

Family Living

The Portland Observer

Kids' Artwork Promotes Clean Rivers and Streams

The artwork of four elementary students is being used in an education campaign this spring by The Regional Coalition for Clean Rivers & Streams.

The Coalition is a partnership of the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Unifield Sewerage Agency, Clackamas County Service District #1, and the City of Gresham formed to raise public awareness about stormwater pollution and what people can do to prevent it.

The coordinated educational campaign will use the students' artwork on bus and MAX placards beginning this month to emphasize that only rain should go down the storm drain.

Each student's drawing shows the message "Dump No Waste, Drains to Stream," which is stenciled on storm drains throughout the metropolitan region.

Most storm drains in the Portland area empty to the nearest stream, wetland or groundwater. Many of the storm drain stenciling projects are done by

youth groups.

Schools around the region were asked for artwork that could be used in the campaign. Dozens of entries were received. All four of the drawings chosen were from Gresham schools. Those selected were:

- Adam Reeder, age 9, Hall Elementary Ms. Noonan, teacher
- Sunny Dubinski, age 9, Hollydale Elementary teacher;
- Andy Klotz, age 11, Hollydale Elementary, Mr. Felman and
- Leslie Wagner, age 11, Hollydale Elementary Mrs. Rauscher

The students were thanked by the Gresham City Council on behalf of the Coalition at a meeting on April 2nd.

Each student received a full-size poster of their finished bus or MAX placard.

The Coalition reminds people that there are many easy things they can do to protect their neighborhood stream or river:

- Never dump used motor oil,

paint or household chemicals on the ground or in a storm drain.

- Don't overuse fertilizers and pesticides; read the instructions carefully. Better yet, try organic gardening!

- Pick up pet waste and put it in the garbage or flush it down the toilet.

- Sweep patios and driveways clean instead of hosing them off.

- Water only as much as the ground can absorb. Keep water from running on the driveway, sidewalk or street.

- Stencil your neighborhood storm drains with: "Dump No Waste, Drains to Stream."

For more information, contact: Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, 823-7740; Unifield Sewerage Agency of Washington County, 648-8621; City of Gresham 618-2657; Clackamas County, 650-3737.

For more information about the Coalition for Clean Rivers & Streams, or to learn more about how you can protect your neighborhood stream, contact your local Coalition member at number above.

Teens Avoiding Date Violence

Violence in teen relationships is a serious problem, according to a recent survey of American youth. In this national survey, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, 40 percent of girls ages 14 to 17 said they knew someone their own age who'd been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. Fifteen percent said someone they dated had tried to force them to have sex against their will.

Kaiser Permanente pediatrician Virginia Feldman, MD, says parents can do a lot to prepare their children for the possibility of such dating violence. Dr. Feldman, who practices at Kaiser Permanente's East Interstate Medical Office in north Portland, says parents should discuss the issue before teens start dating.

"Young people need to know there are steps they can take to lessen their chance of being victimized by violence," says Dr. Feldman.

To promptly reject unwanted at-

tention and actions have your kids practice using direct language, a firm voice and physically backing away to signal they want a behavior, such as being groped, to stop," says Dr. Feldman. "Make sure your child knows to speak up as soon as they are made uncomfortable, rather than waiting till a situation gets out of control."

"Many parents ask their kids to call them for a ride home, no questions asked, if they think it's safer then remaining with a date or at a party," says Dr. Feldman. "If a parent cannot always do that, make sure your teen knows a taxi company's number and has enough cash to pay for a phone call and a cab home if a date becomes unsafe or abusive. It's also wise to pin money inside your teen's clothes in case an angry date grabs a purse or wallet."

To avoid anyone who's drunk or drug-affected Dr. Feldman says teens

need to be counseled that alcohol and drugs lower inhibitions and impair judgment, even if they or their date don't feel or seem drunk. "Drugs and alcohol increase the risk of becoming violent, abusive, and acting dangerously, such as driving too fast."

"With so many young people carrying firearms, young people run a real risk of injury or death if they respond aggressively to bullying, or themselves use insults, yell at others, or shove and cut in line," warns Dr. Feldman. "Knowing how to stay calm when provoked, and practicing good manners can help your child avoid a fight that could cost his or her life."

Dr. Feldman says when parents role play each of these actions with their teenagers it makes the young people more ready to act decisively to protect themselves when potentially violent situation arises.

Rose Festival Boat Building Clinic Scheduled

In preparation for the Alpenrose Milk Carton Boat Race scheduled in June, The Portland Rose Festival Association will hold a milk carton boat building clinic, Saturday, April 13, 1 to 3 p.m. at Alpenrose Dairy, 6149 S.W.

Shattuck Road, Portland.

Children and youth groups with members 8-years-old and up will be instructed on constructing milk carton boats in three categories: catamaran sailboats, showboats and human-powered boats.

