

City Employees Honored At Recognition Event

In keeping with the goal of continuously improving its services to citizens, the City of Vancouver conducted its 1995 Employee Recognition Awards program Wednesday, May 3.

Highlight of the event was the announcement of the Employee of the Year.

City employees nominated over 100 fellow employees for a variety of awards including Teamwork, Great Ideas, Keeps Us Smiling, Community Involvement and Unsung Heroes. Awards were granted based on representative employee votes. There were also five length-of-service recognition categories -- five, 10, 15, 20 and 25-plus.

Master of ceremonies for the event was City Manager John Fischbach.

"When I reflect on how much progress we have seen together, I know that none of it would have been possible without the hard work and professionalism of city staff," he told the group of over 400 city

employees in attendance.

Also in attendance was Mayor Bruce E. Hagensen and members of the Vancouver City Council.

Lindia Stanton, senior program coordinator for the Vancouver Parks Department was selected as Employee of the Year. Stanton was lauded for being pleasant, approachable and respectful of co-workers and citizens. Her nomination said "she has a consistent can-do attitude."

Of special note was Stanton's innovation in special programs offering recreational and educational opportunities for people age 50 and older. Recent key accomplishments include conducting over 630 activities last year at Luepke Senior Center, soliciting over \$160,000 of in-kind goods, and launching the TV series "Elder Court" on CTV-47, which focuses on issues pertinent to senior citizens.

The luncheon event was conducted at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay.

House Passed Parental Responsibility Bill

The Oregon House HB 2884 has been passed. The bill, introduced by Representatives Mike Lehman (D-Coos Bay) and Bryan Johnston (D-Salem), is the centerpiece of the two bills known as the "Parental Responsibility Act".

HB 2884 would allow law enforcement officials to cite parents of children under the age of 15 who engage in criminal acts or fail to attend school. The bill provides for parents to be notified on the first offense and allows judicial discretion to prescribe parent effectiveness training course upon a second offense. On the third offense parents could be fined up to \$1,000.

"We are starting to see a significant increase in problems associated with young people", said Lehman. "Kids are bringing guns into school. Teen pregnancy and related problems are on the rise. The high school dropout rate is increasing. I believe it is time to recognize that parents have a responsibility to supervise their children. The vast majority of parents will have no problem with this law. It is aimed only at those parents who turn their kids loose on society with out any supervision."

Citing a parent under the proposed law would not be mandatory. It would however, provide law enforcement officials with a clear tool to hold to parents responsible for the activities of their children which does not exist under current law.

"This bill doesn't relieve kids of their responsibility for the acts they commit," Johnston said, "what it does, is hold the parents to a standard for their actions."

The bill passed on a 46-12 vote and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Did You Know?

By ROBERT N. TAYLOR

Did You Know...that according to a Wall Street Journal survey, big U.S. companies saw their profits surge by 48 percent during the first quarter of this year. With CD's paying three percent and savings accounts paying five percent, it is obvious that if you want to make money you should either be in business or at least investing in one.

Did You Know...that the top market for selling books in America is San Jose, California followed by New York City, Boston, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Did You Know...that new evidence discovered by a team of George Washington University researchers suggests that the type of sophisticated thinking associated with the development of modern society actually began in Africa and not Europe as is widely believed. The researchers conclude that complex thinking began in Africa about 75,000 years ago and not 40,000 years ago in Europe and Asia.

Did You Know...that according to the National Highway Safety Administration, two-thirds of American drivers buckle up when they drive. The Transportation Department estimates that seat belts save better than 5,000 lives a year.

Did You Know...that motivational expert Stu Kamen suggests that you turn negatives into positives by starting each day with a set of positive thoughts. He says take 10 to 15 minutes at the beginning of each day to simply generate constructive energy by deep breathing and thinking only about positive things.

Did You Know...that according to the latest government reports, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer in America. Labor Secretary Robert Reich reported last week that "Virtually all" of the increase in average family income since 1978 has gone to the top 20% of the population while the bottom 20% has actually lost 15% of its average family income.

Did You Know...that from birth through college it costs about \$250,000 to raise the typical child.

