

Waiting Children

Matthew and Michael are dashing and spirited African-American/Caucasian brothers.

They are two of over 300 Oregon children waiting for an adoptive home.

Like many siblings, these two enjoy a remarkably close relationship. As best buddies, they spend quality time playing with one another.

Whether its riding bikes, maneuvering toy cars or frolicking with the neighborhood children, Matthew and Michael have extra reserves of drive and go-power.

These brothers will be responsive to parent(s) who can lovingly provide them with adequate supervision and attention. They're a terrific pair!

Oregon agencies waive or reduce fee for the adoption of Oregon's children in state care,



Matthew and Michael, ages 10 and 7

and pre-adoption trainings are offered statewide.

To learn more about adoption and the children awaiting homes,

contact The Special Needs Adoption Coalition at The Boys and Girls Aid Society, (503) 222-9661.

Work Force Training anticipated

Continued from Metro

pool their resources," he added, noting that "instead of spending \$300-400 to send one person to a class, it could be lowered to only \$100."

These grants could go to newly established consortia to cover their initial organization costs, he said. Priority would be given to such groupings of businesses that include employees and their representatives in the design and implementation of the programs. Tailored training packages would be available.

The training provided under this legislation would not replace established state-certified joint labor-management education and training program. Some of the funding might be used for building training centers, he noted. Federal participation in funding would be likely.

"Oregon must shift to a service, information and communication-based economy in which high quality, skilled workers and advanced technology are the critical factors of production to continue to be competitive in today's global economy," said Apgar. "This means work organizations must restructure the work in ways that permit highly skilled Oregon workers to become productive."

Another key point of the legisla-

tion is to promote development of industry and skill standards, avoiding duplication of effort. The Employment Department would take a lead role in most of the provisions of the legislation, with the governor's office, the Office of Economic Development Department (OEDD) of Education and the Office of Community College services acting as partners in the effort.

In some cases guaranteed training loans would be available through OEDD. These would include training program administration and development expenses; course material development; acquisition and installation costs; trainer salaries and employee wages, tuition, fees and expenses; and other education related or job training expenses.

Apgar called the employer-based training "an essential vehicle for economic and technical change."

"The ability of Oregon's employers and employees to respond rapidly to these changes will determine the state's adaptability and competitiveness," he added.

Apgar said Rep. Wooten is in the process of seeking co-sponsors for the bill and is likely to attract support from several Portland legislators who have already expressed a strong desire for training legislation.

Apgar said Senate President

Brady Adams and state Labor Commissioner Jack Roberts were leaning towards supporting it. Rep. Margaret Carter is seeking federal funding to create a pilot program for training unemployed Black and Hispanic men to pay them a stipend while they train. She is also looking for legislation to promote hiring of at-risk young people. She said she would support The Oregon Labor and Industry Training Act.

Similar legislation was approved by the state senate when it was controlled by the Democratic Party in 1993, but did not get the nod from the Republican led House. In 1995, it "never even made it out of the House," said Apgar.

"There seems to be more bi-partisan support in 1997," he said, citing extensive media coverage of the search by employers for trained workers. "Getting people into the job market and then moving them up with greater skills is a great selling point," said Apgar.

Apgar said co-sponsors in the Senate include Kate Brown (D-Portland), Sue Castillo (D-Eugene), Avel Gordly (D-Portland) and Randy Leonard (D-Portland). Supporters in the House include Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), Margaret Carter (D-Portland), Barbara Ross (D-Corvallis) and Tom Whelan (D-Salem).

Kids & Drugs on Hawthorne

Unfortunately none of the kids in question showed-up so about 10 of us adults sat around and had a good talk about the issue. Several members of the group think kids feel hopeless and don't participate.

Some of us fear many have now been scared off by a recent drive-by shooting at Roots Revolution Records on Belmont Street. (It's a miracle no one was hurt or killed, two bullets were shot through the front window Monday (2/17), about 5 p.m. As far as we know the police do not have any suspects in custody).

Floyd Landrath (235-4524), director of the Anti-Prohibition League, speculated this incident could be related to anti-drug groups, or independent vigilantes. Mr. Landrath also pointed out the biblical injunction about violence begets more violence; he implied that recent use of force by the police against kids at Coffee People may have acted as a green-light to those individuals who live to hate, or just get paid to. Mr. Landrath also criticized local ABC affiliate, KATU-TV for sensationalizing "drugs" and trivializing the issue of homeless youth in our community. "They didn't even men-

tion the drive-by, a drive-by that could have easily taken a young life. I guess that shows how much KATU really cares about kids, they have to get killed before they become newsworthy," Landrath said.

Paul McAdams (731-2555), a league volunteer, recounted being hit over the head one night a few weeks ago on Hawthorne by a group of men who kept saying "We're going to get the slackers out of here." No one was quite sure what that means, but it obviously has to do with people this group considers undesirable. As with the drive-by we know of NO arrests.

Of course there is more than one issue here and there was general agreement that bigger social issues, like "drugs" and violence for example, are major contributing factors to the problems we see here in our community. It is also agreed that "drugs" represent the biggest single "change" (for the worse) from the days when most of us were the age of the kids we are now talking about.

