They have a lot of energy and are willing to work hard to make this dream a reality. If you can help them with materials, know-how or cash donations contact Chuck Smith, volunteer coordinator at 292-4242 or Dianne Elia, Youth Worker, WCCAO, Tuesday or Thursdays at 648-6646.

The Club also needs furniture such as tables, chairs, rugs, a ping pong table and if possible a stereo. They would like to insulate at least part of the building and install a heater. Help with these things would also be greatly appreciated.

Dianne Elia

FOOD PROJECT EVALUATED

Last year, Community Action gave food dryers, steam juicers, and pressure cooker/canners to eight community centers around the county. This food preservation equipment was given to the community centers (3 food co-ops, 3 senior centers, Centro Cultural, and the Gleaning Project) to make it available to persons who otherwise might not be able to dry, can, or juice some of their own produce.

An evaluation of this Project shows that over 250 persons used the 12 food dryers, 6 pressure cooker/canners, and five juicers; and that everyone seemed to be satisfied.

Of all the community centers involved, the Gleaning Project and Vital Vittles Food Co-op seem to have made the most use of the food preservation equipment. Over 70 persons used the equipment located at Vital Vittles, and according to the field boss for the Gleaners, Sharon Wigglesworth, over 3,000 pounds of fresh produce was preserved by them using this equipment and another small dryer of her own which she had loaned.

Some of the food dryers were in use from June all the way to December for strawberries, cherries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, grapes, prunes, apricots, apples, peaches, pears, peas, beans, tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, filberts, walnuts and herbs.

Most community centers had to do some maintenance on the food

dryers, (replacing light bulbs or switches, and cleaning screens), and they've made arrangements for storage of the equipment until next harvest season. There were many (over 60) unmet requests by people who had need of the equipment, and most of the centers indicated that they could make use of more equipment. Suggestions for additional equipment included smaller food dryers and water bath canners (for easy use by seniors).

Suggestions for improvements in this project include providing instructions through classes for making food dryers and on food preservation methods during the winter, when people have more time.

Craig Jones of the Pumpkin Ridge area coordinated the purchasing of materials and equipment, and construction of the food dryers. This equipment will again be available for use in the coming months.

Jim Long

STATE POOLS SOLAR HEAT INFO

Because of a growing interest from Oregon residents in alternative energy sources, Department of Energy Director Fred Miller reports that the Department of Energy is coordinating development of a library and data bank on solar energy information. The data bank information, gained from some of Oregon's leading solar energy experts will be made available to architects, engineers, planners and others interested in building solar projects.