

# Faith House provides home, shelters women, families during hard times

By PHILIP OLLINICK  
News-Post Staff

Not long after they moved into an apartment on South Market Street, Robert and Loretta-Anne Poarch found they couldn't pay the rent or pay for the electric heat with their combined income as dishwashers and were asked to leave. Finding themselves in debt to the landlord and with no place to go, they moved into Faith House at 205 S. Market St., which is a new shelter for homeless women and families.

Once they lived in Fayetteville, N.C. in a six room house for just \$150 a month, Mr. Poarch had a job using his skills as a certified Volkswagen mechanic, and his wife worked at a laundromat a short distance from their home. It was comfortable, they said.

In October they came to Maryland to visit relatives and simply ran out of money. They ended up washing dishes at Frederick's Truck City. Faith House took them in for several weeks until they found the apartment.

They wash dishes at a different restaurant now. The flu caught both of them during the same week, and they lost their jobs, they said. At their new job the employees get along with one another, and the family that owns the restaurant is very understanding. But since the work is part time — about 30 hours a week — they lack the benefits of full time workers. At \$4.50 per hour, they each take home about \$113 a week.

"If I had a place to do our work, I could pull myself out of the hole," Mr. Poarch said. He has looked for work as a mechanic. Only one garage in the

area was even slightly interested in hiring a certified Volkswagen mechanic, but the owner isn't ready to hire anyone yet.

Or it could be that nobody wants someone who lists 200 S. Market St. for their address, the Poarchs suggested. One man they asked for a job sparked their hopes, then turned a cold shoulder when he heard where they were staying. "We'll get in touch later," he said. By then Mrs. Poarch was exasperated enough by their troubles to tell the employer she hoped he would leave to come to them for a job some day.

Working as a dishwasher is "embarrassing," said Mr. Poarch. He longs for the chance to rent a small garage where he can start over with a few tools on loan from the Snap-on man to replace the old ones he lost when he got behind on the payments. Mrs. Poarch also has hopes for a better job. She said that she likes the food industry, but she would prefer to be baking instead of washing the dishes. One day she would like to open a bakery.

The Poarchs are victims of circumstance, said Susan E. Barefield, director of Faith House. Their crisis is economic and a common predicament. In this area many people find themselves stuck between low wages and high rent, she said.

It was luck the shelter had room for them. Faith House gets about a dozen requests a week from people needing a place to stay — even more as the weather gets colder.

Most of the inhabitants of Faith House are not "model" residents like the Poarchs, said Ms. Barefield. Some have chronic troubles; many have suffered more hardships than

the Poarchs.

The Poarchs want to move back toward the deep South where they feel more at home. They are surprised by the indifference of strangers to their circumstances and the tight clique of Frederick County natives. "If they don't know you when you walk in the door, they aren't going to give you a chance," Mr. Poarch said.

In Fayetteville, Mr. Poarch said, when someone starts digging a post hole, his neighbor comes over with a shovel. "If they'd just stop looking down their noses and open up their hands," he implored.

People lack "a real understanding of what great need is," said Ms. Barefield. At Faith House she treats people on a case by case basis. The Poarchs pay \$25 a week for their room in the shelter. Others may pay by working at the mission. How long someone stays also varies according to circumstance, said Ms. Barefield.

This past weekend, the shelter was housing three couples, three single women and three children in rooms above the Union Rescue Mission's clothing store. The shelter is still undergoing renovations, and Ms. Barefield is still uncertain what the capacity will be once they finish. A social worker at Social Services has estimated that every night between 50 and 100 people are homeless in Frederick County.

Faith House is part of the Union Rescue Mission. The mission also maintains a shelter for men at Beacon House on West South Street. The mission is non-denominational. Faith House recently installed a chapel in its quarters.

"We exist because God is here and God is in the people business," said Ms. Barefield.

# New Market public officials in limbo on insurance coverage against suits

(Continued from Page A-1)

almost useless. Surplus Lines Insurance Co. of Chicago added several exclusions when the town routinely renewed its policy on Oct. 13. The exclusions include "claims, demands, actions or damages...related to any activity pertaining to zoning laws, rules and regulations or interpretation, special waivers, variances or endorsement."

