

# Family Living

The Portland Observer

## New Youth Program For Rose Festival

The Portland Rose Festival Association announced a new youth program for local elementary and middle school kids Friday during a news conference at Portland Public Schools Blanchard Education Service Center.

The new program, called Rose Festival Kids Presented By Pacific Power, was approved by the Portland Public School District's Board of Education and is designed to involve youth in local community service projects that will be selected by individual schools. To ensure the program meets the needs of the boys and girls involved and the community, it was determined that 1996 will serve as a pilot project involving only 12 schools.

"Our goal is to grow the program to include thousands of youngsters in the future," said Jim Osborne, president, Portland Rose Festival Association. "Giving to the community is the foundation of this new youth involvement program. Whether it's sprucing up a playground at a local park, cleaning graffiti off a wall or establishing an outreach program to senior adults that live around the school, each project is pro-active, positive and community-oriented."

"The future of Portland depends on the growth and development of its young people, and the Rose Festival wants to be a partner in instilling the ideas of community pride and ownership," said Osborne. "We feel this new program is a winner all around for the kids who participate, the

schools they represent, the neighborhoods, the Rose Festival and the City."

Tom Imeson, vice president for Pacific Power, a division of PacifiCorp, noted, "This new program celebrates the power of children to make a difference in our community through volunteerism and public service. As long-time sponsor of the Junior Parade, Pacific Power felt this program was a natural extension of our efforts to empower children and to lend support to educational and recreational opportunities."

For the first year, the Portland city schools have been divided into six regions, five are comprised of pre-defined regions within the Portland Public School and the sixth will com-

bine Parkrose and David Douglas School districts. In the pilot year, the Rose Festival Association decided to work within the same school boundaries that encompass the high schools Senior Court members represent. Of the schools wishing to be considered, one elementary and one middle school will be selected via a lottery from each region. The Portland Rose Festival Association will notify the 12 schools chosen by Friday, Feb. 2.

Once selected, each school will choose a community service project and select up to 30 kids to participate. For the 1996 Festival, the dates for the individual projects will be between May 8 and May 19. Projects will be showcased at the Viking In-

dustries Kickoff Luncheon May 8.

Rose Festival Kids Presented By Pacific Power replaces the high-profile and traditional program that annually involved hundreds of 9 and 10-year old girls vying for eight positions on the Junior Court. After hearing months of testimony, a task force made up of Rose Festival Directors and local community leaders recommended eliminating the Junior Court and replacing it with a program that highlighted community service and involved more youth - both boys and girls. The Board of Directors adopted the recommendation last July and commissioned a new task force to develop a pilot program for 1996.

Input for a new program was col-

lected from the general community, Rose Festival volunteers, schools, service organizations and local government agencies. An idea submitted by the Police Activities League (P.A.L) is the basis for Rose Festival Kids Presented By Pacific Power. P.A.L. has volunteered to provide technical assistance for schools needing guidance. The Rose Festival Kids Committee will assign a Rose Festival Association Board Member, a Royal Rosarian and a high school student, acting as a mentor, to each of the 12 schools.

All youth participating in the Rose Festival Kids Presented By Pacific Power program will be featured in the Pacific Power Junior Parade, Wed. June 5.

## Portland Artist In Fine Art Calendar

A quilt created by local artist Adriene Cruz is featured in the 1996 Black Christian Fine Art calendar by Spirit Wood Productions.

Titled, "Art in the Services of the Lord," the calendar showcases the works of 10 nationally-known artists including Jon Onye Lockard, Valerie Maynard and Nelson Stevens.

Cruz is a textile artist known primarily for her vibrant meditation quilts.

She has exhibited her quilts nationally, including the 1994 Black Arts Festival in Atlanta, the Boman Gallery in San Francisco in 1993 and the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center at Wilberforce, Ohio, also in 1993.

Cruz's quilts and other works have been viewed regularly in Portland at the Interstate Cultural Firehouse Center in north Portland, as well as the Blackfish, Graystone and Shades of Color galleries.

Her quilts have been shown as far away as Brazil, where she took

part in the 1993 "Bridge to Bahia" International Conference of Artists in Bahia.

Cruz was invited to exhibit in the calendar by Nelson Stevens on the recommendation of fellow artist Valerie Maynard.

Stevens is an artist, as well as the founder and president of Spirit Wood Productions, Inc., an African American publishing company dedicated to capturing and promoting the spirit of the Black Christian faith.

Cruz's quilt "Deborah under the Palm Tree," highlights the month of March.

The Fine Art calendar sells for \$14.95 and can be purchased locally at Vessels, Tableware with Meaning, 2605 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Roslyn's Garden Coffee House, 1438 N.E. Alberta and Trade Roots, 1831 N.E. Broadway.

One of Cruz's most recent works is a quilt on display at Steen's CoffeeHouse, next to Vessels at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Russell Street.



Dr. Loretta Long and members of the Afro-Bets Kids Club.

## Sesame Street Star To Serve New Kids Club

Dr. Loretta Long, who plays Susan on the popular PBS television show Sesame Street, will serve as a consultant to a new club for school age youngsters called the AFRO-BETS Kids Club.

As consultant to the club, Dr. Long will help develop programs and activities and will serve as a spokesper-

son. In addition to her career in television, Dr. Long is a sought after lecturer in the field of children's education and the dynamics of television on the education of young children.

The AFRO-BETS Kids Club was begun by Just Us Books, Inc. a black-owned publishing company headquartered in East Orange, NJ.

The AFRO-BETS Kids are six characters that have been featured in nine titles published by the company.

The club's aim is to promote positive self-esteem and to encourage reading.

For more information about the club call (201) 676-4345 or write AFRO-BETS Kids Club, Box 5300, East Orange, NJ 07017.

## Corrections Clients Earn GED

Monday in the Multnomah County Courthouse Boardroom, 20 Multnomah County Community Corrections clients participated in a ceremony celebrating the completion of their G.E.D.'s and the start of a new life.

Present and officiating was Judge Donald Londer, Ms. Tamara Holden Director of the Department of Community Corrections, and graduating Corrections clients. The Londer Learning Center is one the most successful educational programs in the entire United States for Criminal Justice clients and is used as a model for other agencies.

The Department of Community Corrections offers educational and employment opportunities to their clients with the belief that these opportunities enhance an individual's self-esteem and confidence level. These positive changes can be a powerful tool in the rehabilitation process. Some of these graduates have not only completed their G.E.D.s, but are also in the process of graduating from alcohol and drug treatment programs.

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