

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### OMSI Fair Explores Computers

You can explore over 75 hands-on stations showing the latest multi-media computer software and systems for business, educators and family fun, Sept. 29 through Oct. 2 at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). Presentations will be made by multi-media experts. You can also sign-up to win free software games.

#### Salmon Festival Planned

A festival to celebrate the return of migrating fall Chinook salmon and enhance the understanding of the fish and its habit will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 15 and Oct. 16 at Oxbow Regional Park, eight miles east of Gresham. Entertainment, crafts, activities for youngsters, storytelling, native American dancing, arts and crafts, food and a tractional salmon bake is planned.

#### Senior Center Helps Caregivers

A new program at the Multicultural Center, 5325 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., offers help to caregivers of persons suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. The group activities and respite care program is designed to give the caregiver four hours of leisure while their loved one is in the center's care. The service is available every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at a cost of \$15 which includes lunch and snacks. Contact Dora McCrae for more information, 248-5470.

#### Portland Area Growth Debate Set

Candidates for Metro regional government offices will debate how to manage growth in the Portland metropolitan area at a forum hosted by Common Sense, a non-profit citizens group. The forum will include Metro executive candidates Mike Burton and Bonnie Hays and a collection of other candidates for Metro Council.

#### Parenting After Divorce

A workshop to explore the complexities of raising children when parents no longer live together will be held Thursday, Oct. 6 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 S.W. Capitol Highway. Cost is \$12 for members and \$18 for non-members.

#### Watergate Reporter To Speak

Journalist/author Carl Bernstein, known for his role in uncovering the Watergate scandal, is the keynote speaker at the fifth annual Portland State University Weekend, held Oct. 14-16, at PSU and other locations. Bernstein will discuss The Presidency in the Age of CNN at an Oct. 15 lunch at noon at PSU's Smith Center Ballroom. For more information call 725-4949.

#### Marine Band To Hit Portland

Free tickets are available to attend a performance of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. The band comes to Portland Oct. 29 for a show at 7:30 p.m. at the Benson High School Auditorium. Tickets are available at the Portland Chamber of Commerce. You can drop in person or mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Band Tickets, Portland Chamber, 221 N.W. Second Ave., Portland, OR 97209-3999. Tickets are limited to four per request.

Please send all community calendar information to FAX 288-0015; or mail to 4747 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97045. All information must be sent two weeks in advance of the activity's beginning date.

## Musical Climax To Summer Stage



Area school children demonstrate their stage skills at a PSU summer performing arts workshop.

Fifty-seven Portland-area children were able to learn about drama this summer during a performing arts workshop sponsored by Portland State University and Metro regional government.

The workshop ended with performances of Milk and Moosic, a parody of a 1930s movie musical.

This was the second year for the program, which offered the children four weeks of classes in the performing arts, including acting, musical theater, dance and technical theater. Other studies included Shakespeare, stage makeup, radio reporting, stage combat, mime, highland dance, dialects, Gilbert and Sullivan and Japanese dance.

Shannon Byrne, a PSU theater arts student, taught technical theater.

"I learned a lot myself, but the students learned even more," she said. "They learned responsibility and how to work in teams and collaborate. They learned emotional discipline, including respect for themselves and for one another."

The summer classes were started last year and is expected to continue next summer. Elizabeth Richard is the program's artistic director and acting instructor.

Portland State officials said classroom and stage facilities are provided without charge.

## Confronting Gang Violence



Richard Brown (above), Ron Herdon and Police Chief Charles Moose address a meeting to stop gang violence and drugs last week at the Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church. The session was called for by the Black United Front.



## Eddie Morgan Reward Grows

The reward fund started after the May 29 homicide of Eddie Morgan has now grown to over \$10,000. The fund is located at the U.S. Bank of Northeast 42nd Avenue and Alberta Street.

Morgan was known as the "Mayor of 42nd Avenue." He was shot and killed early on a Sunday morning as he stood at a bus stop in front of the bank.

