

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer SECTION B

Community Calendar

MHRC offers Dynamic Differences Workshop

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission will sponsor a free diversity training workshop, "Dynamic differences," on Thursday, March 20 from 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM, at the Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 NE 40th Avenue in Portland. To register, call Linda Hunter at 823-5136 (TTY). If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodation, please call at least 48 hours in advance. The workshop is not recommended for employer mandated training.

Fundraiser

3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off and Chili Feed! The Scientology Ladies Society is sponsoring an All-You-Can-Eat Chili Feed. Enter your favorite Chili in the competition or come and pay \$5.00 and eat all of the Chili you can eat! time: 11:00 AM - 3:30 PM on Saturday, March 1st. All proceeds to benefit the Foster parents Association. 709 S.W. Salmon. 228-0116

Renters' Rights Forum

The Renters' Rights Forum is an excellent opportunity to learn valuable legal information which will help protect renters from landlord abuse and neglect. The Renters' Rights Forum will be held Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 pm at the Metro Learning Center - 2033 NW Glisan. This event is free and wheelchair accessible. Childcare will be provided at no cost if arranged in advance. For more information or to register for childcare, call the County Alliance of Tenants at 288-0317.

Free programs & classes for March & April

The following free programs during March and April are open to the community. They will be presented at Adventist Medical Center, 10123 SE Market Street, unless another location is listed. NO preregistration is required, unless otherwise indicated. For more information call 256-4000 (toll free from most areas in Portland/Vancouver).

HEALTH LECTURES,

SCREENINGS & SEMINARS

- **Senior health Fair:** Thursday, March 20, Noon - 2 pm and 4-6 pm Adventist Rehabilitation & Extended Care. For more information, call 231-7166, ext. 180.

- **Understanding Managed Health Care:** Wednesday, April 23, 7-8pm, Amphitheater C. Free. Preregistration required. Call 256-4000

- **Volkswalking/Volksbiking:** Route maps and other information are available at the information/sign-up box in the hospital's main lobby.

- **Healthvan:** Call 261-6613 for dates, locations and scheduled screenings.

SENIOR HEALTH SEMINARS & LECTURES

- **How To Reduce Your Risk Of A Heart Attack:** Friday, March 21, 10 am - noon, at Amphitheater D Free. For information call 251-6260.

- **Better Breathers:** Tuesdays, March 11 & April 8, 12:30 - 2pm, Conference Room #4. Call 251-6830

- **Diabetes Support:** Tuesday, March 4, 7-8pm, Amphitheater D; and Tuesday, April 1, 7-8pm, Education Center A. Free. Call 256-4000.

- **Cancer Support:** Mondays, 6:30pm-8pm, Conference Room #4; and Tuesdays, 10am-noon (women only), Conference Room #5. Free. Call 251-6301

Spring training for senior peer counselors

"Views", a Peer Counseling program for older persons, is currently conducting interviews for prospective volunteers interested in joining their spring training class that begins on March 31, 1997. Please contact Susan Sweeting at 661-5455 if interested.

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

Students Honored At Legislature

BY NEIL HEILPERN

Fifty African-American high school students from Portland walked onto the floors of the Oregon legislature last week to receive accolades from elected officials.

As part of Black History Month, the youngsters were selected as leaders among their peers in academic achievement, athletics, community service, performing and or visual arts, and extra-ordinary personal improvement.

When they arrived, half the group went to the Senate while the rest visited the House.

They were ushered through the swinging gates, usually reserved for the legislators and their staffs. The impact of their honors did not start to hit home until they realized their adult chaperones were not permitted on the floor with them.

This was only for the students.

"When I got up there, I felt respected," said Robert Ford of Counteract and Jefferson High School. "It was an honor to be up there."

But, like others in his group, once seated he realized "I couldn't participate and I felt powerless."

"For a minute I felt like I wanted to say something about a bill on criminal background checks," said Sam O'Brien, of PCC High. Seated with Rep. JoAnn Bowman, he thought her job looked "pretty easy."

"It wasn't as tense as I figured," said O'Brien. "They were lighter."

He looked around the floor and noticed that "There was a lot of teaming up. If they



Wendy Braker, Albina Youth Opportunity School, joined State Rep. Kitty Piercy (D-Port.) in the Oregon House. Wendy was one of 50 Portland African-American youths honored for achievements. Photo by Neil Heilpern

looked indecisive, they would look to other representatives to see how to vote."

Aiyana Campbell, a senior at Marshall High School, called her encounter with Rep. Lonnie Roberts, "real great, interesting."

"He explained the process of a bill becoming a law," said Campbell, "and showed me the correct forms to use when speaking on

the House Floor and the different structures."

Students visiting the house started to look puzzled when representatives were called to short caucuses for both parties. It took longer than usual for the Republican and Democratic caucuses to assemble in their nearby rooms because legislators paused to explain

to the visiting students what was happening.

