

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Catholic Mission Revival

October 20-22, 1996. Theme: "I Will Bless You Lord." Celebrant: Fr. John LaBauve of Bay St. Louis, MS. Service begins 7 p.m. nightly, at Immaculate Heart Church; 2926 N Williams -Portland, OR.

Multnomah County Health Department

Many people do not realize they are eligible for programs offered by Multnomah County Health Department to promote healthy families. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrition education, nutritious foods, and referral to health care. Free immunizations are offered every month. People can also apply at county clinics for the Oregon Health Plan which provides medical and dental insurance. Call 306-5858 in the Portland metro area, or 1-800-SAFENET. Interpreters are available.

Children's Cancer Association Seeks Volunteers

The Alexandra Ellis Children's Memorial Cancer Association is hosting a volunteer orientation night on Wednesday, October 23, 1996. The orientation will be held at the Emanuel Hospital Lorenzen Conference Auditorium, Room 1700. The AECMCA provides support to their families.

The Association is currently establishing a resource library for families to be located at the hospital. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the volunteer orientation and learn how by volunteering a few hours each month they can truly help others. For more information, call Regina Ellis at 244-3141.

Annual Christmas Banquet

Morning Star Baptist Church's Annual Christmas Banquet is on Sunday, December 8, 1996 at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks is the keynote speaker. Located at Portland Hilton Hotel; Pavilion Room East; 921 S.W. 6th, Portland, Oregon. Ticket and childcare info: 281-4925 or 282-1316. Deadline is Friday, November 8, 1996.

North/Northeast Parenting Classes

The North/Northeast Nurturing Parenting Program's will start our Fall classes Oct 21-Dec 16. This Family educational course involves both parent and child to encourage effective discipline, better communication and family growth. Classes are at Bethel Lutheran Church; 5658 N. Denver; Portland, Or 97217. Please pre-register by calling Steve Jackson at 289-5727. The North/Northeast Nurturing Program is sponsored by Lutheran Family Services.

