

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Impressionistic oil paintings on display

An exhibit of "Impressionistic" oil paintings by artist Jeannine Edelblut will be on display February 4-27 in the College Center Fireplace Gallery at Mt. Hood Community College. The paintings are a collection called "Energy Waves", and are done on canvas with a focus on nature and biology. Admission to the gallery is free and the public is invited to attend. Gallery hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., and Friday 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information call the College Center at (503) 667-7260.

### MHCC Industrial Technology open house

Mt. Hood Community College's Engineering and Industrial Technology division is hosting an open house for its Machine Tool Technology, Welding Technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology programs, on Monday, February 17, 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the Industrial Technology Building. The college is located at 26000 S.E. Stark St. in Gresham. For more information call Lynne Wolters at (503) 669-6930.

### Cascade Mountain Overnight Snow-Camp Trip

Mt. Hood Community College's Wilde Side Outdoor Program is offering an overnight camping trip in the snow drifts of the Cascade Mountains February 15-16. Caves, igloos and tents are all possible shelters for the adventures enjoying this winter outing. The cost is \$42. No experience is necessary and transportation is provided. A mandatory pre-trip meeting is scheduled for February 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the College Center Information Desk at (503) 667-7277.

### Juvenile Justice: Where do we go from here?

The League of Women Voters of Portland and East Multnomah County invite the public to attend a forum on Juvenile Justice in Multnomah County. The forum will take place on Tuesday, March 11, 1997 at 7:15 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock Street in Portland. Meeting charge is \$1.50.

The panel will include Elyse Clawson, Director of Juvenile Justice Services, Multnomah County, Kevin Mannix, former Oregon State Representative and author of Measure 11, and Helen Smith, Chief Deputy District Attorney for Multnomah County. The discussion will focus on current issues in the Juvenile Justice field including the changes brought about by the implementation of Measure 11.

The League of Women Voters of Portland and East Multnomah County present: Juvenile Justice Forum, Tuesday, March 11, 1997, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock Street, Portland, Oregon, \$1.50.

### Young Women invited to expand horizons

"Expanding Your Horizons," a conference designed to increase awareness and interest in a wide variety of career options for young women in grades seven through 10, will be held on Saturday, February 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mt. Hood Community College. Pre-registration is required and the cost is only \$5, including lunch. For more information call Sara at (503) 492-1942.

### Help Kick-Off a Penny Drive for Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Kick-Off Event will be held Monday, February 3, between 12:00-1:00 p.m. The "Make A Million for Make-A-Wish" annual penny drive continues through February 12 at U.S. Bank branches or any participating J.C. Penny Store in K103 FM's listening area. U.S. Bank Tower lobby, 111 S.W. Fifth, Portland.

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

## Bridging Heaven and Earth

**P**roducing *Fire on the Mountain* has long been the dream of Artistic Director and playwright, Reg Bradley.

Now the dream of bringing this story of an old fiddler ascending to heaven has become a reality. With a set consisting of four thirteen foot scaffold towers connected by metal bridges this is Tears of Joy's biggest show ever produced in its 24-year history.

Despite the magnitude of this production, the story remains close to one, small fiddler. All is well until the musician's joyful but boisterous fiddling gets him into trouble with the heavenly order. This universal story reaffirms that music cannot die. The folk tale's earliest origin is Polish, but because of cultural similarities, Bradley has chosen to place the tale in the Appalachian mountains of the U.S.

In the spring of 1992, Bradley did research in Appalachian, visiting and recording folk musicians throughout the hills of West Virginia. One of these musicians, David Morris, is serving as folklorist and provided the central theme song about the "fire on the mountain and the fire in his fiddle." Composer Leroy Critchner and Jodi Eichelberger have adapted and arranged the rest of the show around this theme.

Nationally recognized painter and set designer, Henk Pander, designed the production's larger-than-life-puppets.

The fiddler himself is a 3 foot marionette. The puppet, St. Peter, stands 8 feet tall and is operated with sophisticated controls. Archangel Michael is created as a rod marionette with a wingspan of 12 feet.

The fiddler's old hound dog, cupids, angels and mountain people add to the story's infectious vitality. The intricate engineering of these puppets has been the work of the theatre's technical director, Lance Woolen.

In the spirit of Appalachian, an exhibit featuring folk art will accompany the show. In addition to pottery and baskets, The Clark County Quilters will be providing quilts rich in tradition.

Also on display will be some of the original character renderings created by acclaimed Portland artist, Henk Pander. These art se-



"*Fire on the Mountain*" plays at Winningstad Theatre at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, on February 28-March 16. Tickets are \$8.50 for children and \$9.50 for adults, available at Tears of Joy Box Office 1-360-695-0477; 1-503-248-0557 or at the PCPA.

lections will be included in a larger display on the complex process of creating a show of this magnitude.

Funding for this production has come in part from the Jim Henson Foundation which

funds new works for the puppet stage.

