

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



To the Editor:
Once again, the 1000 Friends and LCDC have teamed up to stop a popular tourist attraction which provided jobs, entertainment and a service to the metropolitan area; the annual Spring Gallery near Wilsonville, attended by thousands over the last 14 years.

This popular event, held in the Maureen and Laurin Larsen's large barn on Stafford Road featured 250 antiques and crafts vendors. Farmers in the area signed a petition saying that the Spring Gallery did not interfere with their land use.

However, a complaint from one neighbor, and a letter from an attorney for 1000 Friends appears to have put an end to the event. Jim Sitzman, LCDC's field services manager, said that the uses must comply with Exclusive Farm Use statutes, which they don't.

When will Oregonians wake up and realize that it is time to reevaluate the role of LCDC? When will we begin to require a little common sense and flexibility to their regulations?

Our Governor has indicated that she will work for reform and improvement in state government. The LCDC would be a good place to start. Then, maybe we could eliminate many of the oppressive restrictions on uses of our land such as the one which appears to have doomed the Spring Gallery.

Sincerely,
Shirley Bryant
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Community Empowerment Emphasized at RDI Conference

Prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse through community action is the focus of the first annual conference sponsored by the Regional Drug Initiative (RDI) on Saturday, September 28, 1991 at the Oregon Convention Center. The conference theme is "Working Together: Community Action Against Drugs."

Reverend Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco is featured as the keynote speaker. Reverend Williams is nationally known for empowering people to take control of their lives and their community.

More than 100 volunteers have planned this conference. Local businesses and individuals donated funds for more than 90 scholarships for needy youth and families. In addition, seventeen local groups are co-sponsors of the conference.

The conference program will include a panel of RDI Task Force and Committee Members from education, workplaces, neighborhoods, law enforcement, and the religious community.

A presentation on "Preparing for Diversity" will be given by James Mason, Project Manager for PSU's Regional Research Institute.

Dear Editor:
1990 ushered in a new decade by breaking a frightening record. 23,438 Americans were murdered last year -- more than in any single year of the previous decade -- according to the FBI Uniform Crime Report. Firearms were the weapon of choice in nearly 60 percent of the murders. And handguns alone accounted for nearly 50 percent of the total.

It becomes harder and harder to rationalize the growing violence around us when we realize that the areas with the fastest-rising levels of violent crime are rural states, according to a recent Senate Judiciary Committee Report. Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa and Oklahoma, among others, all had higher increases in the rate of crime than did New York last year.

Ten years ago, while serving as Press Secretary to President Ronald Reagan, I was shot in the head by a man who easily purchased a handgun over-the-counter. Since that time, there has been mounting pressure on Congress to pass legislation making it more difficult for criminals, drug addicts, and the mentally ill to obtain handguns.

This year, Congress passed a bill requiring a waiting period and background check for the purchasers of handguns -- a proposal long-advocated by law enforcement officers nationwide. The measure, known as the Brady Bill, will soon go to President Bush's desk. But, the hardcore gun lobby continues to fight the Brady Bill, and is vigorously lobbying President Bush to veto this life-saving measure.

President Bush needs to hear from us -- the other guys; the folks without millions of dollars or armies of lobbyists. I have a fast and easy way for you to send a message to the President. Just call 1-900-226-4455 and leave your name and address. A letter will be sent in your name to the President letting him know you support the Brady Bill. The call will only take two minutes and the \$2.75 cost will appear on your phone bill.

We can quell the random violence which threatens each and every one of us. We can make our neighborhoods safer. We can send our children to schools free from gun violence. A phone call from you today start us on our way.

Sincerely,
Jim Brady



About half as much hot water is used in the average shower as in the average bath.



An elephant's trunk has about 40,000 muscles.

Local Groups Keep Local Basketball Team In The Game

The networking of local community groups and businesses has enabled an after-school basketball team to stay on the courts for their second season.

Formed in 1990, the team is comprised of eleven girls from the N.E. Portland area, as a deterrent to drug and gang involvement. Tony Washington, Public Relations Director of the *Portland Observer*, formed the team when he became fed up with drug and gang activity overwhelming the North Portland area.

