

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Recycle your Christmas tree

Nonprofit groups and businesses will operate more than 150 dropoff sites and pickup services from West Linn to North Portland and from Forest Grove to Sandy. Most groups will collect trees the week-ends of Dec. 28-29 and Jan. 4-5. The small fee or donation requested supports activities of groups such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, churches and schools. Call Metro Recycling Information, 234-3000, for specific information on tree recycling options. Hotline hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Beginning Dec. 26, Christmas tree recycling information will be available on Metro's web site: <http://www.multnomah.lib.or.us/metro>

Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration

African Dance, a fashion show, music and poetry will be a part of the Project Network & Da Da Kidogo Second Annual Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration on Monday, December 23, 1996, located at 4219 N. E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd (The Lutheran Inner-City Ministries Facility). Doors open at 6:30 pm, program at 7pm.

Albina Ministerial Alliance

The Albina Ministerial Alliance is asking oregonians to help make a child's dreams come true by adopting a family for the holidays or by making a donation of warm clothing or household needs. Call The Albina Ministerial Alliance at 285-0493, X203.

PNCA

Scholarships are available for children and young adults ages 4-17 for the Pacific Northwest College of Art Continuing Education Program. Deadline for scholarship applications is Jan. 17, 1997 for Spring Semester. Application forms may be obtained at PNCA, 1219 S.W. Park Ave., or by calling 226-0462.

Cuts for Kids

Local stylists donate time to offer inner-city children free hair cuts just in time for the holidays on Monday, December 23, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Salvation Army Moore Street Center, 5335 N. Williams Avenue, North Portland. This event is free for all children. Please call Moore Street at 239-1241 for more information.

Lazarus Art Society, Inc.

Presents The 3rd Annual Kuumba Festival on December 20, 21 & 22 at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 NE Knott St, Portland. Enjoy the Food Faire (Foods from many Ethnic Groups) Art Exhibit, Crafts, Vendors, Entertainment, and Skits. Don't miss Art Activities Day on Saturday from 11 AM to 5 PM. Learn about KWANZAA and how other cultures celebrate the holiday season. All ethnic groups are invited. Free Admission-Donations Requested to fund our After School Program Art Program. For more information call: Lorraine Fields, Event Coordinator at (503) 282-5461.

Bradley-Angle House

"You can make a difference in the lives of domestic violence survivors! The Board of Directors of Bradley-Angle House invites community members to a Brunch. Learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Bradley-Angle House Board and Affiliate Board. Brunch will be held in North East Portland in late January. Contact Erika Silver at 232-7812.

Project Pal Volunteers

Cascade AIDS Project is seeking long term volunteers to be pals to people living with HIV disease, including AIDS. Volunteers are asked to commit one year to this program and to provide their own transportation. Each volunteer will receive a 32 hour training and access to support groups and inservices for updated information. Call Grace Taylor at 224-5907, ext. 115, to schedule and interview by January 7. PAL volunteer training begins January 18, 1997, so call today to register.

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



Portland shoppers become more frenzied and numerous as the Christmas holiday fast approaches.

Holiday greetings!

In the midst of the holiday season busyness, we ask you to remember the community's work that is done by nonprofit agencies and charity organizations. For the children and youth, for the elderly, for the homeless individuals and families--for all those who need extra help or special attention--these agencies are there day in and day out, all year long. They are dependent on our contributions of funds, goods, and time.

We know that several are struggling just to keep their doors open. For all, holiday donations are critical to their on-going efforts. Please remember these community treasures in your giving this year. A donation in the name of a friend passes the blessing around.

--Mayor Vera Katz, Commissioner Charlie Hales, Commissioner Gretchen Miller Kafoury, Commissioner Mike Lindberg, Commissioner Erik Sten, and Commissioner-Elect Jim Francesconi.

A Golden Opportunity To Help Kids

Celebrating Fifty Years of Service to Portland Youth at the 13th Annual Boys & Girls Clubs Kids Auction

A select audience of Portland's most influential will once again support the Boys & Girls Clubs Kids Auction on Saturday, March 8 at the Hilton Hotel, beginning with a 600-item silent auction at 5:30 and an anything-but-quiet live auction and dinner at 7:00. This 13th annual black-tie event is the clubs' largest fund raiser, netting \$352,000 last year. The 1997 Kids Auction theme, "Your Golden Opportunity to Help Kids," combines the giving spirit with the 50th anniversary of the Clubs' service to youth in Portland.

"Each year my commitment to club kids is renewed at Kids Auction. There's something

very powerful in the energy at this event. I'm amazed at the generosity of buyers and the caliber of items our volunteer board procures." Says Auction Chair Dave Emory, member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Board of Directors.

