

Family Living

The Portland Observer

"Serve And Be Served" Day

The Northwest Service Academy, a local AmeriCorps program, is sponsoring a community service event on July 27th 1996 to give an opportunity for residents of Portland to make a difference in their community, either by making improvements at their local school grounds, empowering the growth of healthy trees in Forest Park serving with individuals who are dedicated to save an urban riparian area from further damage, or doing finishing work on a house in North Portland enabling a low income family to buy a home.

The purpose of the Northwest Service Academy is to engage over

100 AmeriCorps members in hands-on community service projects. These projects bring clear and demonstrable benefits to local communities and their surrounding environment.

The Northwest Service Academy has 70 members working in the Portland/Metro area as well as 30 members who live and work on a rural site in WA. Members' projects focus on community based environmental service. AmeriCorps is part of the Corporation for National Service established by Congress with strong bipartisan support in 1993.

One way we, as an organization, meet the goals of AmeriCorps is by

planning this community wide service event where volunteers can work with a variety of organizations such as: Friends of Forest Park, Friends of Fanno Creek, McLoughlin Junior High School, Ardenwald Elementary School, and Portsmouth Community Redevelopment Corporation.

Volunteers will have an opportunity to participate in all the above activities.

For more information on projects in your area and exact times please contact The Northwest Service Academy Community Outreach Committee at (503) 695-3747. We will be glad to hear from you.

Sand In The City

Sand In The City '96, presented by Yoshida's, promises to be a family event like no other in Portland. The sand sculpture contest, which will take place at Pioneer Courthouse Square July 25-28, will feature 14 corporate teams waging creative warfare against one another and 60 tons of sand.

The fun begins on Thursday, July 25, when master sand sculptors will construct a giant demo sand castle. The next day, competing teams will have from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to shovel, pack and carve their creations. Awards will follow at 5:30 p.m.

Free public viewing, puppet shows, music and food sales will highlight the weekend. A huge family sand castle building area and a wheelchair accessible sand castle building area will welcome aspiring architects to display their handiwork. Entertainment includes the bands Golden Delicious, a bluegrass band;

The Blackbird Trio, featuring Beatles-type music; Flying Safari Ants, a marimba band; and many more. Hours for the weekend festivities are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Major sponsors include presenting sponsor Yoshida's--makers of gourmet sauces and other diverse products including board games and Molly Snowboards--and Black and Company Inc., and investment sponsors/teams include Hoffman Construction Company, who agreed to truck 60 tons of the beach to and from the Square; CFI ProServices, Inc; Beaches Restaurant & Bar in Vancouver; NAACO Materials Handling Group Inc.; Northwest Natural Gas Co.; U.S. Bank; Pacific Generation Company; Generic Parts Service, Inc; Wieden & Kennedy and Wells Fargo Bank.

Sand in the City '96 is a benefit for

the kids on the Block Awareness Program. The program uses child size puppets to help children and adults learn to understand and accept differences in one another and to protect themselves in difficult situations.

The purpose of the program is to encourage acceptance and open communication regarding physical social and cultural differences; and to provide accurate information and educational materials that focus on ability, dignity, independence and self-esteem.

The Kids on the Block puppet dress and act like real children. They speak in kids' language and deal with children's fears, concerns and question in a simple non-treating way. The puppets encourage fresh new attitudes and present differences as assets, not liabilities.

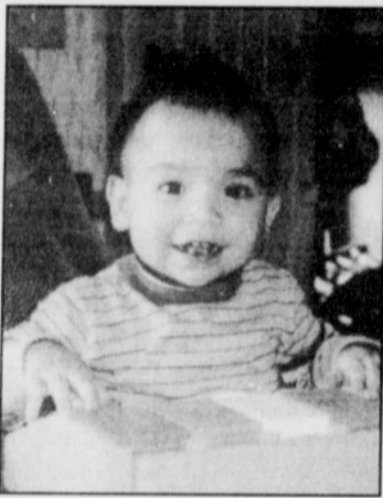
For more information, please call Lynne Bangsund at 503/2466-5818.

"Waiting Children"

Around the United States, there are many children awaiting adoption. In the state of Oregon alone, there are over 200 children in need of adoptive families. We are a group of private agencies working with the state to help find adoptive families. These agencies are completely waiving fees in order to encourage the adoption of these children in need. Single adults, both male and female, as well as couples are welcome to consider adoption. To learn more, contact The Special Needs Adoption Coalition at The Boys and Girls Aid Society, (503) 222-9661.

Below are some examples of the special children looking for a loving home:

Occasionally bashful, Alvin is a peppy, on-the-go kid. He thrives on the joy of play! This dear child is said to be easy to parent. Developmentally right on target, Alvin is a smart and active problem-solver. Despite testing positive for drugs at



Alvin, age 2.



Anna, age 4.

birth, Alvin is a healthy child. His cultural heritage is Hispanic, Klamath Indian and Caucasian. Alvin also has a baby sister who might be available for adoption at some point. This beloved boy is ready for a safe and supportive home!

Anna is a jolly little girl with a super sense of humor! She tells hilarious jokes and stories, punctuated by her

cute laugh. Anna energetically plays, sings, and dances. She is very interactive with others and loves to converse. Anna currently struggles with some challenges, including some possible drug or alcohol effects. She has been making excellent progress! This bubbly girl would benefit from parents who could shower her with consistent attention.

