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# The Portland Observer 25¢

## News In Brief

### Albina Community Plan Begin Public Review

The formal public review process for the Albina community Plan begins in late March.

NNEBA Land Use Committee Co-chairs, Matthias Kemeny and Roger Jauch urge members to get involved by coming to the next Land Use Committee meeting on March 19th.

The next few months are critical. It will culminate a three-year planning effort intended to revitalize N/NE Portland.

Land use zoning is central to the success and future of the N/NE community. NNEBA has been working hard to build consensus regarding specific zoning recommendations for the area.

In February, NNEBA sent a memo to all members affected by the proposed land use changes. Any member seeking an amendment to the plan who has not already responded in writing, must do so before the next Land Use Committee meeting.

Much more effort will be required before the plan is presented to City council for approval in late 1992. Kemeny and Jauch suggest members call the Association office at 284-3093 and find out how to become further involved.

### Beat The Summer Rush! Spring Swim Lessons

The Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation is offering spring swim lessons at Buckman Pool, 320 S.E. 16th; Columbia Pool, 7701 N. Chautauqua Blvd., and Metropolitan Learning Center Pool, 2033 N.W. Glisan. Several levels of lessons are offered for children and adults, non-swimmer through swimmers level. Children six months and older can participate in the lessons. Morning, afternoon, and evening lessons are available. The swim lessons begin in April at a cost of ten 30-minute lessons for \$17.50. Walk-in registration begins immediately and continues during operating hours of the facility.

For more information contact Portland Parks and Recreation.

### Art Classes Foster Skills of Aspiring Young Artists

Classes are under way for aspiring young artists at Whitaker Middle School and Arleta Elementary School to explore their creative talents as a part of Pacific Northwest College of Art Extension Program's Young Artist Project. The classes, which started this month and will continue for 12 weeks, are taught by local artists and held Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. at Whitaker at 5700 N.E. 39th and at 2:45 p.m. at Arleta at 5109 S.E. 66th Avenue.

Whitaker students will delight in the fundamentals of drawing and portraiture, while Arleta students will experiment in block print, charcoals and pastels. A public exhibit of the students' art will take place following the end of the 12 weeks at both schools.

### Portland Schools Close For Spring Vacation, Administration Offices Open

Portland Public Schools will be closed March 23-27 for Spring Vacation.

The Blanchard Education Service Center administration offices will be open during spring break.

### One With Heart Presents Women's Self Defense

One With Heart, located at 4231 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., presents its spring schedule of Women's Self Defense classes. Day and evening classes begin in March. Monday/Wednesday day class begins March 30 at 12:00 noon. Tuesday/Thursday night class begins April 14 at 7:00 p.m. Monday/Wednesday night class begins May 4 at 8:00 p.m. Call 231-1999 to reserve your place.

### Californians Account for About 40 Percent of the Newcomers to Oregon

In 1990, 30,053 California drivers moved to Oregon while 14,393 Oregon drivers moved to California. (Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles).

### Zoo Offers Expanded Spring Class Schedule

A variety of programs for children, adults and families is being offered by the Metro Washington Park Zoo this spring. The programs cover a broad spectrum, and include such diverse areas as drawing and painting, nature walks, animal information and a theatre production.

A specially featured spring program is the "92 Camperoo: An Elephant Overnight," May 2 and 3. Children age 6 to 10 and their parents or caregivers spend the night with the animals and learn all about elephants. A night-time safari, animal encounters, games, activities, snacks and breakfast are included in the overnight. The fee is \$30 per person or \$25 for members of the Friends of the Washington Park Zoo.

A complete program schedule is available by calling 220-2781.

