

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Watercolor painting course

Mt. Hood Community College is offering a watercolor painting class, "Painting Naturally," at various outdoor locations on Wednesday, 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. Register for Painting Naturally (course number ART5PN-91) in the college's admissions office. MHCC is located at 26000 S.E. Stark St. in Gresham. For more information see page 31 of the Summer 1996 Schedule of classes or call the Continuing Education Center at 699-6979.

Sax, sun & H₂O

The Water Tower Mall in Johns Landing, 5331 SW Macadam, to host the annual Noon Tunes Concert Series, sponsored by KKJZ & Southwest Airlines, Saturdays, August, 17 & 24 1996, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. to benefit Community Vision, Boys & Girls Aid Society & OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science & Industry).

Highlighting Hawthorne

With a 11 foot long, 7 feet high model of Cinderella's shoe parading gracefully up Hawthorne Blvd., the parade kicks off the 12th Annual Hawthorne Street Fair, Saturday, August 17 from 10am-6pm, and Sunday, August 18 from 11-5. It's a fun, family event, enjoyed by the neighborhood, the business people, the community, and the participants.

Family picnic night

The intoxicating chamber jazz style of Jim Brown and his orchestra is heaven on earth. Get the kids together and bring the whole family for an evening of picnicking, music, kids activities and games. Clowns and face painters will be on hand to add excitement to this special event. Tuesday, Aug. 20, 5:30-8:30 pm, Jenkins Estate, 8005 SW Grabhorn Rd., Aloha, OR.

Earth in mind

Environmental author, David Orr, (*Ecological Literacy* and *Earth in Mind*) will present "Reconnecting the Pieces: Ecological Design and Education in the 21st Century," at 7:30 pm, Wednesday, Aug. 21, in the Council Chamber, Templeton Student Center, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Road. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the door. Seating is limited.

Ski tour & ski doo

Blue Lake Park (Portland) hosts the 1996 Cafe de Colombia Water Ski Tour & Sea Doo Wakeboard Series "Budweiser Championships" on August 16, 17, and 18. Admission free on Friday (2pm-6pm), and \$9 Adults, \$4 Children at the gate on Saturday (8am-4pm) and Sunday (10am-4pm). For tickets call Overton's Ticket Hotline 800-334-6541.

Breast cancer awareness

As a part of its commitment to the greater Portland community and the Portland Race for the Cure taking place Sunday, September 8, Chevron is supporting a breast cancer awareness program which features a variety of educational and fundraising activities from August 18 to September 8, 1996.

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



At left is Jerry Walker, co-chairperson of the Portland area HIV Services Planning Council (Ryan White CARE Act, Title 1). The Council wants to hear from people living with HIV, their providers, caregivers, and family members to find out how service needs are being met, for their 1996 Needs Assessment of HIV Services. If you would like to complete a survey; be included on a list of possible participants for focus groups or the provider/caregiver forum; or receive a summary of the results (available Nov., 1996) call the HIV Services Planning Council at (503) 306-5730.

Photo by Timothy Collins

Oregon's helmet law

BY THE BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

In 1993, the Oregon Legislature passed a mandatory bicycle helmet law requiring that all riders under 16 years of age wear a helmet when cycling on a public way.

One of the first statewide mandatory helmet laws in the country, Oregon's experience interests bicycle and safety advocates around the country.

The Federal Center for Disease Control funded a study, published in September, 1995, that examined the law's effect on bicycling injuries and fatalities, using data from the Oregon Department of Transportation on bicycle and helmet usage rates--gathered from observation sites on state highways around the state--and telephone surveys, along with injury and death data from the Oregon Trauma and Vital Statistics Department.

