

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Art, Architecture Featured

Portland Parks and Recreation is co-sponsoring a Jan. 20 event called Art, Architecture and a Bite to Eat. Participants will see some of Portland's loftiest mansions, meet with architect Robert Oshatz and have lunch at the Gate Lodge Restaurant at Pittock Mansion. Pre-registration is required. Call Bob Gandolfi at 823-5132 or Sharon Wood at 238-9842.

Portland Bridges On Tour

Sharon Wood, author of The Portland Bridge Book, conducts tours of Portland's bridges and skyline. The next tour is set for Jan. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at Dan & Louis Oyster Bar. Transportation is provided from the Fred-Meyer Hollywood West, Section A8.

Chinese Chefs On Review

A sample of northern Chinese delicacies will be offered when the Northwest China Council kicks off a gourmet Chinese dinner showcasing Chinese chefs in the Portland area. The event will be held Jan. 26 at Mandarin Cove. Cost is \$30. Reservations can be made by calling 725-4567.

Martial, Healing Arts Presented

Master Wen-Mei Yu, a 58-year-old teacher of internal Chinese martial and healing arts, will be teaching seminars in Wu style push hands and Liangong, a therapeutic healing exercise. The seminars are sponsored by One With Heart and will be taught at Reed College Gym 2 on Jan. 19, 20 and 21.

Gulf War Remembered

The organization Portland Peaceworks will hold a candlelight vigil on Jan. 16 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Pioneer Courthouse Square to observe the anniversary of the moment the bombs began to fall in the Gulf War in 1991. An all-day fast in solidarity with those suffering and those who have died in Iraq will also be held as a statement of conscience.

Violence On Discussion

"The Roots of Violence: A Jungian Perspective" will be discussed by John Van Eenwyk in a lecture on Friday, Jan. 19 at the First United Methodist Church, Collins Hall, 1838 S.W. Jefferson at 7:30 p.m.

Composer Presents Concert

Composer/Guitarist Bryan Johanson offers Portland area audiences a unique concert experience when he presents "An Evening Composed," a program of inter-related works for guitar. The event is held Jan. 13 at 8 p.m. at Lincoln Hall, 1620 S.W. Park at Portland State University.

Crisis Volunteers Needed

You can make a big difference in the lives of women and children escaping domestic violence by becoming a volunteer for Clackamas Women's Services. Help is needed to answer the crisis line, provide one-on-one support to shelter residents and to lead violence support groups. The next volunteer training begins Jan. 23. Call Carol or Toni at 654-2807.

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

Dancers Get "Dream Call"

BY CORA SMITH

College had always been in the cards for Karmaria Kyle and Karida Griffith.

Kyle is a graduate of Jefferson High School and the "Jefferson Dancers" performing arts program. Griffith is a former Rose Festival Princess and honor roll student at Benson High.

Both had high expectations upon last year's graduation which lead them to the University of Oregon in Eugene to pursue degrees in the performing arts. This past September, three days into their new world of campus life, a phone call was received, opening up a new broader experience that neither of them could have ever imagined.

It was the "dream call."

This call was not accidental, but let's call it fate, or whatever we would call it, it was meant to be. Lifetime friends, Kyle and Griffith have a history of dance beginning at about the age of four.

These two girls had different paths, however as fate would have it, the inevitable brought them together. They have been paying their dues for years - early morning practices, late rehearsals, all day rehearsals, on weekends and on Sundays. When everyone else was having a good time, they were out there, dancing and practicing in preparation of events that would ultimately change the courses of their lives.

The hard work was not done entirely on their own, they both had the tools of success by their sides - STAGE PARENTS - stage parents indeed, Karen Kyle nurtured and encouraged Karmaria endlessly and to coin a phrase, "She was always there."

The dance recitals, all the cars and all the car problems, airplane trips to compete, stage mom Karen was there. Her role as hairstylist, make-up artist and wardrobe coordinator, and site locator for stage performances, not only as her personal manager but her creative financial manager as well.

Daryl Griffith, stage dad, had a similar commitment, however his priority and foremost addendum was a college degree. He knew that out there somewhere - Karida would get a break dancing upon graduation. But not in dad's Daryl's wildest imagination did he think Karida's dream would come so quickly as to delay their completion of college. Sorry dad, all those efforts paid off, Sally Mack's dance classes where Karida and Karmaria's successes led them to become grand trophy winners in 1991.

It was in Seaside, Ore. where they won grand champions of the "star dust" status, winning out over 1,500 other dancers in the region. But it was through Bruce Smith's



Portland's Karmaria Kyle and Karida Griffith are home for the holidays after touring in Europe with a New York City dance company.

African Ballet Co. that tied Karmaria and Karida together again.

Karmaria's early entrance into the Jefferson Dancers during her 8th year of school should have been an indication of things to come. Mary Folberg and Julane Stites of the Jefferson Dancers saw the potential early on. However, Sally Mack, Taina Heiberg, JoJo Hills, Diane Zink, Diane Walker and Bienda Bufalino, tap dance teachers as well, to name a few, helped them though their wonder years.

