

# HEALTH

The Portland Observer

## National Marrow Donor Program Joins Forces

Many African Americans continue to die from fatal blood diseases like leukemia. Often, their only hope for survival is a marrow transplant from a volunteer donor. During the 85th Annual Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the civil rights organization's executive director and CEO, sounded the call for the African American community to "unite and take action to save our brothers and sisters." Along with Craig W.S. Howe, M.D. CEO of the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), and Cal Davis, president of the Judie Davis Marrow Donor Recruitment Program (JDP), Chavis announced the formation of a partnership under the NMDP's recruitment campaign titled African Americans Uniting for Life (AAUL).

The three organizations have joined forces to save African American lives by working to increase the number of African American volunteer marrow donors. Because of the

genetic characteristics of marrow, any patient in need of an unrelated transplant is most likely to find a compatible marrow donor from someone within his or her own racial group. However, because the number of African Americans listed on the NMDP Registry is low, many more volunteer donors are needed.

During NMDP's three-day marrow drive held during the Convention in Chicago, 136 individuals made the commitment to help save lives by joining the NMDP Registry. NMDP provided additional testing on the day of the partnership announcement. After hearing about the urgent need for minority donors from Dr. Howe and listening to the compassionate plea of Cal Davis (who lost his wife to leukemia because a matching marrow donor was never found), an additional 63 convention attendees joined the registry within a two and a half-hour period.

To become part of the NMDP

Registry, volunteers need only take a simple blood test like the kind given during a routine physical in a doctor's office. The AAUL partnership will encourage every healthy African American between the ages of 18 and 55 to take this first step in saving African American lives.

Through local donor centers and NAACP branches across the country, NMDP and JDP will participate in NAACP-sponsored events to spread the word about the urgent need for African American donors through donor awareness and recruitment activities. To date, of the more than 1.3 million names on the Registry, only 77,488 are African American.

The NMDP is authorized by Congress to maintain a registry of volunteers willing to be marrow donors if matched with a patient. NMDP's minority recruitment campaign, African Americans Uniting for Life, was launched in 1993 to increase the number of African American donors.

## Grandnitters Leave For The Caribbean

The Grandnitters left Portland PDX at 7:30 a.m. Friday, August 6th for Miami MIA for a night at the Holiday Crowne Plaza, where they were treated to a party by Barcardi. Saturday they were taken by bus to Carnival's Superliner "Celebration". The first night at sea they were treated to a cocktail party at the Red Hot Piano Bar by their travel agent Peggy Joseph and New Adventure Travel Service. A "Welcome Aboard" Rum Swizzle Party was also in store for them and a Gala Captains Dinner on the second night at sea. Monday the Celebration stopped at San Juan, Puerto Rico... the pearl of the Caribbean. From historic streets to dazzling floor shows, San Juan's a mix of the old and new in sunny Puerto Rico. The excitement flows through the streets with pulsating Latin music in a city that never sleeps.

Tuesday St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands... a shoppers delight, St. Thomas offers the perfect combination... duty-free shopping and some of the best beaches in the world. White powder sands, crystal ocean and spectacular underwater scenes are the setting for snorkeling, while everything from leather to liquor is duty free.

Wednesday St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles. The Grandnitters save on a trip to Europe when they visit this charming island. Half Dutch, half French, St. Maarten offers the fashions and flavors of Europe in a tropical paradise. They can swim cool, emerald waters or snorkel off one of many secluded shores.

This cruise included Free Round Trip Fare from Portland to Miami, round trip transfers between the airport and the Celebration And Overnight room accommodations in Miami.

If you are interested in going on a Reunion Cruise on the Celebration or a 3-Day Cruise to another destination, Call Peggy Joseph 288-9590 and plan a cruise night for you and your friends.

## Commerce And SBA To Host National Minority Business Conference

The Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will sponsor the 12th annual national observance of Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week, Oct. 10-13, 1994, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, in Washington, D.C.

The national MED Week conference convenes over 1,000 minority business owners, corporate representatives and elected officials to recognize and promote the achievements of minority business enterprises and their supporters.

MED Week 1994 conference events include business seminars, networking sessions, a congressional reception, award ceremonies, a trade fair for minority vendors and a symposium on youth entrepreneurship featuring workshops on entrepreneurship, panels of youth entrepreneurs, networking with successful entrepreneurs, and a Youth-Mart offering products and services for sale by youth-owned businesses.

MED Week observances will focus on the theme, "Minority Business: America's Competitive Edge."

For additional information on the 1994 MED Week national conference, call MBDA at (202) 482-5196, or SBA at (202) 205-6421.

## Crime Stoppers: Homocide

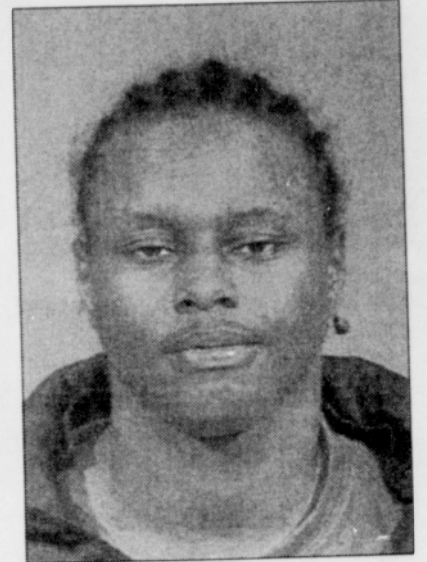
Portland, Police Bureau Detectives, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in solving a homicide.

