

Rosemary Anderson Praised.

Continued from Metro

Leagues recalled how Anderson and POIC affected their lives.

Graduating senior Trenise James told The Observer about getting "kicked out of school in the eighth grade for fighting at Tubman Middle School. It felt bad because I felt I was never going to go back to school."

"Mrs. Anderson gave me a lot of advice and it felt good talking with her," said James. "She is a good role model. I've been in school ever since and have never had any grade less than a C."

"I never came to school, always skipped to just hang out," said William Booker who spent the ninth grade at Jefferson High School and the 10th grade at Roosevelt High School before following his older brother Ronald's lead of enrolling at POIC.

"Mrs. Anderson was so committed to the school for so many years

that it taught me not to give up," he said, now boasting of a B average on his last report card.

"I'm proud of my grandmother," said Anthonie Pierson, a 1994 graduate. "I wasn't going to graduate from my Fresno, California school, but I went to school with her in the mornings."

Joe McHenry, director of POIC's diverse and technical programs, told The Observer about Anderson's role in getting food and clothing to people who needed them for the winters, and remembered her encouragement for him to get the additional training that led him towards his new position.

"This program could have failed in the 1970s," he said, citing difficult times for POIC. "She went out to the community and got sponsors."

"This day is long overdue," noted Dr. Ida Simpson, pastor of Faith Temple Church and secretary to the

POIC board. "She has really worked for the children."

Proclamations were shared from Governor John Kitzhaber and Portland Mayor Vera Katz.

Noting that Anderson had "taken bold and aggressive steps to keep the center open through difficult times," Kitzhaber said that because Anderson had been "consistently recognized and honored for her dedication and commitment to high risk youth," he was declaring March 20, 1997 as Rosemary E. Anderson Day.

"Over the last 29 years, Rosemary E. Anderson has worked tirelessly toward the development and implementation of academic preparation, vocational training and job development and placement services for disadvantaged youth and adults of the State of Oregon," Katz acknowledged.

Citing Anderson's "indefatigable dedication to improving the educational and economic status of stu-

dents and their families," the POIC board announced that the new name for the alternative school would be "The Rosemary E. Anderson High School."

A large color portrait of Anderson, which will be displayed at the high school, was unveiled during the program.

A proclamation was also read from the Multnomah County Board of Supervisors.

Anderson received airplane tickets for two to anywhere on the Southwest Airlines flight schedule.

National POIC officials also presented her with plaques of appreciation.

Education Association Head Retires

Robert G. Crumpton, executive secretary of the Oregon Education Association, announced his retirement today after 23 years of service to the organization. Crumpton dedicated his life to children and education. He began his career in education in 1961 as a vocal music teacher in Pontiac, Michigan, and within the next decade moved up the ladder and across the country in various roles within National Education Association state affiliates.

He joined the Oregon Education Association as Director of Field Services in 1974 and was named

Executive Secretary in 1975. For 22 years he has been at the helm of the state's most powerful union. Under his leadership, the Oregon Education Association has improved the benefits and working conditions of Oregon's education employees and worked to provide Oregon's children with the best education possible. Since Crumpton took office, the organization has more than doubled in membership and now represents 40,000 public school teachers, other education support personnel, student teachers and retirees.

Maya Angelou returns with poetry messages

Continued from Metro

"The inspiration to write...to sing...to dance...to create a piece of architecture...is a blessing," she said, "a gift from God."

"Then it is your responsibility to work it, polish it, get that composition exact. Get that limn...a word that writers should look at...get that sharpness."

"Everybody is born with talent!" she exclaimed, bemoaning the fact that "by the time they are four or five years old, it is knocked out of them."

"What do you mean? There's no lion under your bed," she bellowed as an example of stifled creative mental work.

Angelou's long-time friend, Dr. Stephen McPherson of Portland Community College, asked the poet

to share her habit of isolating herself when she writes.

Although she lives in big houses which a great grand niece calls castles, Angelou said she regularly books a room at local hotels.

"I ask the manager to take everything off the walls and I am there by 5:45 a.m.," she said. To "calm my heart, I take a thermos of coffee, a bible, dictionary, thesaurus, deck of cards and a bottle of sherry."