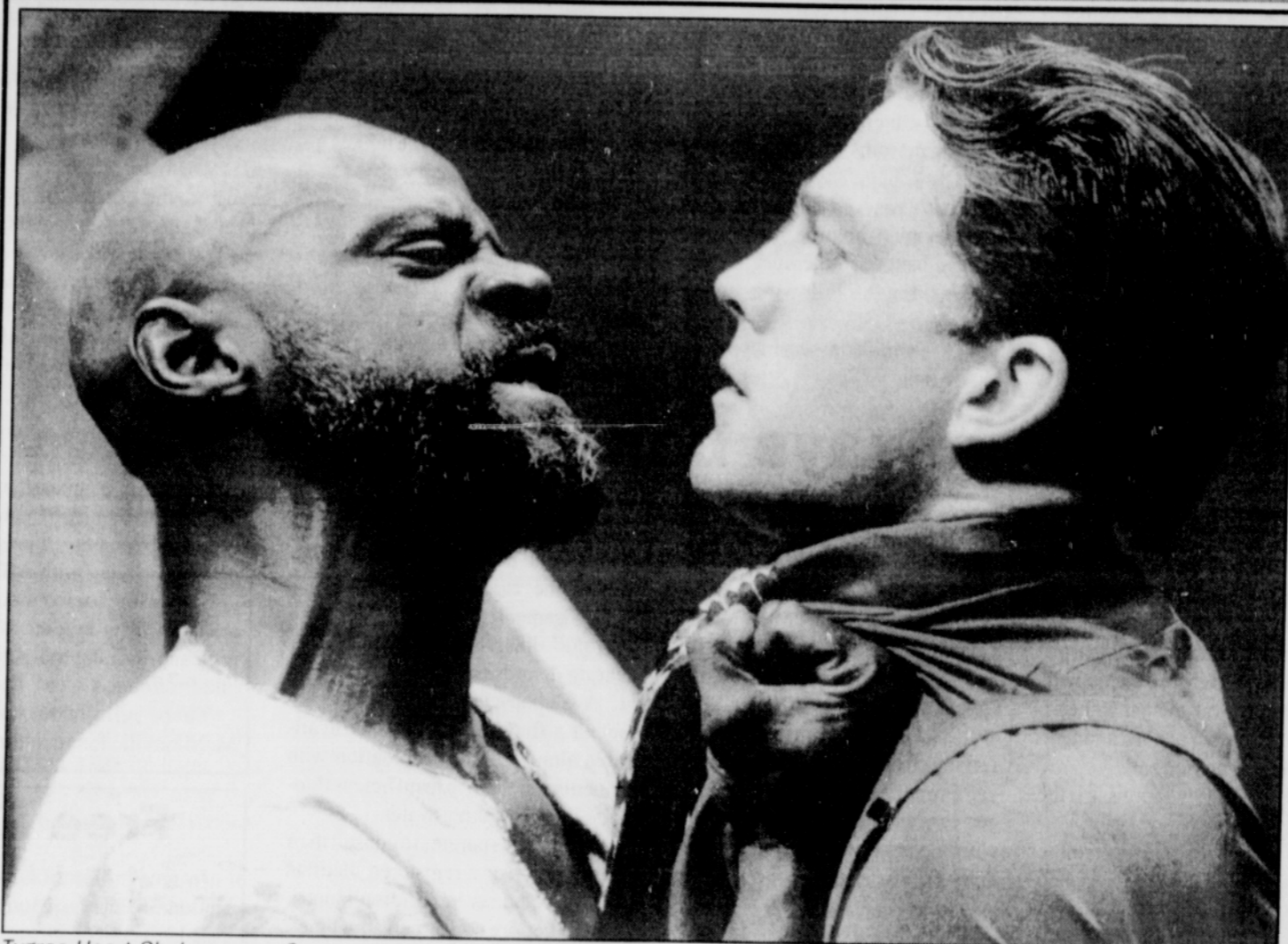
Harvest Festival Announces New Dates

The 19th annual Harvest Festival will be held October 25th - 27th this year, just in time for Halloween. The venue will be the Oregon Convention Center. Located at 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Nationwide Insurance Zoolights Festival

The zoo will celebrate the holiday season with thousands of lights, animated animal silhouettes and music by local groups. Ride the decorated zoo train and meet your favorite costumed character. A gingerbread village, model train display and puppet shows will delight all ages. Zoolights is open every day from 5 to 8 p.m. Sun.-Thurs., 5 to 8:30 pm, Fri.-Sat. (You can remain in the zoo one hour after closing.) Closed Dec. 24 and 25.

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



Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company presents *Othello*. It started Wednesday, Oct. 9 and continues through Sunday, Nov. 10, 1996. Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company is located at 309 S. W. 6th Avenue. For more information please call 503-222-9220. Shown above are Othello (played by Wrick Jones) and Iago (played by Leif Norby) in Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company's *Othello*.

MLK Construction due

Expect some slow going on lower Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard this month as crews alter traffic lanes to install curb parking.

State traffic engineer Dan Layden told the Martin Luther King Main Street Project action committee last week that work would begin at about mid-month, would last four days, and would cause some lane closures and delays. Construction might be further delayed by heavy rains, he said.

The first phase pilot project will remove the street's center left turn lane between Northeast Thompson and Sacramento streets, and Graham and Stanton streets, and also remove 150 of planted concrete median between Northeast Sacramento and Braze streets. This will allow reconfiguration of travel lanes, and provide space for installation of about 50 parking spaces at the adjacent curbs, he said.

Following installation, city and state traffic officials will monitor the effects of the changes on the street's operations and traffic safety.

Layden and others have expressed con-

cerns about accidents resulting from cars pulling into or out of traffic from the curb, or rear-ending drivers trying to turn left from a travel lane.

Based on the results of the pilot project, the city and state may either restore the street to its old configuration, or proceed with plans to remove more of the median further north.

The pilot project will cost \$35,000, compared to an estimated \$250,000 to \$300,000 to remove the median between Northeast Alberta and Killingsworth streets.

The Main Street Project is a product of governor John Kitzhaber's Community Solutions program. The Action Committee that oversaw it included city, state and Metro public officials, neighborhood association representatives and business community leaders.

Chair Carl Talton has stressed that this partnership of interests was responsible for the project being able to move forward so fast. So did Kitzhaber, who said as he approved the pilot project on September 24, "The MLK effort is a model of how we can build quality communities together."

Despite this, a dissenting view was sound-

ed last week by Rex Burkholder of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance. He protested that current and future plans for the boulevard do not include bike lanes, that he and his organization were not notified of the planning process, and that the changes are being carried out without a public hearing. "The whole community should have a chance to participate, not just the people who happen to hear about it," he said.

Talton replied, "This is all part of the Albina Community Plan, which has already gone through a public process."

Commissioner Charlie Hales said that a public hearing will be held after evaluation of the pilot project. "That's the point at which we decide whether this is a dud or a success that should be replicated," he said.

Layden said the project did consider placement of bike lanes on the street. "We decided that given the width of the street and the need to maintain traffic capacity (by retaining four travel lanes), there wasn't room for bike lanes," he said. Transportation planners will consider placing such lanes along North Williams and Vancouver avenues in the future, he said.

Participating—being an active citizen

The Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee is seeking persons to serve on Citizen Budget Advisory Committees (CBACS).

As a resident of Multnomah County you have the right to say how you want your tax money spent; to plan for the future; to recommend programs, operations and policies; and to advise on budget.

Current vacancies include:

- **District Attorney's Office**--prosecutes offenders, collects child support, and provides victims assistance.
- **Community Corrections**--provides programs including drug and alcohol treatment, probation and parole, and other pro-

grams for offenders who are not in jail.

- **Environmental Services**--provides a range of service including transportation (roads, bridges, bike paths), elections, computer services, and animal control.