Did You Know...that if you want a guide on how best to repair negative credit, you can order (\$9.95) a good one - Credit Repair Made Easy - from the Better Life Club, P.O. Box 284422, Washington, D.C. 20038.

Did You Know...that this week's favorite quote comes from Machiavelli: "In order to recognize wisdom, one must first be wise."

AFRICA INSIGHT

French's Fist on Gabonese Democracy



by Promise King

Your most authentic source of information on events happening in the continent of Africa - Africa Insight - is back.

It was at the close of last year that I bid bye to Portland, promising to be back again. It was a wonderful trip that exposed me to various institutions and powerful people and it really did adjust my maturity. Even my boss and my critics agreed. Anyway if you care about your heritage-get hooked on this column. This week I am taking you to Gabon - a former French colony in Africa.

Ondo Nze is the president and founder of the Gabonese League of Human Rights, created in the wake of the end of the Gabon single-party political system in 1990.

Nze is currently in our country under the sponsorship of the United States government. He was in Portland recently as guest of the World Affairs Council, introduced to us by the executive director of the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission, Helen Cheek.

In an exclusive interview, Nze



Ondo Nze, an advocate for human rights in Gabon.

spoke about neo-colonialism, human rights abuse and the political strangulation in Gabon orchestrated by the French masters of his country.

If you don't know, the French still maintain the largest military base in Gabon. And in spite of this close affinity with the rich colonialists, the Gabonese economy has continued to plunge to an abysmal disaster.

Gabon's natural resources has continued to feed the French economy, while the country wallows in precarious penury.

"The economic and military presence of the former colonial masters influence the political life of our country," Nze said through a French

interpreter.

It's the French who still remotely dictate who sit at the helm of power.

"The last presidential election which took place in 1993 was a fraud on the Gabonese people," Nze said.

He said human rights groups in Gabon denounced the election because the president declared himself victorious even before the votes were counted.

"There is truly no democracy in our country and college graduates are being marginalized by the power that be. This is an attempt to stifle dissenting voices," he said.

These happenings have confirmed the European conspiracy to keep Africa underdeveloped technologically.

Just tell me why the French government, with its power, won't help Gabon out of its economic doldrums. Considering the fact that it remains the only colonial administration that still has vested military interest in its former colony.

If you are still wondering why Gabon is still a nation drenched in all socio-political abuses, get the French off Gabonese politics and the African nation's economy. Then see what happens.

Governor Creates Food Processing Council

Governor John Kitzhaber announced that he has created the Food Processing Council (FPC) by executive order. The council, which will consist of as many as 12 members, will be charged with helping promote and develop Oregon's food processing industry.

"Oregon has an opportunity to capitalize on its agricultural success by expanding the number of jobs in the food processing

industry," said Kitzhaber. "I want this council to bring me ideas on how we can improve the business environment for food processing in Oregon and increase the value we add to our food products."

Kitzhaber announced the following appointments to the board: Art Christiansen, retired, of NORPAC Foods, who will serve as chair of the council; Frank Dulcich of Pacific Seafood in Portland; Harold Schild

of Tillamook Creamery in Tillamook; Bill Albee of Watermill Foods in Milton-Freewater; Dave Jensen of Smith Frozen Foods in Weston; Peter Truitt of Truitt Brothers in Salem; Sylvia Henry of Henry's Winery in Umpqua; Karla Chambers of Stahlbush Island Farms in Corvallis; Larry Pearmine of Pearmine Farms in Gervais and Mike Naumes of Naumes Inc. in Medford.

Trauma Doctor Battles Violence

Continued from front

her wish is that she could save every patient that enters her operating room.

"The ugly side is that people die. We cannot fix everything. It's very stressful," she bemoaned sympathetically.

In spite of her efforts in violence prevention among youths, Dr. Erwin who's married, has no kids of her own. Why?

"I don't have enough energy to do surgery and be a parent," she said.

Almost on a daily basis, Dr. Erwin is called upon to attend to yet another kid who is shot and the sight of a hurting kid still traumatizes this trauma surgeon.

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