"My objective was to conduct a fun and constructive activity which would encourage positive interaction with others and personal accomplishment for the girls," said Washington. "It's actually an important learning experience and, done right, is a lot more fun than getting involved in gangs and drugs."

The local chapter of the Church of Scientology's "Lead the Way to a Drug Free USA" coalition upon learning of the lack of community funding threatening the team's formation for the new year, found groups and individuals who could help keep the team together.

"The King Neighborhood Association provided funding for the team, uniforms were created with the help of Rhapsody, Inc. and Jamee Aubrey," said Angie Johnson, coordinator for the Lead the Way coalition in Portland. "They have demonstrated true community spirit and are actively 'Leading the Way' to a drug-free Portland by participating in these sort of activities."

"We were very happy to put it all together and help keep the team on the courts this year. Working together, we accomplished something which just a month ago was impossible, and, showed that people with like-minded purposes are stronger together than alone. This sort of networking is an important part of 'Lead the Way'. Together, we can get behind and support activities which will make a drug-free Portland a reality," concluded Johnson.

United Way Recipients to Report Campaign Progress

Area residents helped by United Way of the Columbia-Willamette funded programs will give updates on this year's United Way campaign at a report luncheon, Friday, Oct. 4, noon, at the Portland Marriott.

The service recipients will provide campaign progress reports as well as tell how agencies such as Boys and Girls Club of Portland and International Refugee Center of Oregon have made positive differences in their lives.

Campaign Chairman Robert L. Ridgley, president/CEO, Northwest Natural Gas Company, will announce the total amount raised so far toward this year's goal of \$20.5 million.

Jim Little of KATU will emcee the event, which also will feature live music and a final report on the Pacesetter campaign (the early company fund drives that provide a financial base for the main campaign in the fall).

Tickets for the luncheon are \$13 and are available by contacting Susan Mitchell at 226-9326.



Perspectives

By Professor McKinley Burt

"New Suspension System Eliminates Bounce and Sway"

So says the "Infinity" division of the Nissan Motor Corporation in its new ad campaign, © 1991. What parents should watch out for is a "bounce and sway" in the statistics put out by the school district on minority SUSPENSIONS; that, too, needs to be eliminated.

This is an area of concern frequently addressed by the Desegregation Monitoring Committee after examining an incredible ratio of "black" suspensions to white. As we emphasize increased involvement of minority parents this school year, this is a prime area for their attention. There are particular interfaces between their children and the system which require immediate attention--such as athletic events where we often find staff (even principals) predicating evictions and suspensions on some rather tenuous and quite unorthodox grounds (going beyond "gang" costumes and paraphernalia, and indulging in personal morals and prejudices).

It is interesting to note the correlation between the dates of reinstatement and the dates for submitting reports to the state upon which financial allocations are made. It is hardly suggested that there is any structured or fair process in place here. Again, I emphasize

that parents avail themselves (personally) of the reports available at the administration building -- and that they attend meetings relevant to the dynamics that affect their children.

I understand very well that most of the information received is LESS THAN INFORMATIVE -- carefully and conveniently bundled in the form of STATISTICS -- but there is still a pressing need to examine and assess the data available. Talk with other parents -- compare notes -- question teachers and administrators who are on "your" payroll. Also, your daily newspaper features some very good articles by investigative reporters of the educational scene and most are written in language the "layman" can understand. And "race" variables are usually explored.

A case in point is that earlier this month there was a rash of reports on the latest Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs) in both the local and national media. The *Oregonian* featured some very informative examinations and interpretations of the results -- particularly in respect to the performance of minorities. As did the national media, all took note that the national average dropped four points for the combined average of 1990. Now, a September 9 letter from

the Superintendent's Office to Portland's parents and students stated that "Portland's Class of 1991 earned a combined verbal-math score of 907 -- 11 points higher than the national average of 896 on the SAT's" (The combined average rose 1 point locally).

It is seen that my advice to "read the media" is well taken when we examine the District's letter. As my neighbor pointed out, the non-ethnic statistics above are given the first paragraphs of the missive while the only information of specific interest to black and other minority parents (?) is given in a single concluding paragraph; "This is a remarkable achievement for any school district, especially an urban system with higher percentages of minority, impoverished and other at-risk students." HIGH THAN WHERE? KENEBUNKPORT?

