

Trail Blazers Encourage Writing Skills

Hoping to encourage an increased interest in writing skills, the Portland Trail Blazers and AVIA

Athletic Footwear Company are launching an essay competition for students grades one through 12.

The essay competition is part of the three segment "Blazer/AVIA Scholastic Improvement Concepts"

(BASIC) program. Last year, more than 25,000 students accepted the

challenge and entered essays in the "Write-On" competition. Double that number of entries are hoped for this year.

Entry forms and a suggested lesson plan are being mailed directly to teachers at public and private schools in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas and Yamhill Counties in Oregon and Clark County, Washington. The topic for this year's competition is "Who I Admire Most in the World and Why."

"This topic was selected because we felt teachers could creatively link it to a study program dealing with current events and people," notes Wally Scales, program coordinator. The "Write-On" lesson plan suggests that students gather information about personalities whom they admire from newspapers, magazines, biographies and autobiographies for classroom review and discussion.

To add interest, the Blazers and

AVIA have also decided to establish a "Student Top Ten" must like United Press International's annual list of the "Top Ten Newsmakers" or Good Housekeeping's "Most Admired Men and Women" poll. Teachers are being asked to submit a tallied list of the personalities their students choose to write about. Plans call for the results of this student opinion poll to be announced in early March. "It's going to be interesting to compare the students

choices to the lists compiled by adults," notes Scales.

The deadline for entries is March 5th. Schools have been asked to be responsible for selecting their top three papers from each grade. Final selection of first, second and third place winning essays will be handled by the Portland Council of the International Reading Association.

The top winners at each grade level will receive free sets of tickets to the Blazer home game on April 12

against the L.A. Clippers. They will also receive a locker room tour plus an assortment of special prizes.

The Portland Trail Blazers and AVIA have co-sponsored the "BASIC" program for three years in association with The Young American, America's NewsMagazine for Kids and The Portland Council of the International Reading Association. Reading and student achievement segments were held earlier this year.

Red Cross Parenting Course Scheduled

The American Red Cross is offering "Parenting: Your Child From One to Six" in four sessions each Tuesday, January 6 thru 27, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Emanuel Hospital, 2801 N. Gantenbein.

Taught by Red Cross authorized volunteer instructors, the class will cover sensorimotor, language, intellectual and social-emotional growth, discipline, safety, nutrition, health, philosophies of contemporary parenting, and current child development theories.

Pre-registration is necessary since class size is limited. Cost of the class is \$20 per couple or individual to cover costs of materials. Call the American Red Cross, 284-7090, to pre-register.

Swing in the New Year

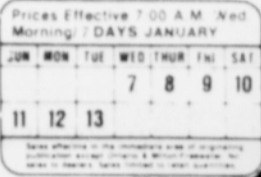
Portland Tennis Center, 324 N.E. 12th, offers winter tennis lessons for all ages and levels of play.

Adults may sign up for group lessons which begin the week of January 12th. Groups meet twice a week for four weeks. The fee is only \$32.00.

Junior lessons, for those 18 years and younger, begin January 12th and meet once a week for five weeks. The cost is only \$13.00.

Classes fill on a first-come, first-serve basis, so sign up today by calling the Portland Tennis Center at 233-5959.

P.S. St. Johns Racquet Center, another Portland Park Bureau facility, also offers tennis lessons!



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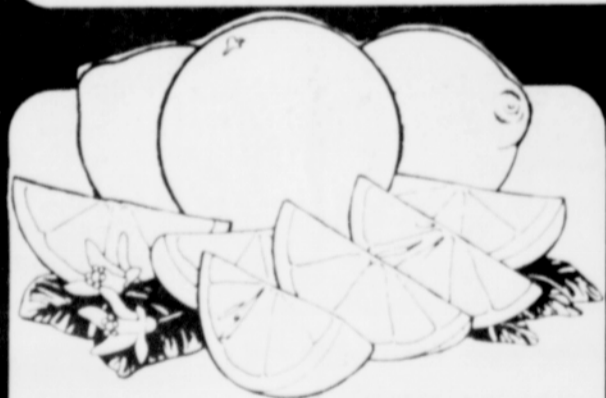


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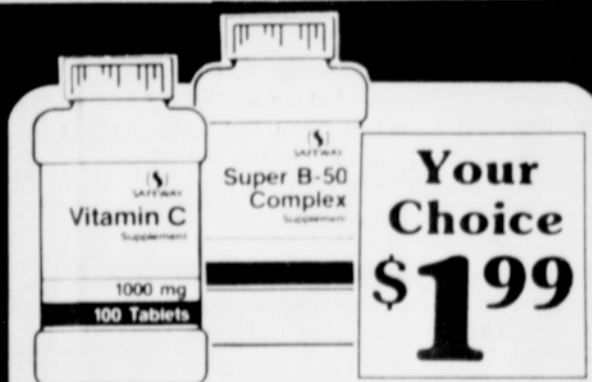


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