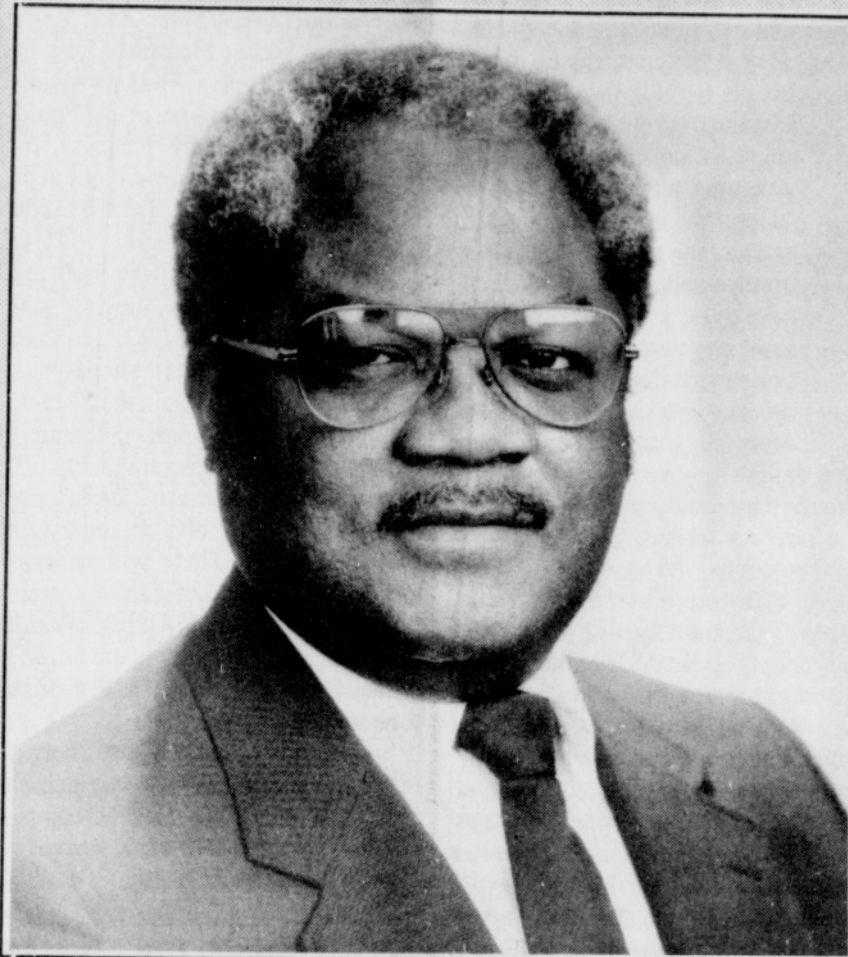
### Sixth Annual Walt Kellogg/Safeway Easter Seals Invitation Ski Race

The Sixth Annual Easter Seals Ski Race will be held on April 7th and 8th at Mt. Hood Meadows. This event is held annually to raise money for Easter Seals. It has been very successful the past five years and a lot of fun too!

Call (503) 622-3101 for information.

Don't Forget To Register And Vote

## The Eighth Oregon Black Political Convention



Calvin O.L. Henry, OABA President

The Eighth Oregon Black Political Convention (OBPC) is being held on April 11-12, 1992 at the Howard Johnson Plaza-Hotel, 14811 Kruse Oaks Boulevard (I-5 and Hwy 217 exit), Lake Oswego, Oregon. The purpose of this convention is two-fold. One is to serve as a forum

for delegations to discuss issues and conditions affecting the Black community, and to establish, through resolutions and platform, the positions of the Oregon Black Community. The other is to endorse federal, state, and local candidates running for public offices during the 1992 Primary Election who are

sensitive and responsive to the issues and conditions of Blacks in Oregon. The theme of the convention is: Today's Leaders Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow.

The Oregon Black Political Convention is held during the Spring of election years and is hosted by the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs (OABA) through its Political Action Committee. It is nonpartisan, but political. OBPC is statewide in its focus. OBPC is open to the public. Any individual or organization addressing the concerns of Blacks in Oregon may be a delegate to the convention. The business of the convention is carried out by the delegates. The actions and endorsements of the Oregon Black Political Convention are the positions of the convention and not those of the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs.

Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs

The Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs (OABA) is a nonprofit, statewide corporation committed to improving the status of Blacks in Oregon. It was founded on April 9, 1977, and is registered with the Oregon Corporation Division. Its purpose is to improve the political, educational, social, legal, and economic status of Blacks in Oregon. It is nonpartisan, but political. Any person who is in accordance with the principles of OABA may become a member. Write OABA, P.O. Box 12485, Salem, Oregon 97309 for membership information.

## Bank of America Aims to Increase Home Affordability in Lower-Income Communities

Bank of America has introduced a home loan program to help more families finance homes in lower-income communities in Oregon, according to Randy C. James, chairman and chief executive officer of Bank of America Oregon.