The group seemed to favor a suggestion from Jonathan Cook (233-8111), a program supervisor from

Yellow Brick Road (a local youth program), that more effort be put on "out-reach" to kids on the street. Mr. Cook talked about programs conducted downtown that go out on the streets and gives kids information about where they can go if they need help. Everyone agreed something like that was needed here too. No one disagreed that youth must be treated with respect and dignity if adults expect it in return. Our message to kids must be "we care about you."

Mr. Cook also mentioned that Harry's Mother (a local youth shelter) was going to use a vacant lot in the neighborhood to set up a vegetable garden and local youth might also be able to get involved. He'll follow-up and let us know next week.

Bruce Chaser (238-0143), a member of the Hawthorne Blvd. Business Association, received unanimous support for the idea of a "Youth Care House."

Next "Kids & Drugs on Hawthorne" Meeting is Tuesday Feb. 25 7:30 p.m. at the Phantom Gallery, 3125 Se Belmont Street, Portland. Sponsored by the American Anti-Prohibition League.

Mayor Katz proclaims "George Bell Day"

George Bell has several years under his belt as a high-voltage executive at the Bonneville Power Administration. But he's not just a conductor of electricity, he's a maestro behind many scenes in Portland's arts, culture, and community networks. These are just two reasons why Portland Mayor Vera Katz is honoring Bell with the proclamation of Feb. 27 as "George Bell Day."

In her proclamation, Katz recognized Bell's "long distinguished service at the Bonneville

Power Administration" and "praised the contributions of the strong...men and women who have paved the road of opportunity for all."

After 32 years, Bell worked his way up from a design engineer to senior vice president at BPA, where he manages more than 1,900 employees in the transmission services department.

The secret to his success?

"Well there are five," he says. "Come early and stay late. Don't be afraid of any task. Steer clear of unneeded confrontation. And, pre-

sume everyone wants to do a good job -- that will make you friends and supporters. Finally, stimulate and motivate other towards results."

His palate of culture-enhancing volunteer activities includes serving as Chairman of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts advisory committee, Portland Center Stage Theatre Company board of directors, the Lake-wood Center for the Arts board of directors, and the Regional Arts & Culture Council board of directors.

Living trust mills shut down

Attorney General Hardy Myers today warned Oregon's senior citizens of unscrupulous salespersons selling living trusts and announced that two "living trust mills" have agreed to cease operating in Oregon and to reimburse victims. Assurances of Voluntary Compliance today were filed in Marion County Circuit Court against Jim Wirth of Eugene and his company Estate Preservation Consultants and Liberty Trust & Associates of Sacramento, California. No violation of law was admitted.

"Estate planning is a serious subject which should be handled by competent Oregon lawyers who have expertise in the area," Myers said. "Salespersons who are not competent to give advice on complex legal documents are selling living trust and creating financial time bombs."

Wirth, a non-lawyer, targeted homeowners 60 years of age and older by using contact lists gener-

ated by mailers sent to the Eugene and Bend areas. Consumers returned the mailers indicating they wanted information on living trusts. Wirth sold approximately 100 trusts.

Wirth agreed to not sell living trusts in Oregon. He also paid the Department of Justice \$1,250 for its Consumer Education Fund and \$5,000 to be used for restitution to consumers who purchased living trusts and who complain to the Department within the next 60 days.

Non-lawyers representatives of Liberty Trust & Associates sold more than 30 living trusts to Oregon seniors in Dallas, Albany, Grants Pass and other communities. Owner Robert Brogan of Citrus Heights, California agreed to not sell living trusts in Oregon and has one year from today to reimburse victims.

Senior citizens are specifically targeted by living trust companies using advertisements in magazines and newspapers offering free seminars or workshops. Mail promotions

offering information on how to avoid probate by buying living trusts often are followed up by high-pressure door-to-door sales. Booths at state and county fairs and senior expositions also offer living trusts.

"only a skilled attorney familiar with estate planning can tell you whether, on the whole, a living trust is right for you, your family, and your assets," Myers said. "Too often, we have seen seniors with small estates buy expensive living trusts when simple wills would have accomplished what they needed." Since March of 1995, the Department of Justice has initiated 34 civil investigations into living trust sales.

Consumers can request complaint forms and information on living trusts by calling the Attorney General's consumer hotline at (503) 378-4320 or (503) 229-5576 (Portland only) or write Financial Fraud, 1162 Court Street, N.E., Salem, Oregon 97310.

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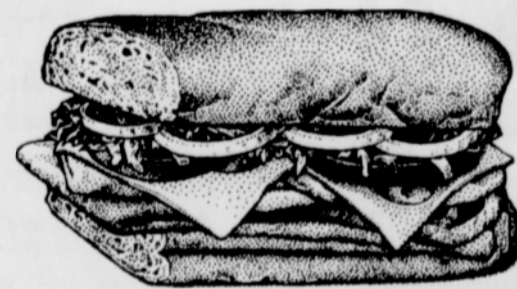
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Grand Opening Celebration

March 13, 14 & 15th at 432 N. E. Killingsworth, the cross street is Martin Luther King Blvd. (MLK).

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