Following the clinic, Alpenrose

Dairy will provide free ice cream for all participants.

The Alpenrose Milk Carton Boat Races, with more than \$2,200 in cash, prizes and trophies, will be held Sunday, June 2, 1 p.m. at the Westmoreland Park Casting Pool, S.E. Mc-Loughlin at Bybee.

Telecommunications Bill Opens Doors

Mr. Joseph Jackson, black inventor, is well-positioned to capitalize on the recent signing of the Telecommunications Bill. Section 551 of the Bill not only gives the Television industry one year to voluntarily develop a ratings system for TV programs, but it also "requires TV manufacturers to equip all 13 inch or greater TV sets with circuitry to block rated shows."

The Community Financial Investment Groups Corporation has been working to assist Mr. Jackson go into production since April 1995. Annie Pierce, President explains, "Joe Jackson has had his 'foot in the television industry's door' for quite a while,

and now all he needs is an economic "push" from the community to help him open it completely! Even though he invented the TeleCommander over 15 years ago, he has only been financially able to bring his invention to the prototype stage.

After years of knocking on many Black political and church doors for assistance, he finally attracted non-black investors who tried to take over him, his patents and his company!

This is why last year we decided to support Mr. Jackson and take on the TeleCommander as one of our Community Ownership Projects, which enables any of our Associate Mem-

bers to become part owners in the TeleCommander. He could be selling the TeleCommander "chip" to every TV manufacturer right now bringing millions of dollars into the African American community in jobs and sales revenue, if he were in the manufacturing stage!"

Section 552 of the Telecommunications Bill encourages the industry "to establish a technology fund to encourage TV and electronic equipment manufacturing to facilitate the development of blocking technology that would empower parents to block TV programming they deem inappropriate for their children."

Back in August 1995 the major TV Networks (NBC, ABC, CBS, and FOX) publicly released information about the establishment of such a fund totalling \$2 million, but no funds to date have actually been dispersed, even though Mr. Jackson was first in line for the funds.

"We hope these funds will be dispersed before Mr. Jackson's patent expires", remarks Ms. Pierce. "But our real preference is that conscious African Americans step forward to become owners of this history-making Black invention that will be a major source of pride for us all!"

For more information 1-800-898-4696.

Employment In Oregon: March 1996

Oregon unemployment rate IS 5.1%, up 0.2 from February (seasonally adjusted). While the National unemployment rate 5.6% -- up 0.1 from February.

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.1 percent in March, according to figures released today by the Oregon Employment Department. March was the first month since October 1994 in which the rate was more than 5.0 percent.

"Despite the rise in the unemployment rate between February and March, Oregon's rate is still low by historic standards," said David Cooke, an economist with the Employment Department. "March marks the 30th consecutive month in which Oregon's unemployment rate has been below the national figure."

A total of 98,800 Oregonians were unemployed in March, up from 86,400 a year ago. In March 1995, Oregon's unemployment rate fell to 4.6 percent, its lowest level since the late 1960s. The primary reason for the continued low levels of unemployment is the rapidly increasing number of jobs in the state's economy. In March, 5,200 nonfarm payroll jobs were added on a seasonally adjusted basis. This is 500 more jobs than the average monthly gain over the past twelve months. The number of jobs has been growing in the state at close to a 4.0 percent annual pace for more than two years now.

Seasonally adjusted employment gains in March were led by service and nondurable good manufacturing, which each accounted for 1,300 more jobs than in February. In services, all sectors except engineering and management services showed

raw job gains for the month. Business services, which includes help supply, employee leasing, building maintenance, and security, and many other categories of services, grew by 1,900 jobs over the month and 7,300 jobs in the past twelve months.

Nondurable goods manufacturing added more than 1,000 workers in March, after a job decline of a similar

magnitude in February. Food and kindred products manufacturers experienced unusual job cutbacks in February due partially to freezing weather, followed by flooding-related problems. The March numbers reflect a rebound from the February lows. Over the last twelve months, nondurable goods manufacturing has not added a significant number of jobs.

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It's A Family Affair II

The members of the Business and Professional Women's Circle of Mount Olivet Baptist Church present their 2nd annual fashion show, "It's A Family Affair". The show will be held on Saturday, April 27, 1996 at Mount Olivet's Family Life Center, 8725 N. Chautauquua, Portland, Oregon.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Gertrude Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund which is used for scholarships awarded annually to deserving students continuing their education beyond high school. Mrs. Crowe was a member of Mount Olivet and a community activist who was one of the founders of the LIFE Center located on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

This event will showcase Mount Olivet's leaders and members in a wide variety of fashions. Scenes will include Body and Soul, Sister-to-Sister, Mother's Day, Boys to Men, Babes in Toyland, Getting Down to Business, All God's Children and Two Shall Become One.

Tickets for this event are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for youth over 13 and no charge for children 12 and younger. Tickets may be obtained by calling 284-8751. The show will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m.