

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

**SECTION B**

**Community Calendar**

**Metropolitan Meeting**

The Regular meeting of the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission (MERC) scheduled on Wednesday, July 10, 1996 at 12:30 p.m. has been **Cancelled and Rescheduled for Monday, July 29, 1996** at the Oregon Convention Center in Room C124, 777 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland, Oregon at 12:30 p.m.

**Sellwood Concert**

The second of three Sellwood Concerts in Westmoreland Park will feature the Cutis Salgado/Terry Robb Quartet, on Monday, July 15, at 6:30 p.m. Blues fans will enjoy this close-up intimate collaboration by two of the Pacific Northwest's favorite blues artists.

**Sabin Community Meeting**

The Sabin Community Development Corporation is holding a community celebration from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 13th, at Rozlyn's Garden Care, 1438 N.E. Alberta St. There will be food, entertainment and information about revitalization projects being done by Sabin CDC and other non-profit and volunteer groups.

**Alberta Corridor Meeting**

The Alberta Corridor Revitalization Project will hold a community meeting to discuss plans and projects for the street and area at 7 p.m. July 17th at Northeast 15th Avenue and Alberta Street.

**Seventh Annual Homowo Festival**

The Seventh Annual Homowo Festival for African Arts will be held on Sunday, August 18th, beginning at 1 p.m. in Cathedral Park in North Portland. This African harvest festival is the largest culturally-based African/African-American festival in the Northwest.

**Cascade Head Music Festival**

July 13 & 14, July 20 & 21. Lincoln City is privileged to be the locale for one of the most prestigious musical events Oregon has to offer. Under the leadership of Sergiu Luca, renowned violinist and Professor of Music at Rice University, this festival has brought together musicians of worldwide renown. Performances at St. Peter the Fisherman Lutheran Church, 1226 SW 13th St., Lincoln City, OR. For questions please contact Sandra Lamb, at 503-944-5333, 994-7760, or 994-4832.

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



For those who love tennis, Peninsula Park has a "Park and Pal" program currently in progress this summer. It costs \$5.00 to enroll. Tom Clark (center), with Gene Stainbrook (left), and Paula Mckenzie are on hand to help.

**CSD Seeks Family Ties**

BY PROMISE KING

**The inglorious days when Services To Children And Families (SCF) officials and wayward parents couldn't see eye to eye, except in court, are over.**

Nowadays, the child-protective agency is singing new pro-family blues that may baffle it's most virulent critics and make some parents giggle.

The agency has tuned down it's reactionary tirades, almost tilting to the point of cuddling families. It says it's not prepared to hand-drag any child out of his or her immediate family environment. This does not mean it's backsliding, rather the agency says it has change it's attitude and has discovered new chemistry about taking care of business.

The agency's director Kay, Toran, admitted to the Portland Observer last week that new developments in family based practice have caused SCF to re-evaluate long held assumptions about protecting children.

Toran says it's the primary responsibility of families, relatives, friends and natural helpers in the community to protect children. That means it'll now exhaust all family channels before considering other options.

"I have heard the message of kinship and I have heard the complaints. I want to state we do value family. And that's why we are designing programs to respond to that," Toran confided.

The state agency is developing a plan that will emphasize kinship placement of chil-

dren in the state's care and custody. And that plan, which is contracted out to a local consultant, is expected to be out this July. It will contain recommendations for implementation of the Kinship Care Program which is designed specifically for Kinship Families.

The agency is also experimenting with the Strengths/Needs Service Planning. That is, designing services for children and their families through a process of reaching agreements with families, other care-takers and service providers. The process is focused on the children's needs instead of probing family deficiencies. It offers a way of describing needs in terms the family can understand. The plan provides a single reference point for designing services that will meet those needs and for accountability for all service providers working with the child and family.

This pro-family mood by the agency apparently stemmed from the recommendations by a Work Group.

The Work Group, which was set up to consider the concern raised by critics about the plight of Oregon children in foster care and children at risk of foster care placement, recommends that the agency adopt an approach to service delivery focusing on family strengths.

It also recommends that children in foster care should maintain connection with their biological parents, if possible.

Implementation of this recommendation is already in force in four Metro Region offices in Multnomah County, and other re-



Kay Toran

gional offices of the SCF. The second phase of implementation of the 18-page plan will continue during the 1997-99 biennium and the process is to be completed in the year 2003.

"We are changing the culture so that it reflects family," says Toran.

But critics say financial retrenchment, compounding families complex problems are presenting greater challenges for child welfare practitioners.

