

Family Living

The Portland Observer

Child Labor

Continued from front

involved in businesses known to be open to the employment of children."

Lively debate over negative incentives

The advisability of using negative economic incentives has been the subject of much recent public debate.

In Europe, several department stores have decided not to sell products such as carpets unless they are certified to be made without child labor. Such movements by consumers and manufacturers alike have been accompanied by powerful efforts on the legislative and trade fronts as demonstrated by the hot debate on the incorporation of a social clause into international trade agreements.

There is no doubt that initiatives of this kind have helped significantly to raise public awareness about child labor.

However, they have also had

unintended consequences, says the report. "The mere threat of trade sanctions led employers in the garment industry of an Asian country to abruptly dismiss tens of thousands of children in the effort to forestall such sanctions; the end result was that the dismissed children shifted to other occupations, which were often more hazardous than the jobs they used to perform in the garment industry, with no instances of children returning to school."

"This example suggests that measures which concentrate solely on the export sector may drive child labor underground, into the less regulated domestic economic sectors. It also suggests the need to move children away from the workplace in a phased and planned manner, instead of simply throwing them overnight, and unaided, into a far worse situation."

Attention deficit likely in girls

Girls are less likely to be identified as having attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) than boys, according to a child psychiatry expert.

"That's because girls tend to demonstrate more of the inattention symptoms and are less noticeable than boys who are more prone to be hyperactive," said Dr. Matthew Brams, of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Children with ADHD fall into three categories: those with attention deficit disorder only, those who are mostly hyperactive, or a combination of both. Attention deficit disorder (ADD) and hyperactivity were once

categorized as separate disorders but now are included under ADHD.

"Ages 6 to 9 are the peak years for diagnosis," said Brams, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Baylor. "It's three times more prevalent in boys, which is another reason teachers and parents may be more tuned to the symptoms in boys."

Brams says that children who display attention deficit symptoms fail to follow instructions closely in class, do not listen well, often lose things, make mistakes in school work and during play, are easily distracted, and are often forgetful.

Children with hyperactivity or combination symptoms tend to fidget,

talk excessively, interrupt and have difficulty playing quietly. Symptoms for ADHD are usually observed both at home and in school before a diagnosis is made.

ADHD runs in families, although no single genetic defect has been identified. Other possible causes of the disorder could include prenatal health complications such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, low birthweight, malnutrition during infancy, exposure to toxic substances such as lead poisoning, metabolism disorders like phenylketonuria (PKU), or brain injury from trauma, infection or tumor.

Brams says that families can impact the effects of ADHD, either

positively or negatively.

"Events like child abuse, neglect, dysfunctional family settings and mismatched parent-child temperaments do not cause ADHD, but they can make the picture worse of a child with ADHD," he said. "Conversely, a stable, supportive family environment can allow a child with mild ADHD to do quite well."

"Children who are thought to have ADHD should receive a physical exam, possibly an EEG, lab studies, psychological testing and a psychoeducational evaluation," said Brams.

"Treatment can make life and school more successful for children with this disorder."

To be a clown

At the height of the summer, most students are putting sunscreen on their noses, packing their flip-flops and heading for the beach.

But Jeff Hoyer of Aloha donned a red nose and packed his big floppy shoes for a session of pie-throwing, juggling, stiltwalking and pratfalls at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College.

On Monday, July 15, Jeff became one of a select 35 men and women enrolled in the 29th annual session at the famed "institution of higher hilarity."

During the intensive eight-week session, students must complete rigorous training in a variety of skills.

The curriculum includes such courses as improvisation, character development, makeup application, prop building and design, costume design, stunts, juggling, unicycling, acrobatics and gag development.

After a three-year hiatus from the sun coast of Florida, the famous institution boxed up its rubber noses, unicycles and oversized shoes and moved with appropriate fanfare

from Baraboo, Wisconsin, to the Sarasota Opera House in Sarasota, Florida.

The move represented a homecoming, as Sarasota was the site of Ringling Bros. Winter Quarters from 1928 to 1960.

Founded in 1968 by the late entertainment impresario Irvin Feld, this unique, tuition-free institution boasts more than 1,400 graduates and remains the only school in the world solely dedicated to the ancient and honorable art of clowning.

Each year, approximately 35 students are selected for admittance from more than 1,500 applicants.

This year's Clown College session will culminate in a gala graduation performance on Sunday, September 8. At that time, Ringling Bros. Chairman Kenneth Feld will award the best and brightest in the class contracts as apprentice clowns with The Greatest Show On Earth.

Many other graduates will parlay their skills and talents into careers on stage, screen, television and other entertainment venues.

Tools to use

Whether using your words or using your hands, Portland Community College Cascade Campus in North Portland has a course for you this fall.

They say the way communication goes, so goes the quality of life in relationships, at work, and the planet.

In a fun four-week Saturday morning class, **Tools for Healthy Communication** (CRN 47937), instructor Christine Wagner shows how to direct positive energy to the skills of listening, responding, feedback, assertion, conflict resolution and stress release.

Tuition is \$42.50. Starting September 28, class meets from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Jackson Hall, Room 114.

Or perhaps you've recently bought one of Portland's fixer homes. **Installing Plastic Laminate Countertops** (CRN 47936), a two-hour course on Saturday, November 23, can steer you to the kitchen improvement suited to your family's need.

Instructor Dennis McDonald will discuss appropriate underlayments and the types of plastic laminate, as well as Formica and how to install it.

Tuition is only \$10. The course meets from 9 to 11 a.m. in Jackson Hall, Room 105.

PCC Cascade Campus is located at 705 N. Killingsworth. For more information, call PCC at 978-5205.

Volunteer tutors needed

Thousands of adults in our community have difficulty reading and writing or speaking English.

These basic skills are essential for functioning independently in our society. A consortium of adult literacy providers--Portland Community College, Oregon Literacy, Inc., Mt Hood Literacy Coalition and Clackamas Community College--are seeking volunteer tutors.

THE REGIONAL DRUG INITIATIVE PRESENTS

Spirit Summit IV

"Building A Bridge Of Unity In The Community"

SEPTEMBER 20, 1996

12 - 9 P.M.

MOORE STREET SALVATION ARMY, 5335 N. WILLIAMS AVE.

REGISTRATION: 11:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION: 12:00 - 4:45 P.M.

EVENING SESSION: 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

PORTLAND ADVENTIST HEALTH VAN: 10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Special Greetings

Dr. Charles A. Moose, Chief of Police - Portland, OR

Keynote Address

Reverend Lewis Anthony, pastor of the Metropolitan Wesley AME Zion Church, Washington, D.C.; National Advisor to the Anti-Drug Program of the Congress of National Black Churches and the National Crime Prevention Council's Advisory Council on Community Responses to Drug Abuse.

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