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# The Portland Observer 25¢

## Smokers Urged To Quit For A Day!

Join the Great American Smokeout on Thursday, November 19. Millions of smokers across the country will prove that they can kick the habit for 24 hours. How about you? Or if you don't smoke, adopt a smoker for the day and promise to help that friend get through the day without a cigarette.

There are a variety of local activities planned to help make it easier to quit for the day. Volunteers from the American Cancer Society and McKenzie-Willamette Hospital have teamed up with Albertson's to reward "quitters." Smokers can trade in a pack of cigarettes for a slice of turkey submarine sandwich if they can go "cold turkey." The Albertsons stores on Coburg Road, Eugene, and 58th and Main, Springfield, are participating. Sacred Heart Hospital is offering the opportunity to win a Thanksgiving turkey to smokers willing to quit for a day (see ad in R-G) and babies born that day at both hospitals will receive an "I am a born non-smoker" t-shirt.

The annual anti-smoking campaign is sponsored by the American Cancer Society which has made the fight against tobacco use a priority. Tobacco use is the single greatest cause of premature death in the United States, and lung cancer is the number one cause of death from cancer.

Tips for quitting:  
Hide all ashtrays and matches  
Get a big supply of gum, carrot sticks, etc.

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## Jefferson High School Students Talk About Malcolm X



Theatre Arts students from Jefferson High School met informally Tuesday afternoon with actresses Phyllis Stickney and Ruby Dee to talk about the movie Malcolm X. Both actresses were in town for the Urban League premiere of Malcolm X Tuesday evening at the Fox Theatre.

Photo by Veronica Green

## Pacific Power Urges Customers To Help Neighbors

Envelopes urging Pacific Power customers to lend a hand to help their neighbors stay warm this winter will soon be arriving in monthly electricity bills. Pacific Power is a participating member in Oregon HEAT's home energy assistance program, which helps local low-income and unemployed residents pay their heating bill.

"This winter, there will be many individuals and families trying to deal with sickness, unemployment or other crises, who won't be able to pay their home heating bill," said Pacific Power Columbia area manager Carl Talton. "Fortunately, there is a way all Oregonians can help - Oregon HEAT."

Oregon HEAT is a state-wide fuel fund that provides those in need with emergency fuel assistance and offers energy counseling to help them manage their energy use more efficiently. The program is available to all Pacific Power customers, regardless of how they heat their home.

Each year since 1982, Pacific Power shareholders have contributed up to \$100,000, which is added to contributions from the public and employees to provide the assistance. Contributions are tax-deductible.

"This is a community-based program, which means that all donations collected from this community help local families pay their heating bills," explained Talton. "It's neighbor helping neighbor and it's something our customers have supported enthusiastically."

All funds are dispersed by local social service agencies, which determine eligibility on a case by case basis and ensure that those in need receive assistance.

"I hope customers will be generous

again this year," Talton said. "There are many families in our community to whom a little assistance from Oregon HEAT would make a lot of difference."

Fall is with us. Temperatures are cooler and days are shorter. Both heating systems and lights are used more. All this means increases in energy bills.

Talton suggest that electric customers might want to consider leveling out their monthly energy bills with the company's Equal Payment Plan.

"The Equal Payment Plan can take the edge off those winter utility bills," said Talton. "It helps customers avoid the seasonal peaks and valleys of monthly billings by breaking the annual cost of electricity into 12 equal installments."

The program includes a built-in review every six-months, allowing both customer and Pacific an opportunity to be certain the average payment is within reasonable limits. For example, customers who have recently added insulation to make their home more energy efficient can expect to use less energy in the future. The six month review will adjust for this savings.

"This is a good program for customers on a fixed income or anyone who wishes to level out their monthly electric charges," Talton said. "The program provides customers with a choice of how to pay their monthly energy bill. Above all, it helps them control their household budget."

In addition, Pacific Power offers other forms of help to customers in need of assistance - including the state wide fuel fund - Oregon HEAT - and on-going energy efficiency programs.

Information on all programs is available at the local Pacific Power office.

## Volunteer Lawyers Project

Multnomah County has over 20,000 outstanding arrest warrants: warrants issued as recently as ten days ago or as long as ten years ago. Last May Multnomah County held its first Settlement Day, allowing people with these warrants to clear them up without fear of being taken into custody. Over 200 individuals took advantage of that opportunity to successfully clear up their records.

To continue its efforts to reduce the backing of outstanding arrest warrants, Multnomah County will hold Settlement Day II on Friday, November 20, and Saturday, November 21, 1992. Individuals who want to check on, discuss or clear up their outstanding

warrants can do so on Settlement Day II without fear of being arrested. They can come to the second floor of the Justice Center, 1120 SW Third Avenue, and meet with representatives from the Multnomah County District Attorney's office and the Metropolitan Public Defender's office to discuss their problem and possible solutions. There will be no cost to the person for these legal services. If an agreement can be made with the District Attorney's office the matter will be disposed of that day. The only matters that can be processed on Settlement Day are Multnomah County warrants for misdemeanors, warrants for traffic crimes, possession of lesser amounts of con-

trolled substances, felony property crimes, failure to complete a DUI Diversion Program and failure to make child support. It will not be possible to process warrants from counties other than Multnomah County. Other matters that cannot be handled on Settlement Day are probation violations, traffic infractions (ie: running a red light), parking tickets, class A or B felonies, or felonies involving assaultive behavior.

Anyone with questions about how Settlement Day II will work should call the Metropolitan Public Defender's office at 273-1351 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm during the week of November 16 through November 20.

