

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

**SECTION B**

## Community Calendar

### Greenpeace meeting

On Thursday, September 12, 1996, Greenpeace Portland will be holding a community meeting at 1122 SE Ankeny St. from 7:00-8:30 PM. This month's meeting will be an open house, a chance for everyone to get acquainted with the environmental resources at this office. For more information please call 233-1139.

### Neighborhoods for People

A screening of the video "CoHousing: Neighborhoods for People" will be held Thursday, September 12th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Reedwood Friends Church/Ong Chapel, 2901 SE Steele.

An introductory presentation about cohousing and Cascadia Commons' plans to create a cohousing ecovillage in Portland will follow the screening. The event is sponsored by Cascadia Commons.

Admission is free. For more information call 650-7169.

### Walk for the Cure

More than 80 teams have already registered for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Greater Portland Chapter's second annual "Walk for the Cure" which will be held on Sunday, September 15, 1996 at Civic Stadium. Registration is free and open to the public up to and on the day of the walk. Walkers will have their choice of either a 8k or 3k route. Check in time is at 8 am at Civic Stadium and the walk begins at 9 am rain or shine. For more information call 691-1995.

### Sale of the Oregon Cactus

The Fall Show and Sale of the Oregon Cactus and Succulent Society will be held September 20, 21, and 22 at The Galleria at 521 SW Morrison St. in Downtown Portland.

The Oregon Cactus & Succulent Society is an affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America and meets monthly for programs, plant swaps discussion and refreshments.

### Could your memory be improved?

Come learn from the master Jerry Lucas. "Mr. Basketball," "Dr. Memory," Olympic Gold Medalist, NBA All-Star, Hall of Famer, and Sports Illustrated "Sportsman of the Year" will be speaking on Sunday, September 22, at 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and Monday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m. He will present "Family Relationships" on Sunday morning, "How to Learn" on Sunday evening, and "How to Remember Names & Faces" on Monday evening. New Hope Community Church, 11731 SE Stevens Rd, Clackamas. For more information contact Rick Martinez at 659-5683.

### "Spirit summit"

Building bridges of unity between spiritual leaders and the greater Portland community is the goal of the Regional Drug Initiative's fourth annual Spirit Summit on September 20 at the Salvation Army Moore Street Corps Community Center, 5335 N. Williams. The Summit runs from 12-4:45 and 7-9 pm and is free to the public. For more information 294-7074.

### "Talkin' Out"

To promote an understanding and awareness of HIV/AIDS, six interactive theater workshop that address social issues relating to the disease and the African-American community will be held at the Black Family Reunion Celebration in Washington, D.C. on September 7-8. The workshops, entitled "Talkin' Out," are supported by Glaxo Wellcome Inc. and offer an opportunity for participants to explore their Wellcome Inc. and offer an opportunity for participants to explore their concerns about HIV/AIDS and gain an understanding of prevention, testing and treatment of the disease.

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

## Trying to get off-track

BY JOEY MURPHY

**P**ortland school kids began a new school year Sept. 2. Although new classes begin, an old debate still rages in Portland and other school systems across the nation.

Ability-based tracking in education is a divisive issue. It's a debate between the socially conscious and the socially conservative where actions often contradict words and real change is hard to come by.

Educational tracking involves arranging classes by student ability level.

Usually there is a slow track, an average track, and an above-average track.

Students are taught based on their ability. It begins as early as first grade, and continues through high school.

"Tracking is a microcosm of a universality today: we say one thing and do another," said University of Portland director of teacher education Harry Teitelbaum.

Teitelbaum, a former school superintendent in California, said when he was there many educators opposed tracking, yet still wanted their child in the upper-track courses. "Tracking has been popular because it was the easier way to deal with students and parents," Teitelbaum said.

Parents want their students in upper-level classes because of the perceived status those classes bring, and their value in the college

admissions process, Teitelbaum said.

Tracking supporters say higher-quality teaching and learning opportunities often found in higher tracks are only possible when all the students in the class are bright. Poorer experiences result when students in the class are less able.

That's a myth Teitelbaum said. He said homogenous grouping does not accelerate

The National Educational Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS), a nationally representative student survey conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), provides an in-depth picture of tracking practices.