Renowned auctioneer Larry Helms returns to the Kids-Auction gavel. Among the items on the auction block this year is a mint condition 1949 1/2-ton Chevy Pickup, a Fabulous French Vacation for Eight, a spectacular piece from artist Rolando Agudelo-Botero entitled Humanidad, and dinner and Ballet with host James Canfield, complete with overnight accommodations at the Bensen Hotel.

Attendance and donations are expected to be unusually high among auction-goers this

year, as the philanthropic audience is aware of the Clubs' need to raise funds for youth development programs.

New to Kids Auction is "Make a Night of It," the opportunity to package auction reservations with accommodations to spend the night at the Hilton. About a quarter of the 600 attendees are anticipated to take advantage of this offer.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area has been serving the youth of our communities for fifty years. In 1996, the Clubs served a record number of youth; 5,300 members and an estimated 6,000 additional youth who benefit from the Clubs without the \$15 membership. The Clubs expect another record year in 1997. The Clubs are dedicated to the

enhancement and enrichment of youth aged 6 - 18. Concentrating much of its interest and concern on individuals from disadvantaged or at-risk circumstances, the Boys & Girls Clubs help members develop values, skills and self-esteem by exposing them to a variety of programs, all designed to nurture their character, cultural, vocational, educational, emotional, physical and social needs.

As a non-profit agency, the Boys & Girls Clubs rely on the generosity of community support for Club facilities and programs. Signature events include Kids Auction, Steak and Burger Night, the Boys & Girls Clubs Golf classic and Golf Marathon.

Contact Rhoda Culin at (503) 452-9359 or Kevin Johnson (503) 232-0077.

Scholarship gives Renfro chance to finish college

Charlie Waters remembers taking his son Cody as a toddler to Dallas Cowboys' practices to watch his talented teammate and friend Mel Renfro.

Today, in one of those strange twists of fate, pro football hall-of-famer Mel Renfro has a chance to go back to the University of Oregon and finish his degree. At a Ducks' Night Out tribute dinner for Renfro in Portland last May, he was named the first recipient of the Cody Waters Memorial Scholarship for UO post-eligibility athletes who want to return to college.

The scholarship was established by the UO Department of Intercollegiate Athletics to honor Cody and Charlie, who was the Duck defensive coordinator at the time of Cody's death on December 3, 1995. Cody, who was senior at Marist High School in Eugene, died in his sleep of an undetermined cause.

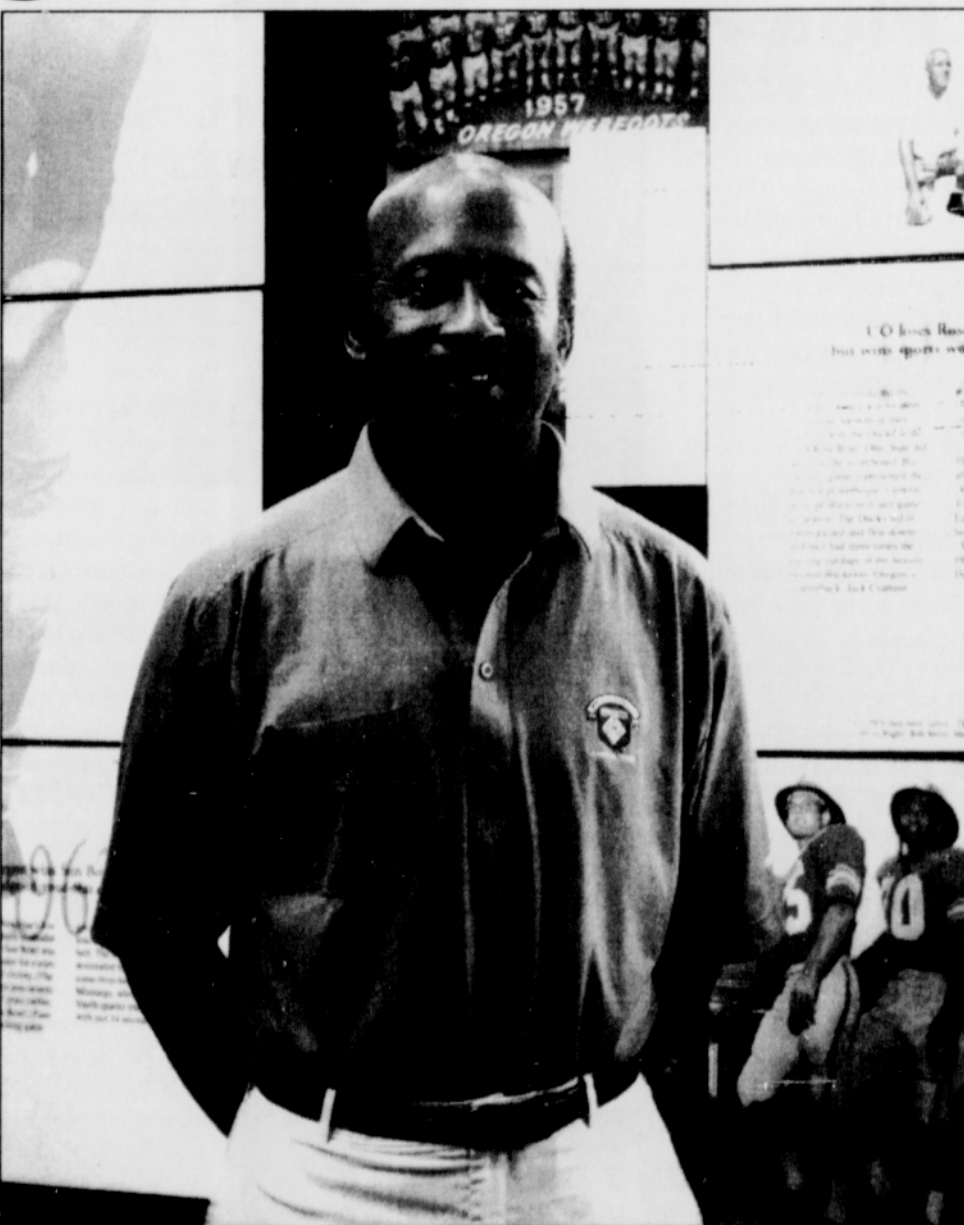
Renfro finds it ironic in a "full circle" kind of way "that I've always wanted to go back to school and what gave me the opportunity to go back was my old buddy from the Cowboys through a tragedy."