"This world is too much with us," said Angelou. "I try to get the world away by 6:15...get to the place where writers go to meet the maker."

"Writing is hard work," she noted, adding that she finishes her morning's efforts by noon, "then I act in the familiar" by showering and dressing again.

"Whatever it costs to write the gracious sentence, somebody has already paid," she said.

The Northwest African American Writers Workshop has been gathering for eight years doing "kuumba," a word which member Joe Franklin of Portland said means "creating" and is also the name of the group's annual anthology.

"She has helped our members in their writings with her own example," said Franklin. "We wanted the opportunity to meet and acknowledge her."

The group meets at the North Portland Library twice a month, usually the first and third Saturdays. Potential members can write to NAAWW at PO Box 23036, Figard, OR 97223.

"America's Smithsonian" free public lectures

Portland State University, in conjunction with The Smithsonian Institution's upcoming "America's Smithsonian" exhibit in Portland, is hosting a series of free public lectures on the PSU campus from Tuesday, April 8 through Friday, April 18.

The series showcases the diverse knowledge of 10 Smithsonian "Voices of Discovery" scholars. The scholars are nationally and internationally recognized in their fields, which range from zoology, planetary studies and artwork conservation to anthropology, horticulture and cultural history.

All lectures will be held in the Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway (between SW Montgomery and Harrison streets). Each lecture lasts a little more than one hour and will conclude with a question-and-answer period. For more information, call Brian White at (503) 725-4467.

The PSU lecture series coincides with the traveling "America's Smithsonian" exhibit, which is expected to draw thousands of people during its stay at the Portland Expo Center between April 3 and May 6.

Tues, April 8: 7:30 p.m., Kenneth Trapp, "The Renwick Gal-



lery. Collecting Contemporary Craft." Room 294-296-298, Smith Center

Wed., April 9: 7:30 p.m., John Lehnhardt, "A Baby Elephant for the National Zoo: Kumari's Story." Room 294-296-298, Smith Center.

Thurs., April 10: 7:30 p.m., John Haworth, "Developing the National Museum of the American Indian." Room 338 (Vanport Room), Smith Center.

Fri., April 11: 7:30 p.m., Bert Drake, "Studying the Biology of Rising CO2 and Climate Change." Room 338 (Vanport Room), Smith Center.

Sat., April 13: 2 p.m., Nancy

Bechtol, "Landscape the Future (With the Environment in Mind)." Room 338 (Vanport Room), Smith Center.

Sun., April 13: 2 p.m., Dwight Bowers, "Another Op'nin, Another Show." The American Musical Theater." Room 294-296-298, Smith Center.

Mon., April 14: 3:30 p.m., Stephen Loring, "Anthropology and Archaeology in the Aleutian Islands." Room 298 Smith Center.

Mon., April 14: 7:30 p.m., Christopher Maines, "Understanding Art Through Science: Scientific Examination in the Conservation of Works of Art." Room 294-296-298, Smith Center.

Tues., April 15: 7:30 p.m., Mary Hagedorn, "Amazonian Explorations With Electric Fish." Room 338 (Vanport Room), Smith Center.

Wed., April 16: 7:30 p.m., Stephen Loring, "Anthropology and Archaeology in the Aleutian Islands." Room 338 (Vanport), Smith Center.

Fri., April 18: 7:30 p.m., James Zimelman, "A Close-up Look at Mars." Room 338 (Vanport Room), Smith Center.

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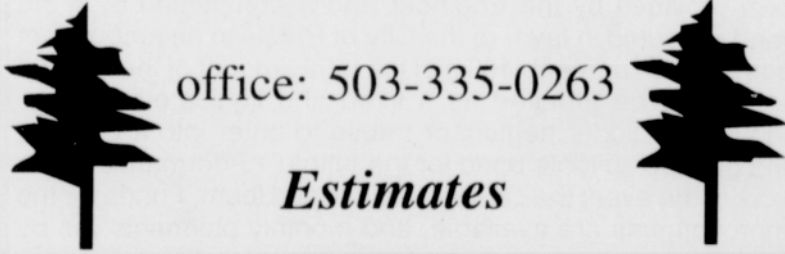
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