- **Non-Departmental**--includes the County Chair and Commissioners; Auditor's office; Citizen Involvement Committee; city/county agencies such as the Metropolitan Arts Commission; the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission and the Portland Commission on Aging; and several organizations that receive county funds.

- **Management Support Services**--division of the Chair's Office provides support to the departments including Employee Services, Information Services (Computers), Budget Office, Finance Office, Affirmative Action, Risk Management, County Counsel and Emergency Services.

- **Community and Family Services**--includes mental health, childmental health, youth services, community action (poverty programs), housing and community development.

- **Juvenile Justice**--includes custody services, counseling and court services, and support services.

- **Sheriff's Office**--operates the jails, the Restitution Center, provides policing in unincorporated areas of the county, and has special services such as the river patrol.

Call 248-3450 for more information.

State Treasurer Brings School Savings Program

State Treasurer Jim Hill, in an effort to teach strong savings habits to children, will hold a statewide ED-NET broadcast, Thursday, October 3 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the State Treasurer's new elementary school savings program with teachers and school administrators throughout the state.

The SAVE FOR AMERICA program teaches K - 6th graders, through innovative banking software, the value of saving money and the importance of financial security.

"The SAVE FOR AMERICA program is a fun and effective tool all educators can use to teach Oregon school children the value of

financial responsibility and allow them to benefit from their greatest financial asset--time," Hill said.

"There is no greater gift that we can give our children than the gift of financial security. I am convinced that the children who develop strong savings habits today will have the freedom to achieve more of their goals in the future. With the cooperation of Oregon's elementary schools, parents, local banks and teachers, we can give our children the knowledge and encouragement they need to become financially secure."

The SAVE FOR AMERICA School Savings program is currently implemented in

4,000 schools in 44 states, with the cooperation of 200 banks.

This program marks the first time in 25 years that U.S. Savings Bonds will be available to children at school.

Once a week, elementary students can bring their money to school on BANK DAY and make a deposit to their account using the school's computer equipped with SAVE FOR AMERICA software.

The deposit is then entered into the student's bank account and may be purchase U.S. Savings Bonds. With each deposit a student receives a computer-generated receipt and a sticker reminding them to save again.

The Constitution and You

On Tuesday November 5, we the voters will go to the polls and vote on whether we will make fifteen changes to the Oregon Constitution.

That Constitution forms the basis of laws and principles that prescribe the nature, functions, and limits of our government. The State Legislature in Salem is tasked with implementing those laws, and many of those laws have never gone through the initiative process. While the right to petition for changes in the State Constitution has existed for almost a hundred years, those proposed changes are not always to the benefit of the citizens.

For example, on Election Day 1914, Oregonians voted no to a measure to provide compensation for members of the State Legislature at five dollars per day, and soundly rejected a proposal to establish an eight hour work day and room ventilation requirement for female workers (remember, this was before the Suffrage Movement gave women the right to vote). Changes to the Constitution affect every resident of the state. The question here is, which laws should come by citizen initiative, and which laws should be implemented another way?

"We then people of the State of Oregon, to the end that Justice be established, order maintained, and liberty perpetuated, do ordain this Constitution," says the preamble to the Oregon Constitution. Since its adoption in 1859 and the adoption of the initiative process in 1902, Oregonians have had the right to place Constitutional amendments on the statewide ballot by circulating petitions among residents of the state. The beauty of the initiative process allows for structural changes in society and technology that are bound to occur as the state grows in technology, population, and sophistication. The flaw in the same system allows for proposal, regardless of its legality or practicality, to be put on the ballot if enough signatures are gathered by petitioners.

Theoretically, a proposal to legalize dumping garbage on a neighbor's lawn could, by the initiative process, be placed on the ballot, voted into law, and added to the Constitution. The courts would be powerless to stop it because they cannot issue a ruling on a proposed law, only an actual law. That is why you see, after Election Day, courts barring the implementation of a law due to its failure to pass Constitutional muster. Only laws that don't openly stand in the way of the Constitutional can become an actual law.

Over the span of years, Oregonians have made a variety of changes, called amendments, to the State Constitution. Some of these amendments were later found to be unconstitutional in the courts. Other amendments were approved without cost provisions, i.e. how, who, or what would pay for the law. That meant that a new law, while satisfactory on paper, was found to contain unforeseen or hidden costs that didn't come out until it was too late. There are also those amendments that take power away from local governments and hand them over to the state.

In the 1994 elections, a small number of registered voters made it to the polls and voted on a total of twelve ballot measures. Two of those measures were numbered 11 (the mandate of Mandatory Minimum Jail Sentencing guidelines) and 17 (the requirement of State Prison inmates to work full time). These amendments, while initially

well meaning, wound up costing the state millions of dollars that had to come from somewhere. Without a tax increase to pay for their implementation, the money was taken from other state services like



BY JO ANN BOWMAN

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