"I thought they were networking," observed Derrick Haynes II, of Portland Youth Builders. Seated with Rep. Randall Edwards of Portland, Haynes said "several times I felt like I wanted to get up and say something."

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Lee Owen Stone continues to embrace diversity

BY MISTY SHAW

Long before "P.C." meant politically correct, Lee Owen Stone Cooperative Preschool set out to make diversity its heart and backbone. Originally St. Phillips Preschool (1965-67), then St. Phillips Cooperative (1967-72), the school found its namesake in a man who embodies their ongoing educational philosophy. Father Lee Owen Stone was a versatile individual with great interest in his fellow man. "You must learn to show respect to all men... You are your brother's keeper. You as the opportunity arises must make your convictions felt." Father Stone's caring and conviction molded the school and its future path.

Today, the Lee Owen Stone (LOS) Cooperative Preschool remains dedicated to the spirit of Father Stone. Melody Winn, teacher at LOS since 1985, was well prepared and very suited for her role when she took it on. With a degree in Early Childhood Education and special training in anti-bias education, Melody understands the impact early influences have on children. "We believe it is important to counter bias" and stand up for what is fair for all people." The anti-bias curriculum at LOS is an everyday thing, not just a topic brought up once during the year and forgotten a week later. "The purpose of preschool is to help children accept and develop skills to deal with a variety of people while learning pre-kindergarten skills" she says.

The material used, and the makeup of the classroom reflects the diversity of LOS the young people and their families who form the cooperative. The families traverse a wide



Students at Lee Owen Stone celebrate 30 years of diversity.

range of ethnic, social, economic, and religious groups. Melody believes it is important to teach acceptance of all people, for their differences. "Not just their looks or race, but their ideas, personality styles, and the way they choose to live. I try to help children with this [accepting differences]" she says. LOS also helps parents better understand diversity by requiring that they be active in their child's preschool experience. Newsletters, monthly meetings, in-class parent interaction, and suggested readings and seminars, Melody and LOS educate the

entire family.

The Lee Owen Stone Cooperative Preschool prides itself on being different and special. Although the families come from a variety of backgrounds they all seem to have one thing in common which binds them together; a desire to have their children begin without bias. Who knows? maybe a perfect world can be found...

If you would like information about Lee Owen Stone Cooperative you can call Melody Winn at 283-0140. She would be happy to talk with you.

Richardson seeks School Board seat



Randy Richardson, at the age of 27, is seeking election to the Portland Public School Board. Randy learned the values of public service at a young age from his parents.

After graduating from law school at the age of 24, Randy declined to accept very lucrative job offers from prestigious private law firms, opting instead to begin his legal career as a Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney to serve the community he grew up in.

In only his second year of practice, Randy was nominated and elected by his professional colleagues to serve a three year term as a delegate in the Oregon State Bar's House of Delegates. Randy volunteers his time in the community and is serving on the Portland House of Umojha's Board of Directors in order that he may help gang affected and other at-risk youth achieve their full potential.

NE Crime prevention is budget cut casualty

BY LEE PERLMAN

As its part of the city's Ballot Measure 47 budget cuts, the Northeast Neighborhood Office will lose its three crime prevention specialists, half of its office staff.

The Neighborhood Crime Prevention Program is being transferred from the Office of Neighborhood Associations, and its seven neighborhood offices, to the Portland Police Bureau, where it will be combined with that bureau's own crime prevention program. The 20 existing staff will be invited to compete for 14 jobs in the new program, along with other applicants, in a civil service process.

ONA will also reduce its appropriation to the Neighborhood Mediation Program from \$330,000 to \$200,000, and let it "spin off" to become an independent agency.

Like most other city bureaus, ONA has been directed by the Office of Fiscal Administration to reduce its budget by 14.5 percent. The commissioner in charge, Gretchen Kafoury, has said that the neighborhood offices should not be spared from the cuts.

In an informal session last month, City Council rejected a proposal by ONA director Diane Linn that some of the cuts come from eliminating the downtown office's telephone information and referral program.

The Northeast Coalition of Neighbor-

hoods, a non-profit corporation composed of representatives of 13 neighborhood associations and other community groups, operates the Northeast Office on an independent contract with the city. Through ONA it receives funds to run the office, provide printing and mailing funds for newsletters and flyers, and hire staff to provide support services. The crime prevention staff help organize block watches and foot patrols, and assistance with other volunteer activities.

Sharon McCormack, a former member of the Northeast Office and now head of the citywide program for ONA, says the change would "keep the neighborhood support services intact and allow them to concentrate

on their mission."

Marsha Palmer, the senior member of the three-member Northeast Office crime prevention staff, views the change as positive under the circumstances. "It's a viable option, one that would keep intact the concept of crime prevention and community policing," she says. "I realize that the police bureau is a paramilitary organization, and decisions tend to be made from the top down, but I don't think we'll lose our connection to the community."

For the crime prevention staff, the budget proposal "means that all of us will be vying for a limited number of jobs, and that's scary," she says.