Mayor Franklin M. Shaw called the insurance agent on Thursday to cancel the policy. He is considering two other insurance companies and insurance pooling with other municipalities to replace the bogus policy. Shaw did not indicate how long he expects the search will take.

"Should an official get tangled in litigation before Shaw secures another policy for New Market, it could cause a serious problem. I doubt we could sustain much more than \$25,000 to \$30,000," said Budget Committee Chairman Clayton Magee.

Shaw said in an interview that nobody has sued a public official in New Market since he became mayor about 18 years ago. He believes the concern about pub-

lic officials losing their liability insurance has been inflated out of proper proportion, and he emphasized that New Market did not have public official liability insurance before 1982.

At the December meeting, when the council passed the motion regarding its insurance, Shaw said he could not recall a case which cost the town more than \$3,000, including awards. Mary Storm, the town attorney, agreed with him. The cost of insuring public officials through International Surplus Lines has escalated from \$53 per year in 1982 to \$3,150 in October.

After the meeting, several people were uncertain about the details of the amendment to Stapp's proposal. There was even some confusion over whether the council decided to rescind its ruling until it could review the amendment.

During the meeting, Jesse Sutton made the motion that the council drop the insurance policy by adopting Stapp's proposal. Stapp seconded the motion. But before he passed, the mayor asked for an amendment that would include "reasonable" attorney fees or a similar statement. He asked Ms. Storm, the town attorney, to word it properly.

Other people spoke up, and the exchange became very hard to follow.

Eventually Sutton let his motion drop and included the potpourri of suggestions in another motion, which, unless councilmembers disagree at the January meeting, will remain in the official record until the town gets another policy.

After the meeting was adjourned some people left with conflicting opinions about what the council had resolved. Patty Morrow, who records the minutes, found herself caught in a crossfire. Ms. Storm told her not to add the resolution to the official record until the council reviews her properly worded version of the amendment, as originally requested by Mayor Shaw. But the next day Stapp contacted the clerk to check whether her records were consistent with his and to make sure the town was on record that it would back its public officials should they get sued.

At the moment, the insurance ruling is part of the official record, with the amendment that the town will only hire attorneys for "reasonable" fees and with the council's approval.

# Fifty die in ethnic riots in Pakistan set off by raids for heroin, illegal arms

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Fifty people died Sunday when raids for heroin, hashish and illegal arms in Pathan neighborhoods touched off demonstrations by the fierce tribesmen and ethnic rioting, witnesses and hospital officials said.

At least 182 people were reported injured. One death was reported Saturday night.

Police fired on rioters Sunday and it was not clear how many of the casualties resulted from police action and how many from communal clashes. Soldiers were called in to patrol trouble spots in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city with 5.1 million people. The government imposed a curfew in four city districts — Orangi, Qasba, Nazimabad, and Lalukhet.

Shantytowns set ablaze in the rioting burned into Sunday evening and witnesses said at least 400 homes were destroyed or damaged.

Doctors at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital said 17 bodies arrived there from Orangi neighborhood, home to about 500,000 people, including Pathans, Biharis and Urdu-speaking communities.

Doctors at Qatar Hospital said 33 bodies were received there. Some of the

injured — at those two hospitals, the Civil Hospital and Piracha Hospital — were described as in critical condition.

A government statement put Sunday's death toll at 40 and injured at 156. It said deaths included five people killed in a bomb blast, but gave no details.

Doctors said most of those killed had gunshot wounds and that stabbing victims were among the injured.

Witnesses said the rioting involved Pushtu-speaking Pathans, Biharis and Urdu-speakers and broke out early Sunday.

Police used clubs, tear gas and finally gunfire to disperse rioters, they said.

Communal rioting between Pathans and Urdu-speakers killed 51 people early last month, and tensions remained high.

The violence arose from police sweeps beginning Friday through Orangi and the predominantly Pathan Sohrab Goth neighborhood. The government's "Operation Cleanup" netted 366 pounds of heroin, an unspecified but "large" quantity of hashish and other drugs, arms and bombs.

Pathans are traditionally seminomadic tribespeople from northwest Pakistan famous for their fierce resist-

tance to British colonialism. They control a significant portion of drug smuggling and arms running in Pakistan.