"More money is not the solution to child protection. We need to pull together as a community and set standard for our children. We are genuinely committed on our part to help meet this needs," Torah proffered.

**Urban League Free Summer Youth Programs**

Long summer days passing you by with nothing to do? The Urban League of Portland is offering four exciting free programs to youth and their parents geared towards enhancing academic achievement and having fun! Slots are still open in each of the programs, but are filling up fast so sign-up today!

Is your child interested in science, math and hands on learning? The Urban Ecosystems Project is designed to increase the ability and motivation of all students in grades 6-8 to reach high academic performance standards through hands on learning projects. The project is a partnership between the Urban League, math, science and social studies content. The Urban Ecosystems curriculum will include topic investigations, content focus, integrated mathematics and science, in-depth projects, writing, computer lab, field trips and much more! The 18 day summer program runs from July 8 to July 26 and is located at the Northeast Community School at 44 NE Morris. The project operates from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday Through Friday. Lunch is provided free for all participants. The program is open to all middle school students currently attending Portland Public Schools. Though the program has already begun, slots are still open. To register call Josephine Hayes at the Urban League at 280-2647.

Is your child interested in computers? This summer the Urban League is offering the Manufacturing Technology Laboratory Program to engage area youth in computer technologies and learning. Students in the program will learn how to use a computer aided manufacturing design program and will be able to create the design that they generate. The one day program is an excellent opportunity for young people to build their computer skills while engaging in a creative project. The program is open to high school and middle school age students. Classes begin August 12 and end August 16. To register please call Cauldeen Anderson at 280-2613.

Looking to enhance your child's reading skills? The Summer Reading Enrichment Program is for elementary school students interested in enhancing their reading and comprehension skills. The program begins August 19.

**HOW COULD YOU NOT HAVE A JOB?**

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

**You mean to say that you're unemployed? Or else you are going to tell me you are facing a layoff? Further, although 'they' haven't said anything yet at your plant, the main production machinery is not being replaced on the old schedule; and you think that ought to tell you something?**

Surely you read last Saturday's print media or watched the tube with a rising surge of excitement: "Rosy figures on jobs" -- "239,000 Jobs created in May alone" -- "Jobless rate lowest in 5 years (5.3 percent)" -- "Average hourly earnings jumped from \$11.73 in May to \$11.82 in June; the biggest monthly increase on record" -- "President Clinton rushes out to the rose garden to announce that ten million new jobs have been added under his administration."

But a strange thing happened on the way to

the microphones, and just as the president joyfully exclaimed, "Wages for American workers are finally on the rise again ... we have the most solid American economy in a generation". Rushing out of the woodwork like termites seeking to escape an exterminator were dozens of gloom and doom folks -- investors and financial analysts who declared, "wages are too high so employers will have to pay more to attract workers. That could lead to inflation." The stock market promptly fell 114.88 points, meaning that investors lost tens of billions of dollars.

So we say all of that to say what? That the economy is volatile, and things are very scary out there? And that the American business scene is a roller coaster ride where an ever-increasing number of workers dare not lock into that old traditional debt structure -- that comfortable financial edifice which comfortably supported housing, automobiles and kid's

education over the span of a generation?

We are saying all of that and a lot more -- to both job seekers as well as the concerned "endangered species." First, let us take a look at that "5.3 percent jobless rate -- the lowest in 5 years." So you think that sounds good, and it very well may be good news to some people. But that figure has a very familiar ring to me -- ominous because it's acceptable."

It's the figure that was first given for "Structural Unemployment" -- the term describing "that unemployment which results because the composition of the labor force does not respond quickly or completely to the new structure or demand. As a result, some workers find that they have no marketable talents; their skills and experience have been rendered obsolete and unwanted by changes in technology and consumer demand" (Economics, sixth edition, Campbell R. McConnell

p.193, Business Cycles; McGraw Hill).

Now, understand that this jobless rate of approximately 5.3 percent is considered a permanent "cost-of-capitalism" by economists, industry and political administrations. In the best of times they concede that this niche will be occupied primarily by Blacks, Hispanics, women and the partially disabled. "And, 10, the poor shall always be with us," saith the Good Book.

It was about 1974 that the term 'structural unemployment' became popular in the economic literature and though I was teaching a class in Urban Economics at the time at Portland State University, I decided to sit in on the schools more 'establishment-oriented' "Economics- 101." You can picture the red-faced instructor, when in the middle of a smug explanation of the "acceptable racial

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