

The Portland Observer 25¢

Community Calendar

IRVINGTON SCHOOL 1994 HUMAN RELATIONS ASSEMBLY
Friday, February 4, 10am School Gymnasium, 1320 NE Brazee

OREGON'S PEDIATRIC HOT LINE
Noon to 5pm, Sunday, Feb 6.
Call 221-8550 or 1-800-493-7931 for free advice.

TWO WINE/HEART EVENTS
February 18 noon to 1:30pm, SW 10th & Alder, Call 1-800-775-4762. February 19 wineries/retail stores donate 10% sales to Good Samaritan Heart Institute.

KAISER PERMANENTE OFFER HEALTH CLASSES
How To Lower Your Cholesterol 9 to 11am, Feb. 17 & 24th, Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate. Call 286-6816. Diabetes Basic Series, 9am to noon, Feb. 21, 22, & 23, Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate Ave. Call 286-6816.

BUSINESS SUCCESS WORKSHOP
Feb. 9, 8:45 to 4:15pm, Harmony Center, 7616 SE Harmony Rd, Milwaukie. Call 656-4447.

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE CLASSES
7 to 8:30pm Feb. 12, Call: 231-1999.

"Miss Black Oregon 1994" To Portland

Portland, City of Roses will host the "Miss Black Oregon 1994", who will represent the state in the upcoming national competition in Washington, D.C. This will be Oregon's inaugural year for the pageant.

The state auditions and final selection will be held on February 4, 1994 at OAME Cascade Plaza, 4134 N. Vancouver and Skidmore. The winner of this competition will receive free sponsorship to compete for a \$5,000 scholarship and grand prize of a trip to South Africa.

Ebony Warren



OMSI Awarded Over \$1 Million In Grants

(For Educational Programs And Exhibits)

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) has been awarded grants totaling over \$1 million from the National Science Foundation, the Intel Foundation, SAIF Corporation and others. The awards will fund OMSI's coordination of programs for National Science and Technology Week, the creation of an original exhibit on the nature and function of computers, and an exhibit demonstrating current assistive technology for the disabled.

The National Science Foundation awarded \$283,331 to extend for two years an existing program which focuses on teacher training and activities related to National Science and Technology Week, a nationwide program that serves to educate and inform students and the general public about current science and technology issues. OMSI will be an aggregate server of the Internet computer network to provide educational materials, and will hold seminars and workshops for 50 educators and community organizers from throughout the United States. In this award letter, the National Science Foundation recognized OMSI's special creativity based on outstanding scientific and technical progress achieved to date under this grant.

The Intel Foundation awarded \$710,000 toward the development, creation and production of four copies of an exhibit on computer technology. The exhibit will explore how computers acquire, store, process and output data. Once completed by OMSI, the exhibit will be on display there, and copies of the exhibit will be created for use at the following science museums: The Tech Museum of Innovation, San Jose, CA; Explora Science Center, Albuquerque, NM; The Sacramento Science Center, Sacramento, CA; and the Arizona Museum of Science and Technology, Phoenix, AZ. OMSI was chosen to create the displays due to the success of its nationally-recognized interactive exhibits.

Astronaut Convey: From Space With Love



Astronaut Richard O. Convey, commander of the NASA Hubble Space Telescope Servicing Mission, talked to Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital patients and Legacy employee child care students about what it was like to eat, sleep, float and work in space during his visit to Portland, Friday, January 28.

BY PROMISE KING
Astronaut Richard O. Convey descended from space with lots of love for kids at Pediatric Ward, Emmanuel Hospital, bringing with him pictures of the outer heavens.

He gestured, smiled and rollicked with these sick babies. Everywhere he went they came with him. The humility and comfort of a successful pilot, shaking hands and telling tales of his experience in space.

"The kind of questions, they asked is that they want to know why people float in space and if crew members go to bathrooms," Convey said amidst intermit smiles.

The Arkansas born Astronaut started his career as an operational fighter pilot flying the F-100, A-37, and A-TD. He has flown over 5,000 hours in more than 30 different types of aircraft.

Portland Doctors Say No To Lollipop Drug

BY PROMISE KING
Portland doctors were unanimous in condemning the narcotic lollipop administered to children before surgery. The Portland Observer had sought the reactions of Portland-based pediatricians on this drug made by Abbott laboratories under the trade name Oralet. Most doctors interviewed had sought anonymity with this reporter on the grounds that, facts and specifics about the drug were new.

Dr. Cindy Hills, Manager of the Emmanuel Hospital's Pediatric Ward, told the Portland Observer, that "kids shouldn't be deceived to believe that drugs are candy". She however did not emphasize the side effects the lollipop leaves. "We don't use it, and we have never used it. In fact it's very new to me. I only read it in the newspaper," she revealed.