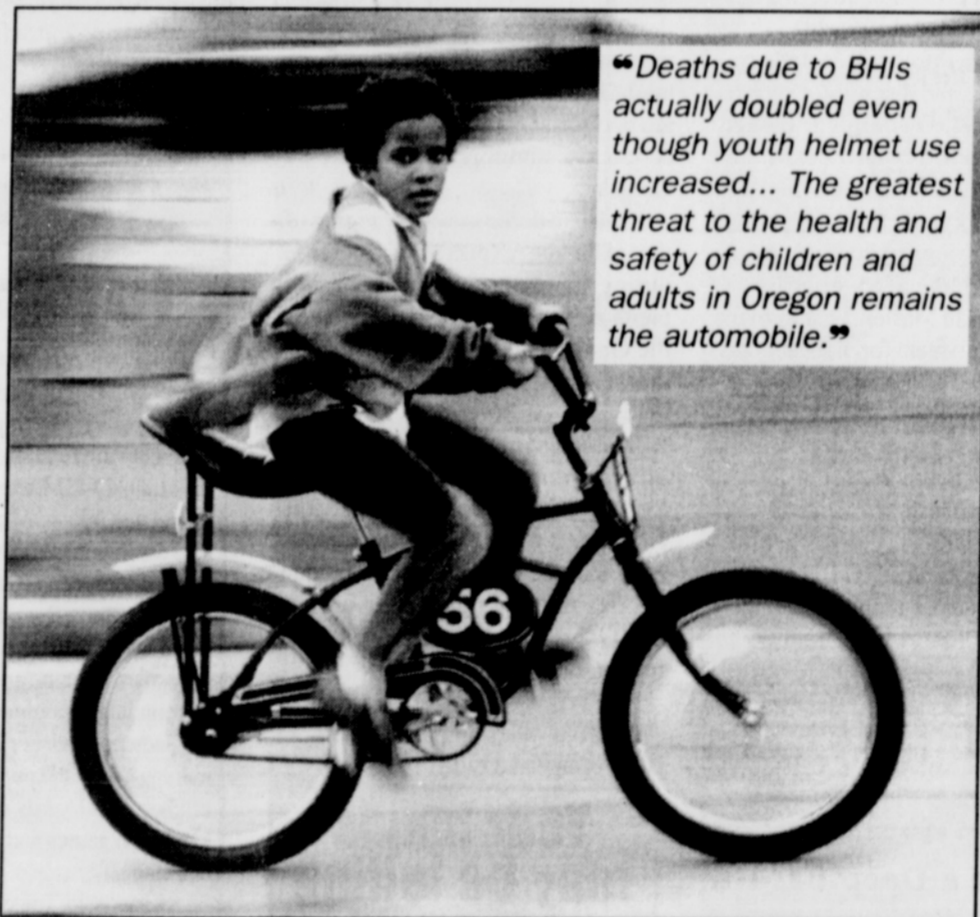
The authors make strong claims as to the law's effectiveness; but, by making blatantly false assumptions cast doubt on the report's conclusions that the law led to decreased head injuries and increased helmet use among youth riders. (*Wearing a helmet may impart a greater degree of protection to a cyclist in a crash; but, mandating the wearing of helmets fails to effectively address the public health threat posed by traffic or to significantly improve cyclist safety.*)

First, adult rider statistics are lumped with that of the target population, youth under 16. In addition, falling ridership rates are ignored.

These two assumptions severely skew analyses and conclusions. Bicycle ridership was assumed to be constant during the study period (1989-1994).

ODOT observations show that actual numbers of youth riders declined by 25% during this time. Taking into account population growth (approximately 10%), youth cycling rates fell by almost 30% while total ridership declined 6.5%.

Therefore, youth injuries and fatalities should have fallen 30% simply due to less cycling by



"Deaths due to BHIs actually doubled even though youth helmet use increased... The greatest threat to the health and safety of children and adults in Oregon remains the automobile."

Photo by Timothy Collins

children (itself a disturbing health trend).

Health statistics show that bicycle-related injuries for children under 16 fell from 78 in 1989 to 60 in 1994--a drop of 23%.

Bicycle-related head injuries (BHI)--which the helmet requirement should have affected the most--fell from 40 to 29 in the same time period--a drop of 27%.

Deaths due to BHIs actually doubled even though youth helmet use increased from 6% to 49% during this time period.