Don't forget the big event is this Friday, September 27 from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. "Open House" for the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Education and Cultural Center; Urban League Building, 10 North Russell St. The center offers excellent after-school tutoring and library facilities for students from sixth grade through college sophomores. If you're attending, call Judy Venable at 280-2600.

Schools Take Aim At Intolerance

Salem-Keizer seeks diversity in classroom

by Jillyn McCullough, *The Statesman Journal*

On the wall of Geraldine Hammond's office, next to a Mexican sombrero and a button that says "Black is Beautiful," hangs a sign:

Tomorrow will be the same unless you change something today.

In the Salem-Keizer schools--Hammond's employer--that means offering more multi-cultural education for students so that the intolerance that exists today won't tomorrow.

For too long, U.S. schools have focused on the accomplishments of the white culture, neglecting the contributions of other people, Hammond said.

"The community is changing, and

we need to change with it," said Hammond, who is coordinating the district's multicultural plan for the '90s.

Administrators want to boost students' self-esteem by making them more aware of their own culture's history and accomplishments. At the same time, they want to teach students to respect other cultures.

Administrators also want to create more cultural diversity in the school work force. The district traditionally has had a hard time recruiting minority teachers. It is working on an exchange with Cincinnati schools to bring minority teachers here on temporary assignments.

The district will share its multicul-

tural plan for the '90s today at a program titled "Valuing Diversity: Challenge for the '90s." Byron Kunisawa, a multicultural specialist, will speak.

Originally, the day's activities were to include only people involved with the school district. Now, members of the Salem Human Rights Commission, the Salem Police Department and the City Council have been invited.

Hammond said recent hearings concerning race relations and a spate of racial problems in Salem have made multicultural education a hot topic.

"Folks were asking things like, 'Well, what are the schools doing?' said Hammonds.

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Reinvestments in the Community

North Precinct Community Policing Project Holds Second Annual Iris Court Community Fair



The Iris Court North Precinct Community Policing Demonstration Project and the Iris court Residence Council held its Second Annual Iris Court Community Fair from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, August 24, at North Sumner Street and Vancouver Avenue.

Mayor J.E. "Bud" Clark gave a kickoff address at high noon from the top of an Oregon Air National Guard flat bed truck. He was joined in opening remarks by Darryl Tukufu, CEO/Director, Urban League of Portland and Housing Authority of Portland Director, Denny West.

The event featured a job/health fair, entertainment, citizen information and food in a block party atmosphere.

The fair featured several local groups including Sista's N' Motion, Unison, "Bam Bam" and OMSI "Robots." Arrangements were made to provide ribs, chicken and hamburgers for 400 people. These items were donated by Food Service of America, R.M. Pamplin, Inc., PPB Sunshine Division, Life Center, Reser's Fine Foods, West-

ern Paper Products, Portland Bottle (7-UP), T.J. Sentry Market, Franklin's Ready Ribs, Blue Bell Chips, Inc., Oregon Chief, and Emanuel Health Services

The food was prepared by the Deacon's of Morning Star Church.

The following agencies staffed an informational booth during the fair: Sickle Cell Foundation, Red Cross, Oregon Outreach Youth Resource, AMA Head Start, AMA Family Day Care, Self Enhancement, Northeast Community Health, Project Independence, Northeast Workforce Center/PCC, Oregon National Guard Army-Air, Navy Recruiting, Oregon Employment Services Division, Poison Control, Private Industry Council, Portland Police Bureau Recruiting, Northeast Neighborhoods (Crime Prevention), Youth Gang Outreach, Peninsular Children Center, Neighborhood Connection, Boys and Girls Club, Together Great Start, Urban League, Project Inani, Project Linkage, MADD, Northwest Regional Educational Lab, (P.O.I.C.) Portland Occupation Industry Council, Mult-nomah Co. Community Health Division, Regional Drug Initiative, St. Vincent's Hospital, OSU Extension Service, Children's Services Div., OMSI, and the YWCA.

"Reinvestments in the Community" is a weekly column appearing in API publications through out the USA