

Observing

City program will train peacemakers

People interested in keeping the peace in the community are urged to sign up for Conflict Resolution training offered by Community Mediation Services, a city program serving all residents of Clark County.

The training will teach participants to listen effectively, understand different points of view and help neighbors resolve conflicts. People who are bilingual and wish to serve the county's increasingly diverse population are especially encouraged to apply. "The train-

ing will focus on negotiating disputes through individual contact," says Christopher Sheesley, program coordinator. "We've found that capable volunteers can help most neighbors solve conflicts through telephone contact."

Program volunteers provide non-enforcement assistance with problems such as noise, animals, property maintenance, boundaries, vegetation, parking and interpersonal relations. The program serves all Clark County residents.

The 20-hour training is set Fri-

day and Saturday, March 21 and 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday, March 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. cost is \$25 for materials, plus a \$125 deposit. The deposit is refunded if the student makes an eight-hour-per-month, 10-month volunteer commitment. Scholarships are available.

Call 696-8060 for applications or visit the Community Mediation Services office at 1405 Broadway. Application deadline is Friday, March 7.

Swim Pool meetings go a second round

Local swimming pools are the topic of a pair of simultaneous follow-up public meetings Wednesday, March 5, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Information and community concerns regarding Vancouver's swim facilities gathered at earlier public meetings will be reviewed.

Parks staff and consultants will be at each upcoming meeting to answer questions, show drawings and lead informal discussions.

"New Aquatics Facility and Community Center in East Vancouver" is the topic of the meeting set at Fishers Landing Elementary School, 2800 SE Hiddenbrook Dr.

"Improvements to Marshall Center Pool and Community Center" is the subject of the meeting at Marshall Center, 1009 E McLoughlin Blvd.

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department staff encourage the public to attend either of the meetings and express their views.

CIA drops informants

The CIA dropped more than 1,000 secret informants from its payroll over the past two years because managers concluded they were unproductive or had likely been involved in criminal activity or human rights abuses, the Washington Post reported in Sunday editions.

About 90 percent of those dismissed were judged to be poor sources of information.

The group included more than 100 informants who were implicated in major crimes abroad, such as killings, assassinations, kidnappings or terrorist acts — and who were judged to have provided inadequate intelligence, the Post said, quoting U.S. officials.

Newspaper reports emerged in

1995 linking a CIA informant and Guatemalan military officer, Julio Roberto Alpirez, to the murder of a U.S. innkeeper and the Guatemalan husband of another American in the 1980s.

A disproportionately high number of informants dropped for such abuses were employed in Latin America during the 1980s and early 1990s, but some worked in the Middle East and Asia, according to the Post report.

The total number dropped approached one-third of the informants employed by the CIA at the time of the "agent scrub," it said.

The dismissals resulted from a year-long review of informants that

began in 1995. It was the most exhaustive ever conducted by the agency and represented the first time the CIA formally weighed the pros and cons of employing those involved in serious human rights abuses or criminal activity, the newspaper reported.

The Post said the review was the major legacy of former CIA Director John Deutch, who left in December after 20 months at the agency's helm.

Under a policy established by Deutch last year, the CIA's officers must submit annual reports assessing the quality of their informants. It prohibits them from recruiting new sources implicated in human rights abuses or criminal behavior.

Rent-A-Wreck Opens in Portland



Bill Eastman (right), owner of Portland Rent-A-Wreck, receives franchise certification from Chip Rueter, V.P. of Rent-A-Wreck America, Inc., Owings Mills, MD, headquarters for the auto rental franchise system.

Rent-A-Wreck of American, Inc., the reasonably priced, neighborhood car rental company, has awarded a franchise to Bill Eastman of Portland. The new Rent-A-Wreck location, opened recently at 1800 SE MLK Blvd., is also home to The Import Garage, an auto repair service owned and operated by Eastman.

In opening his new Rent-A-Wreck, Eastman noted the company's history... the early 70's when a young southern California entrepreneur began renting older cars, gaining widespread popularity with movie stars desiring to drive incognito. Rent-A-Wreck began franchising in 1978 and today there

are more than 460 locations providing recent model cars, vans, pickups and moving trucks throughout the U.S. and abroad. Boasting how Rent-A-Wreck has expanded, Eastman related, "There's even a Rent-A-Wreck in the United Arab Emirates," he said. "And our eight Norway franchises are expanding into Sweden and Denmark."

For five consecutive years Entrepreneur magazine ranked Rent-A-Wreck first in its category in the franchise 500 awards. The annual success magazine Gold 100 ranked Rent-A-Wreck fourth (McDonalds was sixth) out of 2800 franchise companies as one of the best managed franchises. Franchise Times recently named Rent-A-Wreck to its top 200 franchise opportunities list (out of 3,000 franchisors). Entrepreneur International rated Rent-A-Wreck the #1 used rental vehicle franchise companies and #50 out of 200 of all type franchises worldwide.

Rent-A-Wreck of Portland can be reached locally for reservations by calling (503) 233-2492. For worldwide location information, call (800) 535-1391.

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HOCKEY

Penguins fire coach Johnston

The Pittsburgh Penguins, losers of eight of their last nine games, Monday fired head coach Eddie Johnston. General manager Craig Patrick will assume the coaching duties for the remainder of the season. The 60-year-old Johnston, who was serving in his second stint as Penguins coach since the 1993 season, will be reassigned to another position in the organization.