Computer Hurling Catapult Makes Last Casting Call

1996 da Vinci Days celebration, Oregon's finest family festival, is excited to have a famous addition that ties in science, technology, and arts all in one structure.

The "Mona Lever," a trebuchet as seen on episodes of "Northern Exposure," will be ready to launch computers to demonstrate how physics can help computers clear 102.3 yards. Computers can be delivered to

the trebuchet launch site on the day of event or prior to the festival at the da Vinci Days office at 760 SW Madison, Corvallis, Oregon.

For more information call the da Vinci Days office at (541) 757-6363.

Fight Pain With Positive Alternatives

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

In the 16 years that James Prister has been on this earth, he has experienced more pain and sadness than any person should be forced to endure in a lifetime. Two of his older brothers were arrested in a robbery attempt when James was 10. They are serving long prison terms. A couple of years ago, another brother was shot and killed on the streets of New York. James says that he sees violence and death everywhere he looks in his Brooklyn neighborhood.

But James, a New York YMCA Member, who traveled to Washington, D.C., last June 1 to Stand For Children with several other YMCA supporters, has turned his sadness into anger. And he's fighting back. "I want to focus on the positive things so the drug and gun dealers will never get me," he says. "When younger kids see me, they're not going to see a criminal. They're going to see a young man who leads by example. I have to stand up to the criminals and say, You're not going to get me!"

"I haven't seen my brothers since I was 10, and I probably won't see them again until I'm old," he continues. "Grabbing a gun, getting a girl pregnant--what's that? Why not say, 'I want to grab me a diploma or a career?'"

"My brother was killed and my other brothers are in prison because they were all in the wrong place at the wrong time. There needs to be more things for young people to do so they're not so bored, so that there are more positive alternatives. The drug dealers and gun sellers are all around us, and when there's no programs for kids my age, those are the people we end up giving in to."

Fifteen-year-old Kristy Schlawfler, another member of the YMCA Greater New York, also stood for children at the Lincoln Memorial. "Kids need a positive image, and that's why we're here today. We have so many programs that are being cut in New York, which only puts kids back on the street," she says. "With programs like ours, kids get to play basketball and other sports, and they get the

chance to develop leadership skills instead of getting into trouble. It seems like the government puts us last. Sometimes they treat us like we're nothing but dogs."

Another of James' traveling companions was Gary Swartels, 33, a native New Yorker and worker at the Greater New York YMCA.

"There needs to be increased resources to other organizations like the YMCA that help young people pass safely into adulthood," says Swartels. "Last year, New York City YMCAs served more than 95,000 youths, and the goal is to increase that number fourfold by the year 2000," he says.

James, Kristy, and Gary all have the right idea. If this society is to turn the pain and sadness that many of our children are experiencing into safety and peace, we must stress the importance of positive alternatives. What we don't provide for our children and youths on the front end, we will only pay for on the back end in the form of prison sentences and more dying.

SAFeway's SUMMER SAVINGS

Prices Effective July 17 through July 23, 1996 at your nearby Safeway store.

SAFeway
FOOD & DRUG



Whole Boneless Beef Top Sirloin

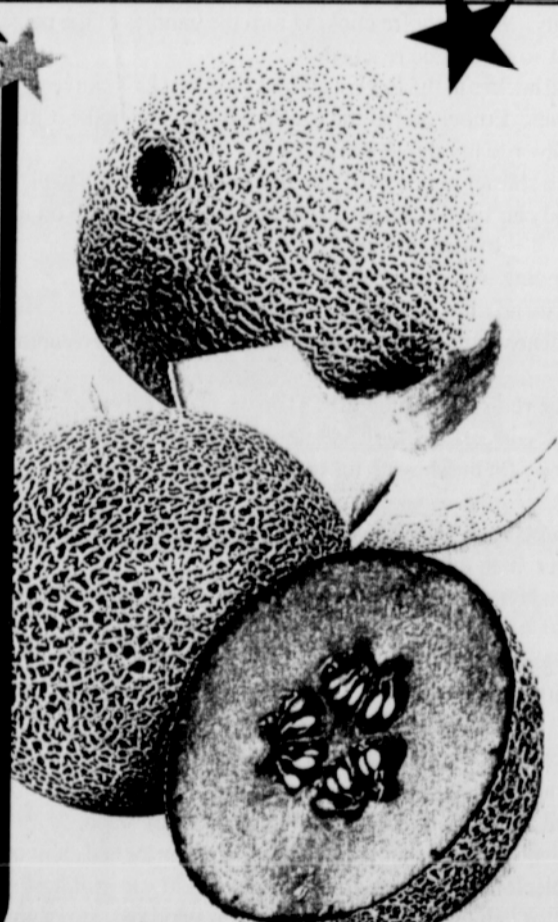
- Primal form untrimmed
- Cut & wrapped in one package FREE!
- Valu Pack Steaks, 3 or more per package 1.99-lb
- Smaller packages, 2.19-lb
- SAVE UP TO 1.20 LB

1.69
lb

Fresh California Sweet Cantaloupe

- Wholes melons
- SAVE AT SAFEWAY

19¢
lb



Stouffer's Lunch Express

- Original or Lean Cuisine
- 8.5 to 10.75-ounce
- SAVE UP TO 1.30 EACH

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ea

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