

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Clark visits to discuss war and sanctions

Reasey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General under president Lyndon Johnson, discusses "Saturday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Smith Center Ballroom (Room 355, 1825 SW Broadway). A donation of \$5 to \$10 is suggested. Advance tickets will be available beginning Oct. 28 at PSU's Middle East Studies Center (725-4074) and at the Portland Peaceworks office (236-3065).

#### Psychosis-induced violence

Conference general admission is \$55. Nursing and social work continuing education credit is \$65. Physician continuing education credit, \$70. To register call (503) 725-4832. Outside Portland call 1-800-547-4832.

#### Should you start your own business?

Workshop title: Should You Start Your Own Business? Presented By: Boly/Welch Career Management Services. Saturdays; November 9, 1996; 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.. Cost is \$45. Call 452-9999 for information and reservations.

#### International Drum Festival

Drummers from four world cultures converge at portland State University Nov. 8-9 for Portland's first International Drum Festival. this exciting weekend involves performances, workshops and discussions. tickets may be purchased in advance form the Black Studies Dept., 725-3472, or at the door of Harrison Hall on Nov. 8. for more information call Susan Addy at 288-3025. Mountain Writers

#### Series hosts Pulitzer Prize winning poet

Pulitzer Prize winning poet Louis Simpson will join the Mountain Writers Series for a reading on Friday, Nov. 1, noon-1 p.m., in the Visual Arts Center Theatre at Mt. Hood Community College. admission is \$3 general or \$2 for students and seniors. A book-signing reception will follow in the Visual Arts Gallery Loung. For more information call Sandra williams at 667-7497.

#### Planetarium show focuses on galaxies

"The Universe of Galaxies," the November planetarium show, will be presented Nov. 2 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Mt. Hood Community College Planetarium Sky theatre. Admission is \$1. For Information call McCarty at 667-7297.

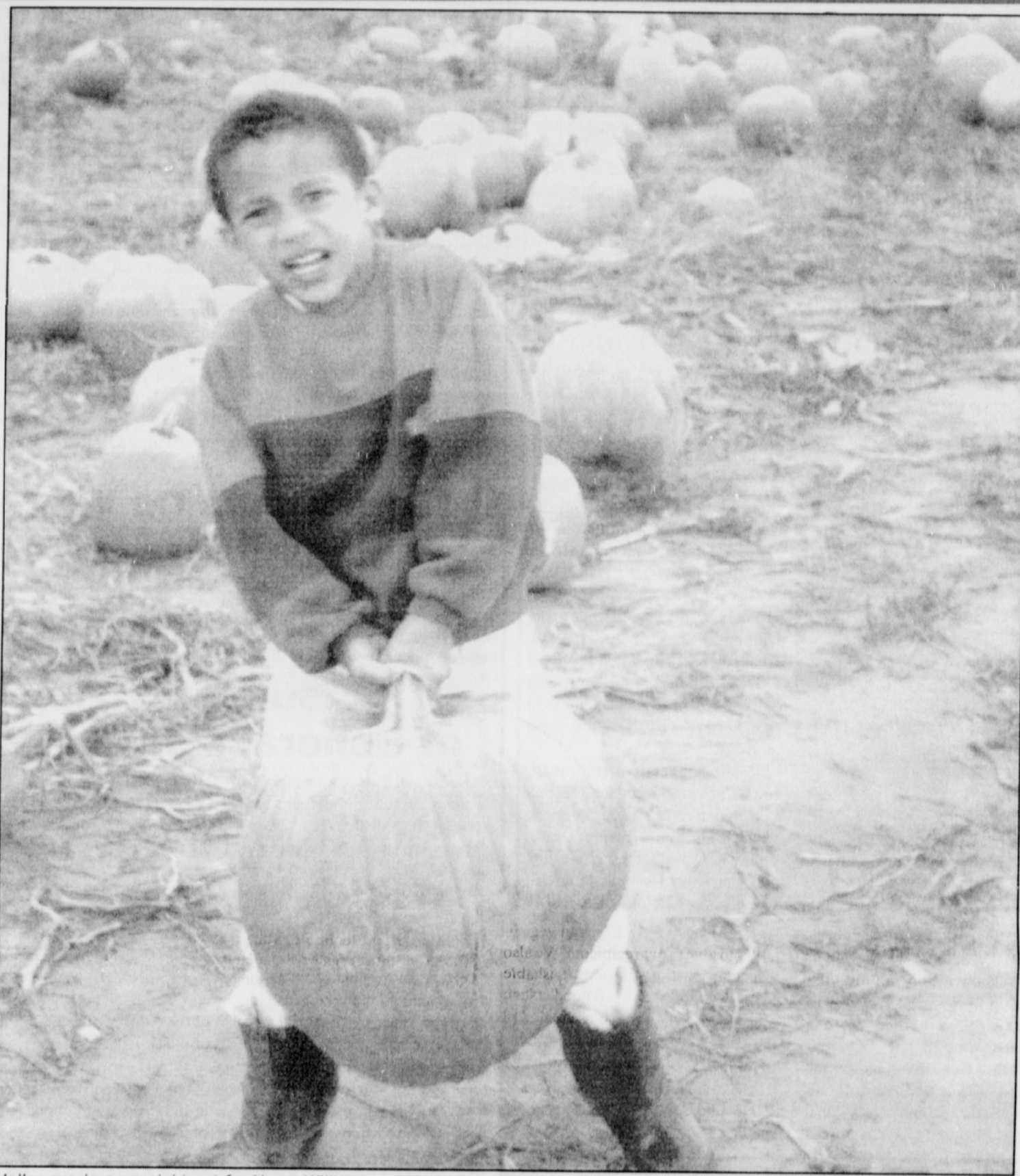
#### MHCC 'Political Issues Forum'