The study concluded that tracking segregates along racial and class lines. For example, in 10th-grade math classes, only 14 per-

cent of children in the lowest socioeconomic quartile are in classes judged to be above average, while almost 38 percent of those from the highest socioeconomic quartile may be found enrolled in such classes.

Grant High School vice principal David Aiken agreed with Teitelbaum.

"Argument and research suggests that everybody benefits from mixed ability-group classes," he said.

Still, Grant is not a model of heterogeneous education. Principal Darrell Rucker said Grant's honors english and social studies courses currently don't mirror the diverse school's 36 minority rate.

Grant is making changes, though. Students self-select their track in the social studies department, and Grant recently implemented a program they call "Challenge English."

"We've found it's been very successful, with high minority participation," Tucker said.

"Challenge english is "open to anybody who wants to push himself--it's not tracking," Aiken said.

Most agree that students, parents, and the school community are necessary for change in the educational system to happen. Jefferson High School principal Alcena Boozer said "many factors go into student success. Jefferson seeks to encourage parents to be involved."

Teitelbaum sees more action necessary. "We have to break the mold in order to have a chance to resolve societal norms," Teitelbaum said.

"It's like being in a cage and having to operate within the bars," he said. "you have to break the bars to make progress."

*"Argument and research suggests that everybody benefits from mixed ability-group classes,"*

Grant High School vice principal David Aiken

learning. "The research is overwhelming that it doesn't work," he said.

"The only exception that we know would be math," Teitelbaum said. "There, some tracking is allowable."

Teitelbaum cited two problems with tracking.

One, in elementary school and later, when specialists pull slow learners out of class for specialized instruction, "it causes almost irreparable damage," Teitelbaum said. "The highest rate of dropouts come out of those groups."

Two, tracking tends to racially segregate students. "Whether in New York, Selma, or Portland, most lower tracks are minority," he said.

## King Games reign the neighborhood



Director of King Games, Halim Rahsaan, welcomed all to the weekend festivity at King Neighborhood Facility Park. He is pictured here with visiting professional athletes (l to r) Terrel Brandon (player for Cleveland Cavaliers) and Michael Harper (former trailblazers player). Photo by Iesha Williams

BY SABRINA SAKATA

**T**he King Neighborhood Facility Park saw stars and smiles last week at the 4th Annual King Games.

The festivities took place on August 29th and 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and was presented by the Youth Gangs Outreach Program, a non-profit metro volunteer organization advocating to keep kids safe from the detrimental effects of gang involvement.

Sports stars Terrel Brandon (above, left--player for the Cleveland Cavaliers) and Michael Harper (above right--former Trailblazers star) joined in the fun and autographed free t-shirts for the kids.

The program was directed by Halim Rahsaan (pictured behind Harper and Brandon), and has been conducting the project for the past three years.

The kid-friendly Portland-native compellingly stated his devotions. "It's a way of giving back to the community and guiding our youths by emphasizing recreation with sports," Rahsaan said.

By free admission, kids, parents, and neighbors enjoyed free food, face painting, sports activities and contests, and t-shirts. City Council Candidate Luscious Hicks also took heart grilling plump hot dogs and sizzling chicken.

## The will for good buys

**A** recent article in *The Oregonian* says parents will spend an average of \$400 on each child's back-to-school wardrobe this fall--enough to suck the wind out any parent's schooltime "hallelujahs".

And because kids continue to outgrow their clothes, mom and dad get to do this again next fall (if not this spring).

The good news is that even though you can't stop your kids from growing, you can cut costs of constantly replenishing their wardrobes by shopping at Goodwill retail stores. Just look at this comparison between the average department store prices and Goodwill prices:

Item	Dept. Store	Goodwill
Levi's Jeans (3).....	\$96.....	\$18
Dress Pants.....	\$25.....	\$4
Button-down shirts (3).....	\$60.....	\$12
Sweaters (2).....	\$60.....	\$8
T-shirts (2).....	\$20.....	\$4
Dress.....	\$25.....	\$6
Winter Coat.....	\$75.....	\$3
Dress shoes.....	\$30.....	\$3
Athletic shoes.....	\$50.....	\$4
<b>TOTAL BILL.....</b>	<b>\$441.....</b>	<b>\$62</b>

As you can see, the secret to stretching those dollars (and taking the punch out of the credit card bill) is taking advantage of Goodwill's everyday bargains--even on popular brand names. The key? Other people's kids outgrow their clothes too (and many of these outgrown clothes get a second chance through Goodwill).

