

# HEALTH

The Portland Observer

## Sickle Cell Focus On September

### Alberta Park Festival, Free Health Checks Scheduled

The Portland Sickle Cell Anemia foundation is gearing up for Saturday, September 17th which is Awareness Day. There will be free hot dogs, free beverages and balloons given to the kids at Alberta Park. Festivities will go on from 11:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. free Blood Pressure checks and free Sickle Cell Testing will take place.

Pastor Marcia Taylor, Executive Director for the foundation says she looks forward to the Police Bureau and The American Red Cross being a part of this event. The month of September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month and we have chosen Saturday, September 17th as Awareness Day to bring this disease to the mind again in the community and to hopefully bring the community together in a united effort against this Life-Threatening Disease. Volunteers are needed, a hot dog cart and prizes are still needed says, Taylor.

Sickle Cell Anemia is an inherited blood disease which is not contagious and is the result of a person receiving a Sickle Cell Gene from each parent. This disease affects about one in 400-600 blacks, and some caucasians. Sickle Cell Anemia and its variant forms occur among hispanics of Caribbean Ancestry, (one in every 1000 or 1500 hispanics), and also affects people of Arabian, Greek Maltese Turkish, Sicilian, Sardinian and Southern

Asian Ancestry.

Symptoms usually announce themselves between infancy or 6 months and include shortage of red blood cells, shortness of breath, palor, frequent infections, jaundiced eyes, fever and severe pain. These symptoms can be in any combination or all at the same time.

The foundation will hold its 3rd annual Sickle Cell Telethon Saturday, September 24th hosted by Multnomah Community Television. The event will take place in the TV studio from 4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. on channel 21 with Rev. J.W. Friday as the host. Recording artist Arvis Strickling-Jones will be featured live, along with the Golden Eagles, New Hope Baptist Church Choir and Little Goldie. "We encourage the public to join us for a wonderful time of entertainment.

"Sickle Cell has been historically known as a "Black Man's Disease". Using the telethon as a vehicle, we hope to inform the public that this disease frequents many other races and because we don't all know everything about our heritage, it is imperative to find out if one carries sickle trait or another abnormal hemoglobin which may be passed on their children. If so, this could result in a third generation child being born with Sickle Cell Disease." says Taylor. For more information, to volunteer or to be tested, call (503) 249-1366.

## National Sickle Cell Month

Caring And Sharing Can Make a Better Life



Together we can make a difference

For more information contact :  
**Portland Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation**  
**(503) 249-1366 Portland, Oregon**

SICKLE CELL DISEASE IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM

Sickle Cell Awareness Day at Alberta Park Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Failed Drug Test Brings Jobless Benefits Loss

Workers fired for failing a drug test can no longer collect unemployment benefits under rule changes announced by the Oregon Employment Department.

Until now, State unemployment insurance rules have disallowed claims in only three kinds of drug-related dismissal cases: if an employer could prove, without a test, that drug use caused impairment on the job; if a drug test showed such impairment occurred in certain occupations which could threaten someone's health or safety; or if a worker agreed to and failed a drug test under a last chance agreement.

However, hundreds of other workers fired for failing drug tests didn't fit into one of these three categories. In a typical month, about 60 such workers eventually received benefits from the state.

Amendments to the Employment Department's administrative rules make workers discharged for

failing a properly administered drug test ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits. According to the Portland-based Regional Drug Initiative, 73% of Oregon employees work at companies with drug policies.

The Employment Department tightened its regulations on drug use in the workplace as a result of a series of public meetings in 1991 and 1992 which considered reforms to the unemployment insurance program.

Formal hearings on the drug rule revisions were held in March 1993 and May 1994. Labor, business, and community leaders from across the state participated in both series of meetings.

"We heard from a broad spectrum of opinion and we value the attention people paid to this process," said Pamela A. Mattson, director of the Oregon Employment Department. "Today's changes are the result of that public input."

## Sacred Heart Urologists Offer Tests

To encourage early detection of prostate cancer and educate men about the disease, Eugene-area urologists are volunteering to provide free prostate cancer screenings. The prostate specific antigen blood tests and digital rectal examinations will be offered to all participants. Men over 50 (African American men over 40) who have no history of prostate cancer and who have not had a prostate check in the last 12 months are eligible. The screenings will be available at Sacred Heart General Hospital's Cancer Care Center, 1255 Hilyard St. Eugene., weekdays from Sept. 19 through Sept. 23. Call 686-7257 to schedule an appointment.

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