

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

**SECTION B**

**Community Calendar**

**Fat Tuesday To Open Mardi Gras**

The second annual Old Town Mardi Gras takes place on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 28 at the Alexis, Bacchus Wine Bar Cafe, Berbatis Pan, Couch Street Fish House, Darcelle XV and Co., Key Largo, Opus Too/Jazz de Opus and The Republic Cafe. A \$6 pass allows admission to the clubs with proceeds to benefit Central City Concern, an agency fighting homelessness and chemical dependency.

**Black History Speaker Featured**

Darrell Millner, professor at Portland State and former chairman of the Black Studies Department and Black Faculty Caucus, is keynote speaker during a Black History Month address on Monday at noon at Mt. Hood Community College. Millner has published several articles on black history. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

**Saturday Forum Attacks Injustice**

A panel discusses resistance to oppression and defense of human rights on Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Peace House, 2116 N.E. 18th. The group includes Lisa Clay, a community organizer protesting the crime bill and death penalty; La Rita Spencer of the African American Women Against Racism who is suing Meier and Frank for alleged racist abuse; and Phillis Whitmore, feminist organizer against Nazis and the Oregon Citizens Alliance.

**Concerts Held At New College Chapel**

Warner Pacific College, 2119 S.E. 68th, continues its Concerts in the Chapel series to celebrate the opening of the new Schlatter Chapel. A recital by members of the college's music department faculty takes place Thursday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited to attend.

**March Begins Women's History Month**

The Women's Union and Resource Center at Portland State University is sponsoring a series of events during March as part of Women's History Month. PSU faculty and guests will present lectures, art exhibits and gatherings throughout the month. For more information contact Oona Jenkins at 725-5672.

**Auditions Held For Children's Choir**

The Oregon Repertory Singers Children's Choir meets Wednesday afternoons at Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church, 2828 S.E. Stephens. Auditions are now being held. Call Mary Ann Kelley, 246-8989. Scholarships are also available. The goal of the choir is to create a multicultural, multi-ethnic singing group which represents the diversity of the Portland area.

**MacBeth At PCC**

The Portland Community College Theatre Department will perform Macbeth during March. The production promises to be a powerful re-exploration of William Shakespeare's timeless story of greed, power murder, lust and evil. Performances will begin at 8 p.m. on March 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 and 11 in the Performing Arts Center at the Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th. Tickets are \$5.

**Cycling Center Needs Help**

A meeting is held Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m. at the Northeast Precinct, 449 N.E. Emerson, for volunteers interested in helping kids fix and ride bicycles. Call 288-8864 for more information.

**SUBMISSIONS:** Community Calendar information will be given priority if dated two weeks before the event date.

**DIVERSITY TAKES THE STAGE IN ASHLAND**



B.W. Gonzalez (right) as Ariel and Michael Kevin as Prospero in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of *The Tempest*.



LeWan Alexander is Theseus, Duke of Athens in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of William Shakespeare and John Fletcher's *The Two Noble Kinsmen*.

**African-Americans are playing major roles at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and breaking a color barrier as the festival begins its 60th season this February.**

Fifteen percent of the acting company at Ashland and will hold notable roles in the six plays which open the 1995 season this spring. And although casting has not yet been finalized for the remaining five plays, African-American actors have already signed contracts to hold prominent roles in *Blood Wedding*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Richard II*.

The diversity of the festival comes from

a commitment to change and a vision for the future, according to B.W. Gonzales, an African American actress who in 1994 played Ariel in *The Tempest*, Hippolyta in *The Two Noble Kinsmen* and four roles in *The Colored Museum*.

Gonzales, a three-year veteran at Ashland, said it's been difficult for people of color to be cast in Shakespearean productions around the country.

"Some directors believe that casting African-Americans in these roles will 'jeopardize the production,' as the audience might find such casting to be visually challenging," she said.

"Some directors also feel, in spite of the fact that African Americans graduate from the same colleges and conservatories as our white peers do - that we do not have a facility for the language," as one small-minded director once told me.

"I give the festival credit for its vision: the vision of the greater good, not just in theatre, but in all of humanity. There is a great deal of support and humanity to be discovered here," Gonzales said.

The 1995 festival will include Dr. Endesha Ida Mae Holland's *From the Mississippi Delta* in its opening weekend. An

African American will direct the play and three black women will portray more than 20 characters.

An African American will design the costumes for the world premier of *Emma's Child*, which opens at the festival April 1.

The season began Feb. 17 with a week of previews, but officially opens Feb. 24 with a performance of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. The play runs through Oct. 29.

The west coast premiere of Howard Brenton and David Hare's *Pravda* opens Feb. 25. The play runs through July 9. Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth* opens Feb. 25 and runs through Oct. 28.

*Emma's Child* by Kristine Thatcher joins the repertory later in the spring as does Nagle Jackson's *This Day and Age*.

Ashland lies halfway between Portland and San Francisco on Interstate 5.

For tickets and information, contact the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Box Office at (503) 482-4331.

**Grant Application Period Opens**

**The Black United Fund of Oregon is now accepting proposals for its General Purpose Grants program. The deadline for proposals is 5:30 p.m. March 15.**

Grants are available to non-profit community-based organizations and programs throughout Oregon serving low-income people of all backgrounds in the following areas: Economic Development Education, Health, Human Services, Arts and Culture and Social Justice. Grants go up to \$5,000 each.

The fund is an independent philanthropic and community development organization that assists in the social and economic development of Oregon's low-income communities and in increasing cultural awareness. Black United Fund programs are primarily supported by contributions from individuals through workplace payroll deduction.

In addition to its allocations programs the Black United Fund offers management assistance, community development and outreach and education programs to support organizational growth and to build self-sufficiency among residents in low-income communities.

Groups funded in the past include Miracle Theatre, Operation EASY and St. Andrew Legal Clinic in Portland, the Hispanic Advocacy Council in the Bend/Redmond area, Centro de Ayuda in Newport and More information is available from Kristin Sandvik, director of programs at 282-7973.



**Finishing Touches To Sabin Development**

ProGrass workers Steve Schrock and Dan Edmonds add the finishing touches to landscaping at 4408 N.E. 10th, a duplex for low-income residents developed by the Sabin Community Development Corp. ProGrass donated almost \$4,000 in materials and labor, which included new sod and a sprinkler system. It was the first of several Sabin houses financed by the non-profit corporation awaiting ProGrass landscape services.

(Photo by Donn Thomas)



Jim Robinson, president of Thriftway Stores, Inc., presents a valentine check, representing \$85,400 in food donations from United Grocers member stores, to Officer Henry Groepper of the Portland Police Department. This was part of the third annual Have a Heart Food Drive for the Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division.

**Portland's Largest Valentine From United Grocers**

The Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division received Portland's largest valentine, on Feb. 14, worth over \$85,400. United Grocers and Western Family Foods presented the Sunshine Division with a valentine representing the retail value of all food donated during the Have a Heart Food Drive.

Two 40-foot trailer trucks delivered thousands of pounds of donated food to the Sunshine Division warehouse. These donations were added to the food collected at all participating United Grocers member stores.

"The Have a Heart Food Drive brings in

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