No arrests have been made in connection with the homicide. Detectives believe that individuals in the community have information that could lead them to the suspects. It is hoped that these people will come forward to assist police in resolving this case.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$10,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

## Dark Guides Urban League

### Civic Group Advocates for Daily Issues

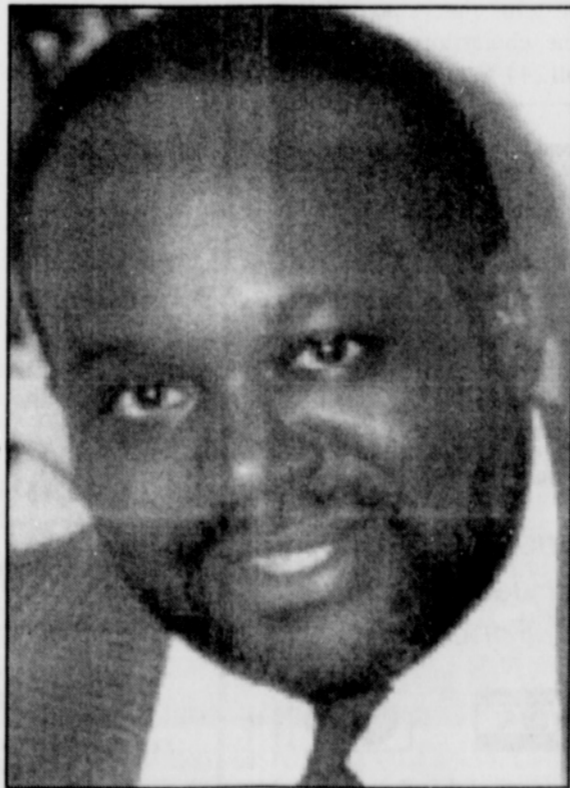
By PROMISE KING

On the west side of the Willamette River in 1945 sat a strong black male, wondering where to sleep after a hard day on the job at the docks.

Then it was tough for African-American ship-builders to get a place to stay in Portland. One by one these workers came together to advocate their concerns. That's how the Urban League was born, catering to the housing needs of black folks.

Today, the league is radically apart from those days. Its leader and chief executive officer Lawrence Dark is aware and ready to meet the new challenges.

"We've expanded the league mission to include relevant issues of the



Lawrence Dark

day," Dark explained.

It's no wonder that the organization is chanting a new multi-cultural mission to help Africa Americans and others achieve parity and economic self-suffi-

ciency through advocacy, problem solving partnerships and by conducting programs to strengthen the growth and the development of individuals, families and communities.

"I will be working with NAACP, Jewish organizations, Latino organizations, the Department of Labor Council on Civil Rights and other organizations. We need to work together through racial inclusion for the betterment of the community," Dark said.

The league provides adult employment services, a big brother/big sister program, computer training, diversion for juvenile offenders, employer partnerships, in-house services for seniors and individual and family counseling.

Others services include a male and female responsibility program, Portland Street Academy for gang-affected youth, a parenting and grandparenting program, a senior activities center, southeast Asian youth outreach, Whitney M. Young Jr. after school tutorial program and youth employment services.

Dark said these services could not be possible without the partnerships and support of others.

"What we are trying to do is to strengthen our relationships with these people," he added.

In his assessment, these programs are changing lives and creating opportunities in our community.

And there are success stories. About 80 percent or those who went through the league's employment workshop have jobs this year and the league helped placed about 370 people in jobs last year.

But Dark is worried that the number of people of color who attend such programs and workshop are dwindling.

The league has about 600 committed members. The league president said his goal is to attract about 5,000 new members. The league celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

Dark has a wealth of experience to direct the non-profit concern. He formerly served as executive assistant to the president for the equal opportunity and research fellowship at the Institute of Public Affairs at the University of South Carolina. He received a law degree from Northwestern University and undergraduate degree from Denison University.