

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Fort Vancouver Fireworks

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site will host the Vancouver 34th annual Fourth of July Celebration. Activities begin on the main stage at 11:45am with music and other entertainment, finishing with a spectacular fireworks display at 10:00pm.

Campaign For Peace

The Campaign for Peace with Cuba and the Flying Focus Video Collective are co-sponsoring a Cuban Film Festival - a retrospective of the late Cuban film. The films, in large-screen video format, will be shown at Fifth Avenue Cinema, Southwest 5th and Hall, Thursday July 11 through Sunday, July 14. For more information call 287-9806 or 735-4068.

International Performance Festival

The 1996 Portland International Performance Festival "Revisiting Home" July 19 - August 15, 1996. Ticket information at PSU Ticket office, 506 SW Mill, 725-3307. General Festival Information: For performances, events, courses and workshops, call 725-4862, or 1-800-547-8887, ext. 4862.

Community Meeting

On Thursday, July 11, 1996, Greenpeace Portland will be holding a community meeting at 2548 SE Ankeny St. from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. At this month's meeting there will be a multi-faith panel discussing the connections between spirituality and the environment. For information call Jeanne at 233-1139.

Red Cross Summer Course Scheduled

The Summer 1996 Schedule of Health and Safety Courses of the American Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter is now available. Courses include First Aid and CPR, CPR for the Professional Rescuer, Infant and Child CPR, Childcare Professional's First Aid and CPR, Protect Your Back, and Bloodborne Pathogen training. Youth classes include *Baby-sitting*, *When I'm in Charge*, and *Basic Aid Training*. To receive a course catalog, call the Oregon Trail Chapter, 280-1440.

Walk For Human Race

July 27, 1996 5K fundraising walk for non-profits in Clark County, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Human Services Council 694-6577.

The International Festival

July 28, 1996 Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver. A grassroots festival with ethnic music, dance and food celebrating local ethnic diversity as a way to highlight the international groups (served by the Seafarer's Center). Noon to 6:30 p.m. Free 694-9300.

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

Leaders Laud Youth Club



Mel Renfro (surrounded by the club's member) is one of many community leaders who visit the club regularly. Renfro was a Jefferson High School football and track star, University of Oregon All-American, NFL Dallas All-Pro and Pro-Football Hall of Famer. He's now an Ambassador for the Bridge Center.

BY PROMISE KING

Linda White's divine passion for less privileged inner-city kids goes beyond the rudiments of her job as the Director of Blazers' Boys & Girls Club.

For White, it's a divine inclination. Her deep faith in the youth club and her towering motherly figure has given her the niche in pioneering the club successfully.

Local community leaders have continually pointed to the club's success stories. "I think the Club has been a blessing to the community," says Sam Piece, who directs MYCAP (Minority Youth Concerns Program).

Some area kids who use the club regularly say it's helped tremendously in re-directing their focus.

"I feel committed to do what I can to make a difference for our youth," says White.

In a community that lacks basic social amenities, the Boys & Girls Club has served

as a beacon of hope for some and a haven for other area kids.

"I think one of the most important thing we do here is to provide a safe place to go, not just to socialize but to learn and have fun at the same time," the youth club director said.

The club rules are strict and runs on a structured requirement. White says regulations are part of life.

The club director's ultimate goal is to be able to expose area kids to different choices and opportunities and focus their minds to do positive things.

There are many things she would want in the club, like a music studio, but financial constraints have hindered that progress at least for now. She says it could be done with community support.

One kid White would love to have in her club is the Portland Blazer's new deal, the 17-year-old high school basketball sensation Jermaine O'Neal.

"I am going to do my best to have him [O'Neal] in this club. It will be totally awesome to have him as a role model," says White.

If White has a magic wand, the former lieutenant with the Arizona state Dept of Corrections says she will wipe away all traces of negativity and lack of self confidence that lurk in the minds of many displaced inner-city kids.

"Places like Boys & Girls could go a long way to help replace hopelessness with hope. And turn wayward kids to responsible adults," observes White.

The Blazers' Boys & Girls Club on MLK Boulevard opened for use last March, is part of the 1,809 Boys & Girls Club facilities over the nation that help more than 2.4 million young people connect with opportunities for personal growth and achievement.

The MLK's branch has a daily member capacity of 210 youth. It is open to all youth between the ages of 6 & 18 years.