FOOTBALL

Colts elect not to match offer

Cornerback Ray Buchanan is officially an Atlanta Falcon. The Indianapolis Colts elected not to match a four-year offer reportedly worth \$13 million tendered to Buchanan, a transition free agent, by the Atlanta Falcons last Tuesday. By designating Buchanan as a transition free agent, the Colts had the first refusal right to match an offer sheet within seven days. However, the Colts elected not to match the offer and will receive no compensation for the loss of Buchanan.

BASKETBALL

Kukoc placed on injured list

Chicago Bulls forward Toni Kukoc, the defending Sixth Man Award winner, was put on the injured list Monday with plantar fasciitis of the right foot, the team announced. The plantar fascia tendon runs beneath the arch. Kukoc sat out Friday's 126-108 victory over Sacramento with what was termed a sprained right foot. He played 23 minutes in Thursday's 73-70 loss at Cleveland, scoring four points on 1-of-6 shooting.

Kansas again on top

Kansas began "March Madness" as the top-ranked team and South Carolina climbed to fourth in the latest Associated Press college basketball poll released Monday night. The Jayhawks (29-1), who will be the top seed for the Big 12 Conference Tournament, received 69 of 71 first-place votes and 1,773 points from a panel of writers and broadcasters. Minnesota (26-2) is second with the remaining two first-place votes and 1,706 points. Utah (23-3) climbed one notch to third and is followed by South Carolina (23-6), which captured its first Southeastern Conference title with a 72-66 win at Kentucky on Sunday.

Fairfield receives NCAA bids

Four more schools are headed to the Big Dance — and one of them is going Stag. The Fairfield Stags — the lowest seed in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference — pulled off its third consecutive upset, knocking off Canisius, 78-72, Monday night in Buffalo, New York to earn its first NCAA Tournament berth since consecutive visits in 1986 and 1987.

BASEBALL

Dodgers agree to terms

The Los Angeles Dodgers have agreed to terms on one-year contracts with outfielders Todd Hollandsworth — the 1996 National League Rookie of the Year — and Billy Ashley. Hollandsworth became the fifth straight Dodger to win the NL Rookie of the Year award, following pitcher Hideo Nomo, catcher Mike Piazza, outfielder Raul Mondesi and first baseman Eric Karros.

ITS OVER FOR SUGAR RAY

Sugar Ray Leonard heard the cheers again. However, they were cheers of welcome, not cheers for the winner. The applause at the post-fight news conference early Sunday were meant as a farewell.

"For sure, my career is definitely over for me in the ring," Leonard said after being knocked down and stopped in the fifth round by Hector "Macho" Camacho.

It was Leonard's first fight since he retired after being battered for 12 rounds by Terry Norris on Feb. 9, 1991.

"I lost to a better man," the 40-year-old Leonard said.

A younger one, too, and one who had fought 27 times while Leonard was gathering rust in retirement. Camacho is 34.

"I've got no excuses," Leonard said. But he offered one.

Leonard said he tore a muscle in his right calf about a month ago while training at Chandler, Ariz.,

and went to a hospital two weeks ago. He was given a shot of novacaine before the fight.

Dr. Scott Steingard, who treated Leonard, said he suggested Leonard call off the fight. J.D. Brown, Leonard's adviser, said he also recommended a postponement, but Leonard wanted to fight.

How much the calf problem contributed to Leonard's defeat is debatable. He had trouble with his balance, but he said his problem was a combination of "inactivity, 40 years and the calf. All of those things contributed."

So did Camacho.

After Leonard held his own in the first two rounds before 10,324 fans at the Convention Center, the left-handed Camacho, who applied pressure from the opening bell, scored well with head blows in the third round. He continued to score well in the fourth round and ripped a cut over Leonard's right eye.

ATHLETICS GENE

Greatness in athletics may lie in the genes, according to a researcher who is looking for those genes.

Claude Bouchard at Laval University in Quebec is comparing genetic material from high-level endurance athletes and more ordinary ones.

Other researchers have found that 60 to 70 percent of the variation in the ability to benefit from training may be inherited. "In general, there is a fairly strong familial association for many variables," said David B. Allison, an assistant professor at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

But these projects did not look directly at genes; they simply examined whether the ability to benefit seemed to run in families. And such findings could reflect factors other than heredity, such as whether people in more fit families encouraged each other to try harder.

"The only precise way to look at heredity is to look at a gene and see if the gene exists," said Larry A. Tucker, professor and director of health promotion at Brigham Young University.

Bouchard hopes to have some findings on his gene research ready for presentation in May at the American College of Sports Medicine convention in Denver.

Bouchard's feeling is that no single gene creates elite potential. Many factors influence athletics, from the ability to grow powerful muscles to the ability to break down food into muscle fuel and the cells' ability to use oxygen.

"I suspect that what we will find is that some people will be carrying favorable mutations that will affect the responsiveness in some metabolic pathways but not in others," Bouchard said. "It is unlikely that we will find a universal high responder."

The Canadian scientist is working with researchers at the National Institutes of Health and other U.S. facilities on the multicenter project. In one study, Bouchard and his colleagues took samples from 765 members of 150 families. All started off out of shape, and underwent 20 weeks of aerobic training in a laboratory. The researchers are now hunting for common genetic characteristics among those who did well in the lab and among those who did poorly.

It's still a mystery where those genes are. Bouchard's previous examination of one chromosome found no link between genetics and athletic success. But there's no telling what a thorough genetic search would turn up, he said.

The number of genes could influence how any results could be used, Bouchard said. If only a few genes are major factors, then only those people with those genes would have the potential for greatness, he said. "But if we identify, say, 25 or 50 genes, then there is no reason to discourage participation, because if you don't have one, you might have another," he said. "I suspect the latter — that a lot of genes will be involved."

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