The Mt. Hood community college Chapter of the American Association of Women in community Colleges will sponsor a "Political Issues forum" on Monday, Oct. 28, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., in the MHCC town and gown Room, 26000 S.E. Stark St. in Gresham. For more information call Christa Spinkle at 256-0432. Lewis & Clark College's Theatre Department to Present

#### Much Ado About Nothing

Guest artist Pat Patton of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Tacoma actor's Guild will direct Lewis & Clark College theatre department's production of "Much Ado About Nothing" by William Shakespeare. A cast of 20 students will perform the play Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24, 25, 26, Thursday, Oct. 31, and Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1, 2, at 8 p.m., on the Main Stage of Fir Acres Theatre, Lewis & Clark College, 0615 S. W. Palatine Hill Road. Tickets are \$6 general; and \$3 alumni, senior citizens and non-Lewis & Clark students.

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



Halloween is a special treat for Henry Williams, who can pick up a pumpkin bigger than himself near the Portland International Airport. Photo by Curtis Huff.

## What is an American?

Three student essays from Albina Youth Opportunity School



Cassia Losinger

BY CASSIA LOSINGER

A little girl sits outside of her school and patiently waits for her mom. An hour and a half later, her mom shows up and repeatedly apologizes for forgetting to pick her up again. The little girl nods, knowing it won't be the last time. She is an American.

Three friends lay back and relax under a tree in a public park. Taking turns passing a joint, they analyze their futures. One says he'll be a doctor, another says he'll be in forestry, and the last says she'll stay an artist. They are Americans.

A man waves his hand in the air repeatedly

to hail a cab. Many just drive on by, but finally one stops. Just as he was about to enter a common businessman pushes him out of the way. gets in, and the taxi takes off. He is an American.

Having an overworked, underpaid job is typical. Living in a two-room apartment with three kids, no husband, and up to the neck in bills is common. The typical American is just like any other human, with a name, and label. They learn to deal with the hardships in life and grow from the positive. The sooner they learn that life is not fare and that B.S. happens, the easier it becomes.