Doctors at Kaiser Permanente kept a sealed lip on use of the drug. When this reporter made inquiries through the hospital's public relations office.

Efforts to find a painless way of putting children to sleep before surgery had led a

group of pediatricians from Utah to develop the idea of a lollipop stuffed with fentanyl, a very potent opiate. The Food and Drug Administration had given the drug a thumbs-up approval in October 1993.



Dr. Cindy Hills

A group of doctors had protested to the government to block the final approval of the narcotic drug. The doctors spearheaded by Dr. Sidney Wolfe of the public Citizen Health Research Group according to wire reports had sent a petition to the Food and Drug Administration seeking a blockage of the final approval of the lollipop. They contended fentanyl was too dangerous, and could further complicate children's health.

The wire service reported that the Drug Enforcement Administration had already protested the approval. "We have taken steps aimed at preventing problems," said James O'Hara, deputy FDA Administrator for Public Affairs, had told the New-York Times News Service. The agency had scheduled a meeting of experts in March 1994 to consider all problems relating to children's anesthesia before surgery.

Health Plan Application Available, Meetings Scheduled

Oregonians with income below the federal poverty line who believe they may qualify for expanded Medicaid coverage under the Oregon Health Plan may now call a toll-free phone number: 1-800-359-9517.

"By calling the 800 number, people can get an application, find out about community meetings in their area, and have basic questions answered," Jean Thorne, state Medicaid director in Salem, said.

The toll-free line will be answered on weekdays from noon to 9pm (Pacific time).

At least 200 community meetings a month will be held across the state during February, March and April at times convenient to working people, Thorne said. Starting in May, the number of meetings will drop to 100 a month.

At the meetings, Oregonians can learn more about the health plan, complete applications, ask questions about managed health-care plans and obtain related information. Persons who wish to complete an application at a community meeting should take Social Security cards and proof of income for the current month, Thorne said.

"This is the first major step to providing health-care coverage to the 479,000 Oregonians who don't have it now," said Gov. Barbara Roberts. "It's a critical milestone in state government's effort to meet our citizens' health-care needs."

An estimated 120,000 poor Oregonians are expected to qualify for the Medicaid expansion, with most of the balance of uninsured Oregonians to be covered by employer-paid insurance starting in 1997-98.

Thorne said applications that are completed at community meetings will be forwarded to Salem, where workers will determine eligibility and then notify applicants. However, persons who become eligible will be entitled to coverage from the date of the application, she said.

The health plan will cover the first 565 medical condition/treatment pairs from a list of 696, although initial medical diagnostic services will be covered even if the resultant treatment isn't covered.

Generally, people are eligible for the health plan if their monthly income is below the federal poverty line and they are U.S. citizens or legal residents, Oregon residents, and are not eligible for Medicare, Thorne said. The federal povertyline is \$991 for a month for a family of 3 and \$1,196 a month for a family of 4, for example. However, pregnant women and children under age 6 may qualify if their income is up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

About 180,000 of the current 250,000

medicaid clients will begin receiving benefits under the health plan on Feb. 1. They will also be enrolled in managed care plans over the next six to seven months. The remaining 70,000 clients (people who are aged, disabled and children in foster care) will keep their current Medicaid coverage for now, although the state is seeking federal permission to bring them under the health plan beginning Jan. 1, 1995. Thorne said.

Under the health plan, more than 80 percent of clients will receive their care from prepaid health plans that are paid a set amount per month for all persons who have chosen that plan, Thorne said. The plans are then responsible for managing and paying for their enrollees' care.

"We've been very pleased with the response we've received from the medical provider community," Thorne said. "More than 20 plans have signed contracts to serve Medicaid clients under the health plan, and these plans will be available in almost all areas of the state." Elsewhere, she said, clients will choose a primary-care provider to manage their care, and the state will then pay for actual services rendered.

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Editorial Along The Color Line "Jim Crow Revisited" By Dr. Manning Marable. A half century ago the most glaring examples of inequality in the public schools were the sharply different Material. Page A2	Black History February Emerge Features The Quest For Justice Bates reports that de la Beckwith is being tried a third time -- the first two trials ended in deadlocked juries in 1964. Page B4	Sports Blazers Fans Raise \$10,500 For L.A. Disaster "Thanks to the Blazer fans the Blazers and Oregon Arena Corporation, this donation drive nearly doubled. Page A6	Entertainment Michael Jackson: Off the Hook? By Promise King. It is pathetic that Michael has to grapple with this horrendous accusation of child molestation. Page B2			
EDITORIAL	RELIGION	BLACK HISTORY	FOOD	SPORTS	ENTERTAINMENT	CLASSIFIEDS
A2	B3	B4	A5	A6	B2	B7