

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Northwest Portland Parks Are Still Hoppin'

Northwest Portland Parks are still hoppin' with free live music every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7-8:30 p.m. On Tuesday, July 30, in Couch Park, N.W. Glisan at 20th, catch a trio of well-known local performers collaborating as In Cahoots. Lisa Miller's big voice and gritty, ironic lyrics team up with Lynn Conover's "hillbilly with an urban edge" sound, and Donna Jose's outstanding keyboard and original song-writing skills to present a range of styles from acoustic blues to folk rock, all drawn from county roots.

Tri-Met Meeting

Tri-Met Board of Directors Monthly Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Mt. Hood Community College, College Board Room, 26000 SE Stark Street, Gresham. Public forum begins at 4:45 p.m. For more information call, 238-4829. Persons requiring meeting materials in alternative formats and/or sign language interpreters should contact Tri-Met at 238-4952, TTY 238-5811, or fax 239-3092 between 7:30 a.m.--5:30 p.m. weekdays at least two working days prior to the meeting. The meeting room is accessible.

Training To Be Held

The National Coalition Building Institute Prejudice Reduction Leaders Institute will be held July 18-20th, 1996 in Eugene, Oregon. Al Herring, the Associate Director of NCBI International and the Director of the African Heritage Caucus will lead the three day training. For more information call (503) 687-8141.

Watercolor Painting Course Offered Outdoors

Mt. Hood Community College is offering a watercolor painting class, "Painting Naturally," at various outdoor locations on Wednesdays, July 17-Aug. 21, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Artist Kathy Allegri will teach participants how to paint lush summer landscapes and enjoy lively lunchtime dialogue. The first session meets at Gresham City Park, followed by sessions at other community locations. The course fee is \$37. For more information call the Continuing Education Center at 669-6979.

Antelope Spirit Dancers

Thursday, August 15 at 11am and 12 noon in Lair Hill park, there will be two special, free performances by Antelope Spirit: an intertribal dance troupe made up of children ages 3-14. Dressed in ceremonial regalia, they'll perform fancy dances, grass dances and jingle dances. Both shows will be held in Lair Hill Park. In case of rain, performance will be moved to the Children's Cultural Center at SW 2nd and Hooker.

Bead Artist

Saturday, August 31, 12noon-4pm. Master artist Sophie George will show us how she makes intricately beaded jewelry and clothing. George's demonstration is part of the Living Artist's series in our Native American exhibit, Living Legends: American Indians Today. Visitors will have the chance to watch a work in progress, examine the artist's tools and see how traditional crafts are being kept alive with the use of contemporary materials and designs.

'Taxing Matters' Workshop

Mt. Hood Community College's Business Development Center is offering a workshop to help participants decide what business form to choose, how to set up recordkeeping systems and how to keep track of deductible expenses. The workshop, "Taxing Matters," will be held Tuesday, July 23, and Thursday, July 25, from 7 to 10 p.m. in Room 1582 at Mt. Hood Community College. The workshop fee is \$35. For more information call the Business Development Center at 667-7658.

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



Former Mayor Bud Clark, sporting a hip bike cap, takes a moment from his leisure bicycle ride in North Portland to chat it up with District 18 Representative Margaret Carter.

Photo by Mark Washington.

Summerbridge Breaks Down Barriers

The Summerbridge Portland program is breaking down social and economic barriers.

Established by The Catlin Gabel School and Oregon Episcopal School, Summerbridge is a tuition-free, comprehensive academic program that prepares high-potential middle school students for success in rigorous academic high school programs.

The summer 1996 program runs June 24 through Aug. 2, at The Catlin Gabel School.

"Summerbridge offers a unique opportunity for Portland Public School students to interact on an intimate level with young teachers and mentors. It is a learning experi-

ence that transcends economic and social barriers for both the teachers and students involved," says Summerbridge Co-director Carol Wyatt.

"For Oregon Episcopal School and Catlin Gabel, this program demonstrates a tangible commitment to community involvement."

More than 90 percent of Summerbridge students attend Portland Public Schools located primarily in North, Northeast and Southeast Portland. Many students have limited educational or economic opportunities.

Students are recruited via classroom presentations and selected on the basis of academic potential, ability and motivation.

Participants represent the economic and ethnic diversity of Portland.

Teachers for Summerbridge are students recruited from strong academic high schools and top colleges locally and nationwide.

Summerbridge faculty members have come from such schools as: Brown University, Vassar College, Yale University and many others.

A three-to-one student/teacher ratio and small classes are crucial to Summerbridge's success. This summer's program has 36 teachers and 100 students.