BY RICKEY WATTS

An American is a person who makes up names for other people when he or she first encounters them. An American is a person who is not all there in the head. An American is a person who likes to destroy other people's lives with a stupid saying.

Americans are all around us. You just have to stay clear of them. If you meet one, you will know it, and if you can't tell, just ask the person what country he or she is from. All Americans are dumb, so they will say America. Some Americans, when asked what is an American, will say, "An American is a person who enjoys sports, eating pizza, and doing what they want to do". But to my understanding, that means a person who is lazy, likes to get fat and be careless.

The world is full of many different kinds of people, but only the ones that want to take control of you will say that they're Americans. they will try to sucker you in and be your friend, and then "pow" let you have it. Next thing you know, you're in their total control. Then they try to make up laws and make them so strict that you can't help but break them. Then they throw you in jail and throw away the key.

I know this American named Peter. He's like totally red, white, and blue, you know. He always comes to my house trying to tell me what to do. Now who does he think he is?

I know he thinks he's cool, but he's not. He's stupid. I tell him that all the time and he just laughs and tells me I'm confused. I say, "hey man, I'm not confused. You're the one that's confused." He tells me to shut up. Then I think to myself, "There he goes again trying to control me." So I get mad and tell him to leave and don't come back and he gets mad and throws a rock at me, but he always misses.

I am an American. I live in America. I go to school. I do things I enjoy and not things I don't want to do.

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## Term limits and you

In the days before the American Revolution, the States (known then as "Colonies") were governed by the ruling monarch of England, a king or queen who ascended to power the real old fashioned way: inheritance.

The subjects of the realm had no say in their individual and collective fate. If the monarch made a mistake in judgement or was simply insane, the subjects had to either endure their hardship quietly, or stage a violent revolution. Not the most efficient form of government.

So when the framers of the U.S. Constitution looked at how they would avoid that scenario in the future, they decided to establish regular, popular elections.

That way, at regular intervals voters could retain a good leader or replace a bad one.

Now there is a threat to take away the power of choice among voters: ballot Measure 48. This measure would make an official Amendment to the Oregon State Constitution, compromising the integrity of the Constitution and, in effect, limiting the voice of the Oregon voter.

Measure 48 would change the Oregon State Constitution to force our present and future state legislators to vote for Congressional term limits. The limits would be to two Senate terms and three House terms.

In the State of Oregon we have term limits for governor, mayor and other local office holders. Voters in the 1992 general election approved limits of three full elected terms (six years) for State Legislators and two full elected terms (eight years) for State Senators. The voters approved this measure by a large majority, but it's still too early to determine all the effects these limits will have at the state level.

When we go to the polls on Tuesday November 5, 1996, some changes will already be apparent. A third of the choices are first time candidates. This is not because term limits chased the good lawmakers out, but because many experienced legislators decided to call it quits. However, in November 1998 2/3rds of the legislative will be brand new. Two thirds of the people tasked with developing policy and statues will be legislative neophytes having no experience in the political process.

The people with the experience will be legislative staff and lobbyists. I am very concerned about this prospect. We don't want special interests groups winding up with more power and influence than elected officials, but that's what we're looking at with term limits.

We don't want competent, enthusiastic legislators kicked out of office just as they are in office long enough to get the experience and clout they need to do their jobs effectively, but that's what we're looking at with term limits. We don't want our choices and freedoms curtailed by unreasonable limitations on whom we mat favor to represent us in Salem, but that's what we're looking at with term limits.

It's more important to vote for the qualified individual, not for the maximum number of years they should serve in office. If we're not happy with them, we ought to be able to decide for ourselves what to do about them.

Would you like the Constitution changed to mandate how you may vote on a specific issue? Most of us would say that how an individual votes on any issue is a personal choice. However, the authors of Measure 48 would have you believe that your own judgement can't be trusted when it comes to how long your lawmaker may serve you.

So join me, Jo Ann Bowman, on the stroll to the poll on Election Day in a vote for common sense and vote No on Measure 48.



BY JO ANN BOWMAN