

Success Honored

Foundation puts spotlight on area women, See Page B8.



Knauts' Reunion

A 90th Birthday celebration! See Page B3.



Vision For Next Century

A President's passion. See Page B5.



The Portland Observer 25¢

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Community Meeting On Violence

A community meeting to stop gang violence and drugs will be held Thursday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. the Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave. The Black United Front is sponsoring the session asking black men and women and other residents to stand up and address the problems in area neighborhoods.

Grant Benefits Youth And Family Center

In the tradition of the African proverb "It takes a whole village to raise a child," IDS Financial Services, has presented \$5,000 to the North Portland Youth and Family Center, to reward 50 youth who have made positive changes in their lives. The center is a project of Delaunay Family services, providing help and special programs for juveniles. In addition, IDS hopes to acquaint its employees with volunteer opportunities in the community and presently is working out details for a school clothes shopping trip for center youth.

Children In Foster Care Soars

The number of children in foster care, particularly under six years old, is soaring, according to Oregon's Children's Services Division. "We are seeing more young, preschool children than ever before," said Kay Toran, children's services division administrator. "The abuse and neglect is so severe or the child is at such risk we cannot return them to their home. Caseworkers are very concerned because these children have less contact with authorities since they are not in school."

Urban League Schools Open

You can provide a positive experience for some wonderful youth in the Urban League's Educational and Career Development programs. Volunteers are needed for the Whitney M. Young Jr. Educational and Cultural Center, an after school to 8 p.m. tutorial program for students in the lower grades; the Portland Street Academy, a learning center for middle and high school students working on their GED; and the Computer Training Center, a job training program for adults. Contact Mia Sims, program assistant, at 280-2658.

Initiative Summit Addresses Drugs

Community members, people in recovery and local spiritual leaders will gather Friday, Sept. 16 at the Regional Drug Initiative's second annual "Spirit Summit," held at Lutheran Inner-City Ministries, 4219 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Speakers include Leonard Irving, of the Cocaine Outreach and Recovery Program and Rev. Steven Lloyd Johnson, author of *Getting Off Crack and Patterns of African-American Addiction*. A day session is held from noon to 4:45 p.m. An evening session from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 294-7074.

Better Education Shines At Jefferson High

BY PROMISE KING

Good things are happening at Jefferson High School in terms of quality education as the rays of sound learning shine on staff and students.

The school principal for four years, Alcena E. Boozer is excited about it all. Not even the drastic and deep cut from the Portland School District's budget lessens her optimism. She is relentless in her pursuit of excellence and passionate about getting kids back into the classroom. This has paid off in number of the school's programs.

Boozer is banking on her staff to see her vision of building a better Jefferson.

"We have a really creative and committed staff," she said.

She's confident about the quality of teachers that coordinate the writing classes and those that oversee the science and biology classes whom she describes as the best in the country.

The school is gearing up to face Oregon's school reforms and is including parents in the planning process.

"Last year, we did our first major changes - the implementation of the block schedule where we re-organized the way we deliver instructions," Boozer said.

This shift in the length of class time is enabling Jefferson students to earn 8 credits instead of the traditional 6 credits.

The school is about to launch a pilot distance learning project with Grant and Madison high schools. The project uses interactive video and audio to allow the schools



Alcena E. Boozer, principal of Jefferson High School, expresses excitement about her school's upward scale in academic excellence.

to see and talk to each other.

It is a new partnership between Paragon Cable and the district. Paragon provides all necessary cable hook ups and will waive the monthly service charges.

Though this project won't save money, school authorities believe it has the potential to improve educational offerings and student achievement.

The school is looking outside the district's general fund to finance the program. The first year start-up costs from figures gathered by the Portland Observer range from \$100,000 to \$175,000. However, a

final budget is yet to be determined due to uncertainty of the equipment to be purchased.

The Jefferson High performing arts magnet and middle school arts outreach programs have become a center for artistic excellence. They offer in-depth training in areas of dance, music, theater and television

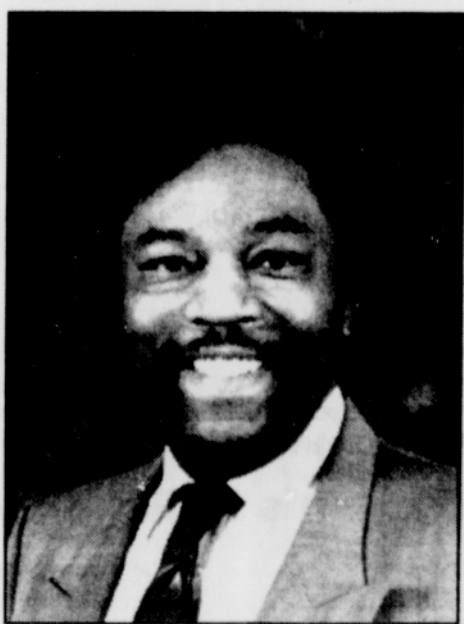
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National Organization Elects Roy Jay Vice President

The African American Travel and Tourism Association Annual Convention held in New Orleans on September 1-5 has elected Roy Jay, from Portland, Oregon, to the position of National Vice president of the growing national organization.