Settlement Day II has the support of the Portland Police and the District Attorney's office. "We were pleased with the results of the Settlement Day last spring and hope this time will be even more successful," said Fred Lenzner of the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.

Settlement Day II is coordinated by the MBA Volunteer Lawyers Project, a non-profit organization that links low-income people who have civil legal problems with volunteer attorneys who handle the case at no cost. The MBA Volunteer Lawyers Project also has special programs for the homeless, people with AIDS, homeless veterans and people who speak Spanish.

## American Friends Service Committee

To Grandparents,  
I am Sherrian Hagggar, Education Program Director with the American Friends Service Committee in Portland, Oregon. AFSC is a Quaker-based, non-profit, 75 year-old organization working for peace and justice in the world. The Education Program was started 1979, to address the disproportionate suspension and expulsion rates of youth of color and to work towards a just system for all young people and their families.

The Education Program began in 1979, when studies in Portland revealed that black students were being suspended three times as often as white students, often for the same alleged offenses. In the mean time, it has become apparent that native American

youth and Hispanic youth are also at risk. Caucasian youth are at risk also if they are born into poorer than average families. The Education Program has identified classism as another problem needing community response. The program has since worked closely with students, community groups, parents, and the School District on discipline issues and has become a respected community and organizational resource. Staff works with all families to train them about their rights within the school system and helps advocate for the return of young people to school when they have been suspended or expelled. The program provides advocacy and referral services for individuals and organizations. Based on this experience, the Education Program is able to

identify needed institutional change and organize effectively to bring these changes about.

At this time we have undertaken a study of grandparents and their needs. We have come to the conclusion that there are far too many grandparents raising their children's children who are not receiving help from their children or stipends from children's services or social security to help them stay out of poverty. Some agencies of the government don't recognize grandparents' roles, like children's services say grandparents should not receive monies as a child's care giver because they are family and are seen as no different than the child's parents. A neighbor taking in children would receive pats on the back and funds, how-

ever small, to help raise that child.

The Portland Education Program of the American Friends Service Committee is inviting grandparents to become involved in our research concerning your rights within the school system and elsewhere. In the last ten years we have seen a rise in the numbers of grandparents rearing their children's children. We are asking grandparents, for whatever reason, please phone for our questionnaire and to help organize and generate information for a booklet concerning grandparents' needs. All people are welcome to participate. Please phone Sherrian Hagggar, Education Program Director at (503) 230-9429 or visit the office at 2249 E. Burnside in Portland, Oregon.

## The Urban League And The "X" Controversy

By Urban League President Dr. Darryl Tukufu

There has been a lot of talk about the arrival of Spike Lee's film "Malcolm X," which will premiere in Portland at a benefit for the Urban League on November 17th. Many people, including the Urban League, have criticized Act III Theatres for not opening the film at one of its Lloyd Center Cinemas. Some have criticized the Urban League for holding the benefit at an Act III Theatre. We at the League appreciate community concerns about where "X" and other black-oriented films are shown in Portland. This notice is intended to let you know where we stand, what we have done so far, and what limits there are to what the League can do.

In 1991, after community complaints that "Boyz in the Hood" was not shown at Lloyd Cinemas, the League was asked to discuss the booking policy for black-oriented films with Act III management. I did so in the fall of 1991 and again in the spring of 1992, along with Art Alexander, executive assistant to city commissioner Mike Lindberg, and Richard Brown of the Black United Front. Those meetings did result in a change in Act III's booking policy. In 1992, 94% of all black-oriented films have opened at Lloyd Cinemas or Lloyd Mall Cinemas, while only 57% of all major releases have screened there.

In late October, when the Urban League received permission from Warner Brothers and Spike Lee to show "Malcolm X" as a benefit for the Urban League, it was still uncertain where the film would show in Portland. On November 2, when The Oregonian reported the film would not open at either Lloyd Cinema, I called Act III to find out what the problem was. Their answer was that they offered the Fox Theatre because it would seat more people and because the film's long running time meant it could be shown only once an evening.

We have since spoken with Spike

Lee, Warner Brothers, and Act III chairman Norman Lear to express our concern about the film not showing at Lloyd Cinemas. In response to community concerns, Act III has agreed to open "X" at Lloyd Mall Cinemas on December 2. Last Friday the president of Act III flew to Portland to apologize for the chain's failure to communicate with Portland's African American community. On the last two Saturdays, the League has opened its doors to the community for mass meetings to discuss ways to solve the "X" controversy.

Some have said the League has "sold out" by deciding to go on with its benefit at the Fox, which is an Act III theatre. Perhaps some of those people do not understand that Act II receives no money from our event. They are simply letting us use their theatre for free. After the controversy arose we looked for another theatre to use, but could find no other one large enough for the event. All monies raised from the benefit showing will be used to support Urban League programs serving youth, seniors and job seekers in Northeast Portland.

The Urban League provides social services to the community and also advocates for its constituents. We have never been an activist organization. Like all Urban League affiliates, we are more moderate. We try to bring groups together to solve community problems. Our role has always been as a facilitator between groups.

As far as Act III goes, we will continue to work with the chain to make sure that black-oriented films can be seen easily by Portland's African American community. We will also continue to listen to your concerns and provide space for community members to come together and discuss the issue. But the way we pursue this issue will be the same way we pursue all issues: as an advocate for the community that builds bridges between groups, not walls.

**THE ESSENCE OF MALCOLM X**  
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