Pathans took to the streets to protest the drug raids, erecting barricades and pelting security forces with stones. Witnesses said one person was stoned to death Saturday night.

Pathans set fire Sunday to seven buses, including four state-owned vehicles, and two private cars. The four government buses were burned when a mob attacked the bus depot in Nazimabad. A store at the depot also went up in flames, witnesses said.

The Pathan rioters set fire to homes belonging to Urdu-speakers and Biharis in Orangi. Urdu-speakers and Biharis then took to the streets and clashed with the Pathans, setting Pathan homes on fire.

The government statement said: "In order to demonstrate their resentment against the cleanup operation, miscreants backed up by those who indulged in narcotics and unauthorized weapons trade incited the local population." It did not specifically name the Pathan community, but identified the Biharis and Urdu-speakers as the groups attacked.

# Study says acid-rain control proposals would cause increase in electric rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acid-rain control proposals in Congress would force significant electricity rate increases in many parts of the nation, not just the heavily polluting Midwest, according to a new private-sector study.

In addition, Management Information Services Inc. says, the amount of a utility customer's bill hike would depend largely on which power company is supplying the electricity.

"These rate increases would not necessarily be limited to a few states in the Midwest, as is commonly assumed," according to the for-profit research company, which said it received no outside funding for the study.

The company, looking at 180 power companies in the contiguous 48 states, calculated what would be the impact on customers under different acid rain bills that were considered this year by House and Senate committees.

The legislation is expected to form the starting points in 1987 for a major push by environmentalists to legislate curbs on sulphur dioxide emissions from coal-fired boilers.

People and organizations on both sides of the acid rain debate generally agree on one point: reducing this form of pollution will be very costly. Al Cook of Management Information Services says the study is the first attempt to estimate the impact on the rates of specific power companies.

Sulphur dioxide, SO<sub>2</sub>, is one of the pollutants that helps produce the acidic precipitation that some scientists say is responsible for environmental damage and human health problems as well as

contributing to the so-called greenhouse effect — a dangerous warming of Earth's atmosphere.

The House bill, sponsored by Reps. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and Gerry Sikorski, D-Minn. and about 160 colleagues, would mandate a 44 percent reduction in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions by the mid-1990s.

The study said that nationwide, this would add about 3 percent, or \$3 billion a year to electricity bills if utilities choose to meet the requirements by installing relatively expensive scrubbers in their stacks.

The Waxman-Sikorski plan proposes adding a surcharge of up to 50 cents a month to each residential electricity bill to create a subsidy fund to ensure that no residential customer would have to pay more than 10 percent more for service.

There is no subsidy feature in the stricter Senate bill authored principally by Sen. Robert Stafford, R-Vt. It would mandate an almost 66 percent cut in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which the study says would boost electricity bills by an average of 9 percent, the study said.

"While some utility companies would be relatively unaffected by either bill, most companies would be forced to raise their rates somewhat under the House bill and significantly under the Senate bill," the study said.

"If legislation resembling either one of these bills were to become law, electric rate increases in the range of 10 percent to 30 percent would not be at all unusual for many companies throughout the United States," it said.

The study said that Oregon utilities, which rely chiefly on hydropower for their electricity, would have to spend little or no money to meet the standards set by either bill. Vermont also faces low compliance costs.

At the other extreme, electricity rates in West Virginia would have to be increased 5 percent to comply with the House proposal and a whopping 37 percent to meet the requirements of Stafford's plan, according to the study.

Within West Virginia, the effects of different electricity companies would vary widely. Customers of Monongahela Power Co. could face 63 percent increases under the Senate bill, compared to 10 percent hikes for Virginia Power Co. customers, according to the study.

Both bills would have the greatest impact on six states: West Virginia, Ohio, Missouri, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Illinois. They would have to meet 83.5 percent of the national emissions reduction goal under the House plan and 55.8 percent under the Senate approach. But other areas of the nation are not immune to double-digit increases. The study calculated that hikes could reach 22 percent for customers of Mississippi Power Co. and 20 percent for customers of SCANA Corp. in South Carolina under the Senate approach.

The study said that while cleaner air is an environmental goal that should be vigorously pursued, enacting acid rain control legislation could cause great dissatisfaction among rate-payers.

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