On Wednesday, July 20, 1994, at approximately 11:25 at night, Willie Dunn Robinson III, a 19-year-old black male, was found shot to death in the 4000 block of N Haight Avenue.

Detectives believe Robinson encountered a vehicle in the area of N. Williams Avenue and N Shaver Street and that shots were fired from the vehicle at that location, and again at N Shaver and N Gantenbein.

One suspect, an 18-year-old black male, has been arrested on murder charges. Police are currently looking for additional occupants of the suspect vehicle, described by witnesses as a large, gray, American-made sedan, with a "box-like" shape.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash



Willie Dunn Robinson III

reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

## Health Briefs

### Routine Important For Homework

For young children, settling into a steady homework routine is a good lesson to learn.

The early years are the best time for parents to lay the foundation for good study habits, said Dr. Florence Eddins, a child psychiatrist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Eddins recommends teaching by example. "When it is time to do homework, sit nearby with some work of your own," she said. "But remember that a child's attention span is shorter; a child will need short breaks more frequently."

Some children like music or television in the background or need a play period before settling down.

### Pregnancy Does Not Rule Out Travel

Pregnancy does not have to stop travel plans. If a pregnant woman has no complications, she can travel during the first 28 weeks as long as she remembers a few rules, said Dr. Kenneth J. Moise Jr., an obstetrician and gynecologist at the college. Moise recommends:

- Consulting her physician before making travel plans. If she intends to be gone more than a day or two, she can ask her physician to recommend a colleague in the destination city in case something goes awry.
- Taking exercise breaks every hour or two to stretch legs and back and to improve circulation.
- Drinking plenty of water and juices to avoid dehydration when traveling by plane.
- "Buckling up" in the air or on the ground. More fetal injuries are caused by injuries the mother receives because she was not wearing a seat belt than by seat belts themselves, Moise said.

Eddins suggests experimenting to learn what works best for an individual child.

"If children have trouble establishing good routines, help them set limits for completion," Eddins said. "You will gradually find what works best."

### Impetigo Can Mar New School Year

One item parents can add to their children's back-to-school list is prevention against a common skin infection.

Impetigo is a contagious bacterial infection that, left untreated, can go deeper into the skin and cause complications. It is spread easily via skin-to-skin contact, especially in summer and early fall, said Dr. Andrea Dominey, a pediatric dermatologist at Baylor.

Minor scrapes and skin cuts can contribute to the infection's spread. For this reason, small epidemics can occur in schools at the start of the school year.

Two bacteria can cause impetigo. Group A streptococcus causes small red dots with honey colored crusting; staphylococcus causes small to large red blisters on the legs, face and trunk. Children who may have impetigo should see a physician.

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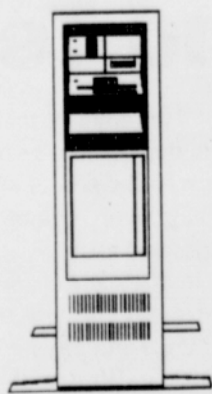
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### The 10th Annual Chef's Gourmet Dinner

Tuesday, August 16th is the 10th Annual Chef's Gourmet Dinner. The A.C.F. Chefs de Cuisine Society of Oregon will prepare a "French Tour of New Orleans" multi-course meal. "Opus V" a local jazz band will play, Sak's Fifth Avenue will put on a fashion show. Gourmet Cuisine, live music, dancing and fashion; the 10th Annual Chef's Gourmet Dinner should be a jazzy, summer night. For tickets to the 10th Annual Chef's Gourmet Dinner and/or event information please call Loyis Van Scoy at 226-4211 ext. 3516.

This annual summer event benefits The Salvation Army Greenhouse. Greenhouse provides emergency services for downtown's street youth. Every year Greenhouse helps about 180 young people leave the city's streets.

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Oregon eleventh grade math students this year improved their performance or maintained previous gains on state tests in reading, writing and math.

This is the fourth year of the assessment. Students in grades 3, 5, 8 and 11 took reading, math and physical education tests, and those grades 3 and 8 took writing tests.

"The results reveal some encouraging news for our school reform program," said State School Supt. Norma Paulus, "especially when you look at five high schools that are piloting the reform effort." Those schools are Roosevelt and David Douglas in Portland, Crater in Cent Point, Willamette in Eugene and Cottage Grove. All five schools recorded gains on the reading test and three of the five improved on the math test while math scores at the other two schools held steady.

A case in point is Roosevelt's improvement in reading. Its reading score in 1991 was 225, a score expected of 8th graders. This year it climbed to 232 which is near the 11th grade average.

Mike Hryciw, principal of Roosevelt, said the reform investment at his school is paying dividends. "Kids see more relevance in their education and they're paying more attention to academics."

Reading and writing improved at all four grades as average scores reached new highs at grades 5, 8 and 11. "The reading and writing results are the products of a decade's emphasis," said Paulus. "These areas are a high priority in all grades and students get lots of practice and encouragement."

Math remains the area of concern. "We need to do for math what we've done for reading and writing," said Paulus. "This means making it a high priority and teaching

math in ways that engage students." She said 30 percent of Oregon high school students do not take algebra and 58 percent of Oregon math teachers do not have a math or math education degree, 10 percent below the national level.

Physical education knowledge was tested for the first time. Between 70 and 85 percent of the students met or exceeded grade level expectations.

Paulus said the results provide a foundation for the next several years of school reform. "They call attention to the need for staff development -- our current emphasis -- and for opening school doors to parents and other Oregonians who can help improve education."

Results provide important information about how individual students are doing and point out strengths and weaknesses in various skill areas locally and statewide.



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