For more information contact Carol Wyatt at the Catlin Gabel School, 503-203-5108.

"The Spirit Of A Man" Author Visited Portland

BY PAMELA JORDAN

She strutted and sashayed from one side of the stage to another. Cajoling, preaching, amusing the women in her audience from a microphone on the left side of the platform, and the men from a mike on the right.

But behind Iyanla Vanzant's entertaining presentation was a very serious message.

"The role, energy and presence of the black male spirit must be healed, recognized, realigned and honored," said Vanzant. "Only then can the African-American community regain balance and order."

Vanzant delivered that message to over 600 men and women at the Providence Medical Center auditorium Friday. The author came to Portland to promote her new book, "The Spirit of a Man: A Vision of Transformation for Black Men and The Women who love them."

Some might question why a black woman would write a book for transforming black



Iyanla Vanzant, author of *The Spirit Of A Man* (HarperCollins San Francisco, 1996). Photo by Tom Radcliffe, Point of View.

men. But as a Yoruba priestess in the ancient African tradition, spiritual counselor and author of three best-selling self-help books, the 43-year-old Brooklyn native has the authority to do so.

Her first two books, *Acts of Faith*, and *The Value in the Valley* were inspirational books written to help empower Black women. Writing a book for Black men was the next logical step. But an inner voice, not logic gave birth to *The Spirit of a Man*.

"It hit me like a thunderbolt: write a book for the spiritual empowerment of Black Men," said Vanzant. The thunderbolt hit Thanksgiving morning in 1993. She doggedly tried to ignore that jolt, until she realized that she wouldn't be able to write anything else until she wrote the book.

"Black Men need to be saved from negative self-talk, and negative self-images. But more importantly, they need to be saved from ignorance about the power of the spirit within them," said Vanzant.

Much of Vanzant's message sounded like pop-psychology with a black cultural spin. From the stage she urged black men to emotionally show up, open up, and be available to

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Walsh Joins Rosemont Planning

BY LEE PERLMAN

Central City Concern intends to hire an independent consultant to create a "master plan" for the old Rosemont School property.

The non-profit agency, which operates low income housing in the downtown area and the Hooper Detox Center, created an uproar last year when they announced they wanted to buy the 7.6 acre property at 597 N. Dekum St. and build housing for AIDS patients and recovering alcoholics and drug addicts there. The Piedmont Neighborhood Association held two meetings to discuss the proposal that drew more than 150 people each, most of them strongly opposed to the proposal. Piedmont Association leaders say they would not object to use of the property for AIDS housing, or for drug and alcohol-free housing on a much smaller scale. However, they say, creating so many units for such a "fragile" population could undermine their efforts to "stabilize" their inner north and northeast neighborhood.

Central City Concern officials have been reluctant to consider alternatives to their "vision" for the property. In contrast, they told the Piedmont board at its January 11 meeting that the study they propose would explore the "full range" of possibilities for the property. "We would ask the consultants to interface with our vision, but also to interface with neighborhood concerns," Ian McKechnic of Central City Concern says. "We wouldn't rule anything out as long as it was financially feasible."

They have asked Piedmont to participate, and the board is referring the request to the general membership at its next meeting, 7:30 p.m. January 25 at Holy Redeemer School, 127 N. Portland Blvd.

Meanwhile, some Piedmont board members, including former presidents Betsy Radigan and Tom Markgraf, have proposed that the neighborhood former a community development corporation, acquire the property and develop it themselves. "We don't feel we should oppose this plan unless we can come up with something better," Markgraf says.

State Pension At Record High

State Treasurer Jim Hill, speaking to the Municipal Bond Club in Portland today, announced the outstanding returns earned by the Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund (OPERF) in 1995.

"The Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund earned a record \$4 billion in 1995. The fund's growth from \$17.5 billion to \$21.5 billion was the single largest earning in its history and has placed the fund as the 31st largest pension fund in the United States, public or private. To give you some sense of how much money we made, the \$4 billion nearly equals Nike's revenues for 1995," Hill said. "These earnings demonstrate that we are truly a leader in the country in the management of the pension fund which is good news to pensioners and state taxpayers."

The OPERF is made up of a variety of investments including domestic and international stocks and bonds, venture capital, real estate and cash.

The Treasury has a staff of financial professionals who directly invest a portion of the fund, as well as oversee private sector investment companies. The OPERF provides money to pay current and future state and local government pensions. Since Treasurer Hill took office in 1993, the Pension Fund has increased by more than \$6 billion.