The program, called Neighborhood Advantage, provides more flexible qualifying guidelines and other features to ease affordability for qualified borrowers purchasing or refinancing homes in designated census tracts or ZIP code areas.

"With its special underwriting guidelines and other features, Neighborhood Advantage will help more families finance homes in lower-income areas and serve to revitalize neighborhoods," James said.

Through the Neighborhood Advantage

home loan program, individuals purchasing or refinancing homes in designated areas can qualify for a home loan with a housing expense ratio of up to 40 percent of their gross income if they make a 10 percent down payment and have shown the ability to manage this expense level, such as by rent payments. Standard industry guidelines typically allow borrowers to spend no more than 28 percent to 30 percent of their gross monthly income on housing expense.

For example, a qualified borrower with an annual income of approximately \$19,800 could purchase a home for \$68,000, put 10 percent down, and finance \$61,000. To qualify for the same amount under standard industry guidelines, a borrower would need an annual gross income of approximately \$28,500

or \$8,700 more than with the Neighborhood Advantage program. In effect, the Neighborhood Advantage home loan program enables borrowers to finance a home with 30 percent less income.

"Many families are already making rental payments at about the same level," James said. "With Neighborhood Advantage, they can become homeowners and begin building equity."

The Neighborhood Advantage program is available to qualified individuals financing a home in census tracts designated lower-income as generally defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (These areas are primarily comprised of census tracts with a median income of 80 percent or less than the median income for the metropolitan statistical area of which

they are a part, based on the 1980 census).

Eligible census tracts in Oregon are located in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Lane and Jackson counties.

The Neighborhood Advantage home loan program includes both fixed- and adjustable-rate loans for the purchase of a home or for refinancing an existing mortgage.

In addition to more favorable qualifying ratios, the Neighborhood Advantage program allows down payments of as little as 5 percent; has no minimum loan amount; and does not require borrowers who put at least 10 percent down to have cash reserves equal to two months worth of mortgage payments.

As an introductory offer through

Continued on page 12

## Students Offered Free Lunches During Spring Break

The Portland School District will provide free lunches for students during the one-week spring vacation beginning March 23, school board member Bill Panaretos announced.

For the first time, children will be fed during Spring Break. In December the school district began offering free lunches during the Christmas Break.

The soup-and-sandwich lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 12 noon Monday through Friday, March 23-27.

The nine schools offering the free lunch are: Arleta, 5109 S.E. 66th Ave.; Beach, 1710 N. Humboldt; Boise-Eliot, 620 N. Fremont St.; Clarendon, 8235 N. Van Houten Ave.; Kenton, 7528 N. Fenwick; King, 4906 N.E. 6th Ave.; Rigler, 5401 N.E. Prescott; Sunnyside, 3421 S.E. Salmon; and Vernon, 2044 N.E. Killingsworth.

The school district will use federal funds, as well as corporate and private contributions, to help pay for the meals, Panaretos said. He proposed the Christmas and Spring free-lunch project to Matthew Prophet, Superintendent, last fall.

Families whose children normally receive free or reduced-price school lunches are eligible. There is a \$2 charge for adults.

Panaretos said about 19,000 or 35 percent of the district's 56,000 children come from families poor enough to make the students eligible for federally subsidized free or reduced-price meals.

Persons wishing to contribute may call the district's department of Public Information and Communication at 249-3304.

## Rose Festival Princess

Patrice Latoyia Woods, a 17-year-old Senior, was chosen Thursday as Benson High School's princess for the 1992 Portland Rose Festival. She was the fourth princess to be selected.

Screams, cheers and applause filled the auditorium as Benson's 1991 Rose Festival princess, Melissa Willis, wound her way among the contenders for the honor and then handed a bouquet of roses to Princess Patrice. The winner's broad smile was followed shortly by happy tears. She thanked the students for their support and added, "Remember, if you want your dreams to come true, don't oversleep."

Princess Patrice was born in Portland on May 15, 1974. She is the daughter of Clarence Woods and Eva L. Guy.

She is student body president this year, competes in track, cross country and basketball and was chosen scholar-athlete of the year for 1992. She has served as a peer helper, was 1991



Princess Patrice

homecoming queen, won a scholastic improvement award and was voted the most athletic senior for 1992.

Her goal is to attend college and graduate school and earn a doctorate in electrical engineering.

Princess Patrice's hobbies include bicycle riding, music and singing.

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