Jay was nominated and unanimously elected at the organizations general meeting on September 3rd. The ATTA Convention was held in conjunction with the Multi-Cultural Tourism Summit, which attracted hundreds of hospitality and convention industry delegates from throughout the country.

Jay, a native of Portland, heads the Oregon Convention and Visitor Services Network which has been contracted by METRO to enhance ethnic minority marketing efforts from the Oregon Convention Center and metropolitan Portland, in conjunction with the Portland Oregon Visitors Association.



Roy Jay

Jay's newly elected position elevates Portland's national visibility with ethnic minority conventions and meeting planners.

Black United Fund Seeks Support

Guest speakers joined in a festive celebration marking the 7th annual fundraising drive for the Black United Fund of Oregon.

The kick-off, to thank past supporters and encourage new participation, was held last Wednesday at the Oregon Square Courtyard on Northeast Holladay.

Multnomah County Chair Beverly Stein and Lawrence Dark, executive director for the Urban League of Portland, proclamations from the city and county, and music by Dan Balmer were featured.

The Black United Fund wants to raise \$390,000 this year to assist in the social and economic development of Oregon's low-income communities and to increase cultural awareness.

Guided by a self-help philosophy, the organization helps to solve problems such as homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, gang affiliation, teen pregnancy, cultural aware-

ness, illiteracy, unemployment and other issues.

The fund has been working to stimulate social and economic development in Oregon's disadvantaged communities since it's inception in 1983.

It has provided financial and management assistance to more than 200 organizations and has been at the forefront in efforts to increase charitable giving in work places and advocate for the social and economic needs of low-income residents and the philanthropic needs of agencies which serve these communities.

The fund has hosted forums and workshops, addressed infant mortality in North and Northeast Portland, including the funding of a program to reduce infant mortality and increase public awareness on the needs of prenatal care.

The organization also has hosted an annual education conference on improving academic performance for the Pacific Northwest.

Oregon May Be Compensated For Exposure To Asbestos Products

Oregonians who have worked with or around asbestos-containing products, primarily asbestos-containing insulation, may be eligible for personal injury payments from Fibreboard Corporation under a \$1.5 billion court settlement to a class action lawsuit.

The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services is alerting Oregonians who may have handled Fibreboard thermal insulation -- including pipe covering, block insulation and asbestos-containing cement -- that it is likely they were exposed to asbestos and may be covered under the settlement.

Fibreboard and its predecessors, including PABCO Corporation, manufactured asbestos-containing products from 1928 until 1971. Many individuals who have worked with or around these products later developed a variety of illnesses, including lung cancer. Fibreboard has been named as defendant in approximately 200,000 personal injury lawsuits, 160,000 of which have been resolved. The class action lawsuit (*Ahearn v. Fibreboard*), filed in September 1993, seeks to ensure financial recovery for people with future asbestos-related personal injury claims against Fibreboard.

The settlement established a \$1.535 billion fund devoted to future asbestos-related

personal injury claims against Fibreboard. It includes all asbestos-related personal injury claims against Fibreboard, its predecessors, and its insurers that were not brought or settled before August 27, 1993. In order to qualify for payment from the trust, individuals must show injurious exposure to Fibreboard asbestos-containing products and have medical evidence to support their claim of an asbestos-related disease.

The class action covers all persons, including their spouses, household members or legal representatives who were exposed directly or indirectly to asbestos or asbestos-containing products for which Fibreboard may bear legal liability,

and who did not file a lawsuit against or settle a claim with Fibreboard before August 27, 1993. Individuals do not need to be presently suffering any symptoms of injury, and the asbestos exposure need not be occupationally-related.

Oregonians who want more information about the class action settlement should contact the legal counselors for lawsuit at 1-800-923-4237 or 1-800-998-9600. The Department of Consumer and Business Services is not involved in the lawsuit, but its Workers' Compensation Division has been tracking the case as a public service to Oregonians who may be entitled to payments from the trust.