Ridership declined, the rate of bicycle-related injuries actually increased during the study period, contrary to the report's conclusion that BHIs fell abruptly.

The study also claims that the mandatory helmet law caused an increase in helmet wearing by cyclists.

While helmet use doubled in the year following implementation, helmet use quadrupled in the year before the laws was introduced in the legislature.

Was the helmet law a success?

If the goal was to increase helmet use, then it may have reinforced the trend to more helmet use. If the goal was to improve cycling safety, then the law had no significant effect.

The greatest threat to the health and safety of children and adults in Oregon remains the automobile.

The Center of Disease Control has already determined that car crashes are the leading cause of death for Americans aged 4 to 34 years old.

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Among a selected few

Portland artist Lisa Haven is one of eight artists from around the world chosen to participate in this year's Yamagata International Visual Arts Institute, a program of Very Special Arts.

The institute will take place at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. Aug. 10-17.

One of the only international events that brings professional artists together for a cre-

ative open forum, the institute is an intensive week-long program to advance the artists' technical expertise in adaptive techniques for people with disabilities.

The institute is named for Hiro Yamagata, its founder and a long-time supporter of Very Special Arts.

During the week, Haven will join artists with disabilities from the United States and other countries to learn from each other through presentations and studio sessions.

Haven's road to the institute has been both rewarding and challenging.

Formally educated in mathematical modeling of economic and natural resource systems, she found a way to incorporate her intellectual and artistic talents into singular artworks.

After a skull and neck fracture resulted in partial paralysis and a change in her cognitive

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Human rights salute

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission (MHRC) is seeking nominees for its annual Human Rights Awards.

The awards recognize people and organizations who have made a contribution to the acceptance of diversity and support of human rights that are so important to Portland and Multnomah County.

The awards will be presented at the MHRC Awards Dinner, Wednesday, October 16 at Beaumont Middle School.

Nominations for these awards may be submitted to MHRC by writing an account one page in length, and sending it to the MHRC office. Businesses and non-profits nominated must be located in Multnomah County.

A committee of MHRC Commissioners will make the final choice. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 3.

The following awards will be presented:

Russell A. Peyton Award. The Russell A. Peyton Award is presented each year for "outstanding service and commitment to protecting the human rights of all persons in the City of Portland and Multnomah County." This year's Russell A. Peyton Award has special poignancy and meaning since Russell Peyton passed away early this year.

MHRC's Business Diversity Award. The importance of diversity as a business and economic issue has stimulated many businesses to take bold steps to achieve a successful diverse workforce. MHRC will recognize these efforts by presenting a Business Diversity Award for outstanding results in recruiting and maintaining a diverse workforce.

The Non-Profit Diversity Award. The Non-Profit Diversity Award recognizes a not-for-profit organization that demonstrates its core values by incorporating cross-cultural actions into its daily activities and maintaining a diverse workforce.

Community Harmony Recognition. One of the most uplifting events of the MHRC Award Dinner is the Community Harmony Recognition. Throughout our community there are many people and organizations who cross ethnic and cultural lines to respond to injustice and promote harmony as a routine part of their daily lives. MHRC will recognize these efforts in a booklet that will be distributed at the Award Dinner.

Multnomah County Chair Beverly Stein and Portland Mayor Vera Katz will present the Multnomah County Chair Award and Mayor's Award for Human Rights, respectively.

This year, Miracle Theater will be presenting scenes from its Hispanic Heritage month show "Chavez", honoring labor leader Cesar Chavez at the MHRC Award Dinner. Cost for the dinner is \$12.

Oregon's camping adventure

Summer camping opportunities in Oregon state parks for the next two weeks should provide campers with plenty of choices.

Campers will find abundant tent camping at some parks on the coast and inland (for a sure-thing, reservations need to be made at least two days in advance by calling 1-800-452-5687, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., M-F).

Some sites also have campsites with facilities--water and electrical hookups--available for walk-in customers. The following campgrounds have some great sites:

Coastal: Electrical or full-hookup sites--South Beach, near Newport; Cape Blanco

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