"I'm proud that Cody's name is on that scholarship and that Mel got the first one," says Charlie Waters, now working for an energy exchange company in Dallas, Texas. "I played with Mel for seven years. We were in four Super Bowls together and were very good friends."

Renfro will return to campus winter term and major in sociology. He says he wants to finish college so he can stop feeling uncomfortable whenever someone introduces him as a UO graduate. But he's also doing it for his father.

"It was something that was always important to my dad because I don't think he ever finished high school," says Renfro. "There were four of us boys and all of us went to college, but none of us finished. I think it would be good before he passes away if I could say I got my degree."

Renfro says he couldn't afford to go back to college without the scholarship. He played



Pro football hall-of-famer Mel Renfro.

in the pros at a time when even the top players were paid less than \$25,000 a year, then suffered a series of professional and personal disappointments after retiring from the Cowboys in the late 1970s.

His Dallas fast-food restaurants went bankrupt, subsequent coaching and scouting positions in pro football were short-lived, his personal life was often rocky and he was

frustrated about being overlooked by the pro Hall of Fame for so many years.

Then things turned around.

Renfro credits a religious awakening several years ago for directing him toward a better path. When he learned of plans for a Christian recreation center for inner-city children in his old Northeast Portland neighborhood he realized, "This is my dream, this is

my purpose, this is why God gave me these abilities and put me in this neighborhood, knowing that one day I could come back and give back."

He currently works with Portland's Bridge Ministries as an "unpaid, full-time ambassador and fund-raiser" in an effort to raise money for the recreation center. He also operates Renfro Enterprises, a sports promotion company in Dallas.

And like icing on the cake, Renfro was finally inducted this year, into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, making him one of only three Ducks to be so honored and one of only four in the college football Hall of Fame.

Renfro is glad to be returning to Oregon and appreciates the attention he's receiving from the UO. George Glass '82 and George Hosfield '79, MBA '82, organized the Ducks' Night Out tribute dinner to recognize Renfro's football career.

The Oregon Club of Portland will donate its annual Ducks' Night Out proceeds to the Cody Waters scholarship endowment, and the Oregon Club of Eugene also will make a yearly contribution, according to Tim Roberts, the athletic department's regional director for development in Portland. It takes about \$150,000 to fully endow an in-state athletic scholarship, and about \$15,000 has been raised so far for the Cody Waters scholarship.

"It gets back to the No. 1 objective of educating and graduating our young people," says UO Athletic Director Bill Moos. "Many times, because of the demands on student-athletes today, they don't graduate on time. Some go with the pros before graduating. We want our athletes to come back and finish their degrees."

Moos says it's fitting for Mel Renfro to be the first recipient of the scholarship.

"When you look at the great student-athletes we've had here at Oregon, Mel's name rises up among the best," says Moos. "Mel's pro career ended before the huge salaries. If he were playing today, he'd be a wealthy man. But he played for the love of the game and thrill of competition, not for the money."