Tears of Joy is recognized as one of the nation's outstanding puppet companies. Touring throughout the U.S. and abroad, the theatre performs for over a quarter of a

million people each year.

Three of the theatre's productions have received American puppetry's highest award, the Citation of Excellence in the Art of Puppetry.

## Three Famous African Sons of France

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

**N**ineteenth-Century France was distinguished by the world-renowned genius of three of that nation's black citizens—all of them bearing the name, Alexander Dumas.

The first member of this family to come upon our lively and ebullient stage is General Alexander Dumas, who was Napoleon's leading and most daring general -- until they finally parted ways after a series of rancorous quarrels. It is interesting to note that Napoleon Bonaparte had 12 black generals in all, formidable warriors and tacticians who ensured the success of so many of his famed conquests (Mention omitted in American texts, see J.A. Rogers).

Like General Dumas, who was born to an African woman on the island of Haiti, a French colony at a time, most of these black generals were from Haiti or Santo Domingo which adjoined the first country. Santo Domingo is now known as "The Dominican Republic." It is an irony of history that Napoleon was forced to yield to Thomas Jefferson and sell all of France's Western Hemisphere colonies to America (The Louisiana Purchase) -- because the fierce and



Alexander Dumas Pils, Napoleon's Greatest General

courageous black general, Toussaint Louverture, a Haitian freedom fighter, defeated every army Napoleon sent to maintain control over the colonies. These facts are cited in Napoleon's letters.

It may seem impossible, but the son of General Dumas (known as Dumas Pere to distinguish him in turn from his son, Dumas fils) achieved even greater national and international acclaim than the general. In the



(2) Alexander Dumas Pere, "If the baby has woolly hair, it is mine."

field of letters and in the art of the bon vivant (good living) his career is almost unparalleled in history.

Dumas' active literary career covered a period of approximately forty years. In the course of those forty years he wrote sixty-seven plays, published in twenty-five volumes and produced at seventeen theatres, ninety-two novels published in one hundred and seventy-eight volumes, thirty-two his-

torical works published in thirty-six volumes, eighteen books of travel published in thirty-five volumes, and fourteen miscellaneous works published in twenty-six volumes -- a total of two hundred and thirteen books published in three hundred volumes.

Dumas pere produced such lasting literary gems as "The Count of Monte Cristo -- The Three Musketeers -- The Man In The Iron Mask -- The Viscount of Bragelonne." Two-hundred times his novels and plays have been made into movies and television spectacles. He is said to have captured the very essence of human drama and adventure -- in a manner not accomplished before or since.

The fascinating story of this enthusiastic patron of life itself (bonvivant) -- swordsman, lover, traveller, gourmet -- is as exciting as any of his novels or plays. When an adoring public and public authorities built an "Alexander Dumas Theatre" to highlight his works, he, in turn, built himself a magnificent estate and small castle in which to entertain his continent-wide coterie of friends. The French government has pre-

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## School days are numbered for kids without immunizations

**O**n Monday, February 17, 1997, according to law, children who are not up-to-date with their immunization schedule will be excluded from all elementary schools and certified daycare centers (pre-school, Head Start, pre-kindergarten).

Students will be unable to attend school until they receive their shots. If non-compliant children until a parent picks them up. These children may not enroll in another school. To help parents beat "Exclusion Day", volunteer nurses from the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) will host two immunization clinics on Saturday, February 1 and February 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pilgrim Lutheran

Church, located at 4244 SE 91st Avenue, to immunize pre-school and school-aged children. These immunizations are free and available to the public.

Parents will receive a letter in early February from Oregon's county health departments if their children have not been adequately immunized. They will then have two weeks to update immunization records before their children are asked to leave school.

The intent of Oregon Immunization Law (OR 433.235 through 433.280) is to protect Oregon children from the dangers of this disease such as whooping cough which are preventable by immunizations. The immunization rate in Oregon is presently ranked

48th in the United States, with many of the childhood diseases preventable by immunizations still occurring.

"In the past, up to 900 children have been sent home because of inadequate immunizations," said Peggy Hillman, immunization coordinator for Multnomah County Health Department. "About 25 of those children never go back to school for that year--their parents don't know where to go for immunizations or believe they are too expensive."

ONA in a partnership with Multnomah County Health Department and the Pilgrim Lutheran Church, hosts the Lents Clinic which provides immunizations for the at-risk infants and children living in this area

with particularly low immunization rates the first Saturday of every month.

"Each year, hundreds of children are sent home from school because they have not been properly immunized," ONA Administrator of Business Services Sandy Marron says. "The Oregon Nurses Association is provided a free and convenient way to help prevent life threatening diseases and dismissal from school."

Volunteer nurses have given over 1,500 immunizations to children and infants since the Lents Clinic began in 1995. ONA has received the "Every Child By Two Immunization Partners Award" for its outstanding efforts.