MLK Median Generates Heat Again

BY LEE PERLMAN

Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is a wide street, but still not big enough to accommodate all the agendas that special interest groups have for it.

This became evident at the second meeting of the Martin Luther King Main Street Project. Funded by the Governor's Community Solutions program, the project is seeking to identify short-term improvements to the street based on "what makes the most sense, what is doable, and what we have the resources to accomplish right now," in the words of Arthuree Baruti of the state Housing and Community Services Division. He is one of 21 community, business, non-profit or government representatives who will guide the project.

The project's first, unintended accomplishment has been to push aside a parallel process, Portland Community Design's MLK Summit. This was to be a series of small meetings, culminating in a day-and-a-half gathering, that would designate and organize specific on-going projects to promote transportation, business and housing development, cultural identity and arts on the street. However, after a series of lively but poorly-at-

tended gatherings, Laurel Lyon of PDC announced that the process was being put on hold for the time being.

Even so, the Summit meetings did reveal that there's no way to make all interest groups satisfied with a redo of MLK. There has long been strong sentiment, especially in the business community, to do away with the street's center median and restore on-street parking; PCD Director Peter Wilcox started with this as his personal agenda. However, he later concluded that for the sake of both traffic

"We need to encourage business and job development, not subsidized housing,"

North-Northeast Business Association President Bill Leigh

safety and to provide ways for pedestrians to cross the street, it may be necessary to keep the median in at least some places.

Even if the median were to go, there would be problems, or at least choices. At one Summit session, Dan Layden of the state Department of Transportation said that based on state law, it would be "a stretch" to make major changes in the street without adding bicycle lanes. If such lanes are, in fact, installed, either on-street parking or two of the

existing four travel lanes would have to go, there being not enough room for all of the above. Some, such as transit advocate Jim Howell, say that the street would in fact function better with just two travel lanes, especially if more transit service is provided. However, Layden says preliminary studies show that this would move the traffic onto parallel local streets, such as Northeast Seventh Avenue, where it isn't designed to go. He also said that most of the boulevard's 31,000 vehicle trips either come from or go to

the immediate area, with few cars running straight through from Northeast Broadway to Columbia Boulevard.

At the Main Stream Project's second meeting last week there were more complications. Geri Ethen of the Piedmont Neighborhood Association read a position statement signed by officers of the Eliot, Humboldt and King associations that, among other things op-

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Norma Paulus, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oregon Department of Education.

Urban League Honors Youth

An organization devoted to equality will present a new version of the equation at its Annual Dinner July 10.

The theme of the Urban League of Portland's dinner is "Our Children & Our Destiny." The Urban League invites the entire community to celebrate youth who are "doing the right thing" at the event on Wednesday, July 10 at 6:30 pm at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. A reception begins at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$50 each, \$500 for a table for ten.

"Our Children & Our Destiny" is the new motto of the National Urban League. Urban League affiliates around the nation are focusing new resources on developing our children, and African American children in particular, for the 21st century. The Urban League of Portland was recently named one of five Urban League affiliates to receive a five-year grant from the Borden Foundation to celebrate and encourage inner city youth who are achieving. The July 10 dinner will bring many of these youth together with adults who can help them develop into future leaders.

Local companies are being encouraged to donate seats at their tables to youth in Urban League programs. Youth will be prominently featured in the festive program, which will include entertainment, a silent auction of student art, and a youthful guest speaker.

The speaker will be Reverend Ron Sailor, Jr., a 21-year-old minister and student from Atlanta. Rev. Sailor sits on the National NAACP board and is known for his commitment to youth and leadership development. He captured national attention with a dynamic speech on youth issues at the Million Man March in October 1995. A gifted orator, Rev. Sailor will speak on "The Changing Needs and Responsibilities of America's Youth."

Three Oregonians with strong ties to youth issues are serving as co-chairs for the dinner. Kay Dean Toran is Director of Oregon's Office for Services to Children and Families. Norma Paulus is State Superintendent of Public Instruction. And State Senator Robert Boyer manages the King Facility, which houses several youth programs in Northeast Portland. The Master of Ceremonies will be Donna Johnson, an under-30 member of the Urban League of Portland board of directors.

"If our young people are to believe that our support involves more than words, we need to show them," noted Urban League of Portland President Lawrence J. Dark. "We urge adults to share skills they have learned with young people, and show support by attending our dinner or purchasing a ticket for a youth."

For tickets call (503) 280-2617.