## Changes In Health Care Worries Locals

BY SELLY KING

**C**ommunity wellness and better health care for all community folks tops Carol R. Chism of Center For Community Mental Health [CCMH] wish list, but drastic changes in care delivery may dash her hopes.

By Chism's calculations, managed care, the new mantra of health care providers will dig more graves than help the poor get well. It is because managed care simply is a negotiated quality of treatment for a negotiated price. And that means the fewer the dollars the lesser the service.

With Uncle Sam ready to slice the pile of

Medicare and Medicaid ostensibly to avoid waste. And with reforms capping welfare recipients signed into law. Many poor folks are bound to fall off the coverage ladder, especially children. That bothers Chism who is the Executive Director of [CCMH].

Chism fears that insurance companies who control care provider organizations could pack their care bags and walk away from any community, if it's no longer financially feasible for them to operate there. That could have adverse effects on poor folks whose life depend on their service. Already stats show a decline in per client entry into the state health plan and a rise in folks streaming into the

profit-driven health organizations.

For those who need mental health care, the Executive Director assured that CCMH would keep its commitment of serving the less privileged in North/North east Portland regardless of race, creed or religion, with help from the community and private donors.

"No one in this community should go without any form of health coverage. It is unacceptable. Our non-profit agency has the professional staff to meet the mental health care need of every one but we lack financial resources to

keep up with the demand," says Chism.

"We can become more inclusive and treat people less intensively or we can be more selective or require the public sector to participate more actively in ensuring health care for the needy or do nothing. That should not be an option."

The outcome of current legislation on whether or not to include mental health care and substance Abuse Treatment in the current Oregon Health Plan, Chism says, is also crucial to the future health vitality of inner Portland.

## Pickpocketers arrested

**O**n Tuesday, August 27th, Central Precinct Detectives charged two suspects with the robbery.

These charges stemmed from the pick-pocket cases involving elderly victims at the Tri-Met light rail stations.

John Sylvester Washington, 36, was charged with one count of Robbery I, four counts of Robbery II, one count of Theft I and two counts of Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card.

Mac Lee Turner was charged with four counts of Robbery II and one count of Theft I.

Washington and Turner are alleged to

have committed at least 5 robberies, starting July 30, 1996, and ending August 10, 1996.

These robberies were committed between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm on SW 5th and 6th between Morrison and Yamhill stops.

The men would target victims that were elderly males between 79 and 99 years old.

In most cases, one of the suspects would either fall down or act as if he was having some difficulty boarding the light rail train. As the victim attempted to help the fallen person, the second suspect would pick his pocket. The victim would then board the train. By the time the victim realized his wallet was gone, so were the suspects.

## Back-to-school traffic plan

On Tuesday, September 3, 1996, which was the beginning of the Portland School District's new school year, The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with the City of Portland's Bureau of Traffic Management, will initiate the "Enhanced Vehicle Safety Enforcement Program Slow Down for School Kids".

This multi-faceted program, which will concentrate in and around school zones, consists of enforcement and education, along with the installation of more school zone flashing lights by the Bureau of Traffic Management.

The "Slow Down for School Kids" includes the following:

### Applicable Traffic Laws

- ◆ Failure to stop for bus system lights..... Bail: \$285.
- ◆ Careless driving..... Bail: \$285.
- ◆ Failure to yield to pedestrian in crosswalk..... Bail: \$165.
- ◆ Failure to obey traffic patrol member..... Bail: \$285.
- ◆ Passing stopped vehicle at crosswalk..... Bail: \$165.
- ◆ Failure to yield to pedestrian on sidewalk..... Bail: \$165.
- ◆ Violation of basic rule..... Bail: Varies with speed.
- ◆ Failure to follow rail crossing procedures for high risk vehicles..... Bail \$165.