The public saw it coming too, especially on the stage of Jefferson High School and the Intermediate Theatre of downtown Portland where the girls both performed with the Bruce

Smith's African Ballet as well.

Each had the privilege of showcasing their talent to the max. Guided by the great forces of their dance teachers, their schools' support and the partnership of their parents, they enrolled in the Summer Dance Camp which eventually lead to another scholarship in New York City. Their talent opened the window to the Alvin Ailey Summer Workshop where the first proposal to travel with the Broadway Black and Blue dance extravaganza.

Mother Karen favored the early offer, but oh no, dad Daryl said no way, it's college first

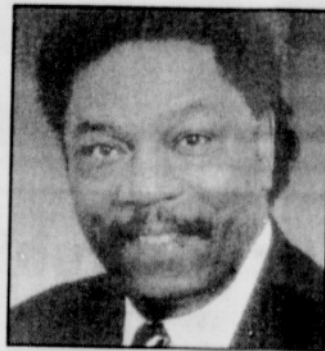
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The 'Dawg' Walked In For The City Of Roses

It was billed as Hospitality Tour '95...one of the most exciting FAM tours ever produced for minority meeting planners.

The brainchild of Oregon Convention and Visitor Services Network honcho, Roy Jay. The 5 day tour brought 18 minority meeting planners and organization heads to Portland, Oregon "The City of Roses".

"This is by far the best FAM trip that I have ever been invited to", says Oscar Coffey, retiring president of the U.S. African American Chamber of Commerce. Coffey's comments were echoed unanimously by all of the guests.



Roy Jay

Unlike normal CVB FAM tours, Portland and Eugene, Oregon added a bit of flair to their presentation. Luxury stretch limousines from a Black owned company greeted them

at Portland International Airport along with Miss. Oregon U.S.A.

Three nightly receptions, hosted by hotels and restaurants, drew standing room only, diverse crowds to meet there VIP's from across the country.

Planners had an opportunity to view some of Portland finest hotels and facilities for their future meetings and conferences, including Portland's new \$85 million dollar award winning Oregon Convention Center, located on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, in the heart of Portland's busy east side retail complex.

One of the evening highlights was dinner

at Doris' Cafe. Rapidly becoming world known for their great "down home" cooking and special atmosphere.

Not be outdone, one of Portland's major hotels hosted another evening dinner where they flew in fresh catfish that morning from Mississippi and prepared a special menu of mouth watering choices for the guests.

Portland, Oregon has become a destination of choice by many minority meeting planners and organizations over the past two years. Many attribute the cities new competitiveness to Roy Jay's Oregon Convention

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Community Spirit Made Kenton's Christmas Successful

The Kenton neighborhood shared a full holiday season this year, thanks to very generous donations and the hard work of a large number of volunteers.

Kenton kicked off the Christmas season with a concert and open-house at the David Cole Queen Anne Victorian Mansion on Saturday, December 9th.

In spite of freezing rain earlier in the day, more than 250 residents and guests gathered to hear the Portland Festival Orchestra's String Quartet, tour the mansion, and sip hot spiced cider and cocoa.

Owner Patricia Reed allowed the Neighborhood free run of the estate and chose that evening to unveil the new

lighting display featuring more than 450,000 red, green, blue and white lights.

A Simpson Timber Company donation to cover musician performance fees allowed the Kenton Action Plan to present the evening to Kenton residents free of charge.

Volunteers from the Kenton Neighborhood Association and Kenton Action Plan Historic Preservation Committee assisted with refreshments and greeting visitors.

The Kenton Business Association's annual drive to assist local residents collected \$1,700. A total of eleven households with small children, elderly and/or handicapped members received gift certificates to cover food and utility

bills. Bradley-Angle House also received donations.

Simpson Timber Company, Triad Mechanical, Insulated Windows, the Kenton Masonic Lodge, Leonard & Sons, the Historic Kenton Hotel, the Kenton Club, Canine Conduct Consulting, and Myers-Eatwell & Associates donated to the fund.

The drive's success owes much to the energies of Jerry Custer, Garland Horner, Sue Heffelfinger and John Heffelfinger.

A totally volunteer effort came together on Saturday, December 23, when a decorated Kenton Fire House hosted a Kenton Carol-In open-house. More than 60 children, adults and seniors started out at the Fire House singing, talking to

Santa and sampling a large table of refreshments. Then a group of about thirty hardy souls set out through the local area to raise their voices in the crisp December night.

Collections for the Sunshine Division's food drive were also taken in.

This first-time event owed its success to the efforts of Sylvia Johnson (coordinator), Ron Johnson (music leader), Paula Sylvester, Anita Bonnema, Diane Goodrich and Marcia Thomason.

Information on the Kenton Action Plan is available by calling 289-6693. The Kenton Action Plan is a community redevelopment effort funded through the Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development.