

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Fishing derby set

Seniors will cast their lines at the annual fishing derby at Roselyn Lake on Friday, June 27. The event, sponsored by the Urban League of Portland's Multicultural Senior Center, is open to seniors, young people and others who wish to spend a fun day with elders from our community. Buses will depart from 5325 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. at 9 a.m. and return at 4:30 p.m. A \$5 donation for transportation and lunch is requested. Call Jamie Lambos at 248-5470 for reservations and more information.

Concert at the Rose

Martin Prechtel, a singer and musician from New Mexico, will be performing a show entitled "Fire and Jasmine," at the Rexall Rose Cafe & Theater, 2403 N.E. Alberta on Thursday, July 3, at 8 p.m. The show will feature Prechtel's Spanish-flavored guitar playing and soulful singing in both English and Spanish.

Linn home marks era

The Linn family and friends will hold a neighborhood celebration Saturday, June 28, marking the end of an era when the large family house on 17th and SE Washington became the first family group home in the state. A street dance will be held, featuring live music by various Portland bands from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Summer bus pass returns

Area youth can enjoy unlimited travel at a bargain price this summer on Tri-Met's "The Pass" now on sale for half the price of regular fares. Information is available by calling Tri-Met at 238-RIDE.

Readers needed

You can take part in improving your community by becoming a tutor at the World Literacy Crusade, 3548 N. Mississippi. The crusade is a free community service, working in association with Applied Scholastics International and uses the learning methods of L. Ron Hubbard. Call 203-1301.

Films cross cultures

Some of the most articulate and humane voices of the 20th century can be heard in the three powerful films entitled, All Power to the People; Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask; and Amie Cesaire, A voice for History. The films are part of the Decolonized Mind series presented June 26 through June 29 at the Northwest Film Center in cooperation with the Black Studies Department at Portland State University.

Independence celebrated

The Portland Art Museum celebrates the spirit of Independence Day with a special exhibition of early American art, on loan from public and private collections from around the country. On view from June 28 to Sept. 14, the Art of Independence features some 35 objects, including rare documents, portraits, engravings, furniture and other decorative arts, that help tell the story of the founding of the United States.

Catlin Gabel honors Schubert

You can celebrate Schubert's 200th birthday by bringing your brown-bag lunch to the gazebo on the Catlin Gabel school grounds July 2 as five world-class musicians rehearse Schubert's Quintet in G Major for Strings. The open rehearsal begins at 11 a.m. with seating requested between then and 11:45 a.m.

Safe sports class offered

Red Cross will offer sport safety training at its Oregon Trail Chapter, 3131 N. Vancouver, Sunday, June 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The course provides skills to provide a safe environment for athletics and emergency procedures in case of injury or sudden illness. For more information or to register, call 280-1440.

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

Two worlds meet at Pow Wow

BY NEIL HELPERN

Dominic Hilman and Raymond Torres live in two different worlds and they discovered each other last weekend on a patch of grass surrounded by Native American arts and crafts booths at Delta Park.

For different reasons, these two young boys were attending the 28th annual Pow Wow in Northeast Portland's Delta Park.

The pow wow attracted people from more than a hundred western tribes and numerous non-Indian visitors. Colors from the four winds splashed the landscape as dancers, drummers, vendors, youngsters and old people, greeted one another to share and learn.

When the boys met, they looked at each other — Dominic bringing blue eyes, "snow white" Scandinavian skin and blond hair into the meeting, Raymond wearing a darker shade complexion and hair from his Warm Springs Indian Reservation ancestry.

They were aware of the differences, in appearance and in customs. Yet, each felt the bond of youth exploring the varieties of life's experiences.

Dominic, 6, was visiting his Aunt Anita Waiters, of Portland. He was on vacation with parents Bryan and Fia Hilman and 1 1/2 year old sister Angeline. The Hilmans live in Pargas, Finland.

Raymond, 7, was under the guiding wings of his mother, Rina Spine, who had brought five of her own children and seven other youngsters from the reservation East of the Cascades. All were here to dance except the youngest two.

Raymond had taken part in the grass dance and Dominic was intrigued with the narrow strips of material dangling from the bright red and white grass dance costume Raymond was wearing.

Dominic reached out to touch the fringes, exclaiming, "It feels like grass!" Throughout the day he frequently switched between his native Finnish tongue and English, sometimes a bit too shy to answer questions in English and turning to his mother for a translator.



Young people keep Native American culture alive at the 28th annual Pow Wow at Delta Park. More than a hundred western tribes and many non-Indian visitors enjoyed the gathering of arts, crafts and entertainment.

(Photo by Neil Helpern)

Raymond soon scurried off to prepare for another dance and Dominic urged his parents towards the popcorn vendor.

Aunt Anita placed a native American silver and turquoise eagle around his neck as a remembrance of his first encounter with real American Indians.

"They are a little bit different from television," Dominic told his parents, noting the

abundance of feathers. He was especially intrigued with numerous eagle feathers in one man's plumed costume.

When they reached the dance area, Dominic busily scanned the large circle, edged with tents to protect the people from the weekend's on-and-off-again rains. His fascination during the grand entry and its many styles of native costuming started the energy within his

own soul and he soon found himself dancing in place while the various tribal representatives displayed their talents of motion.

After members of the American Indian Veterans Association proudly marched in with the United States flag, an MIA-POW flag and other Indian pennants, Dominic's eyes focused on a bird dancer with lots of feathers, a man with straw clothing and a raccoon hat.

"He thought the man was a medicine man," said his mother, noting "It is not like Finnish folk music at all."

"Look at Dominic," she said, pointing to the increased foot stomping by the little blond boy who was gently imitating the movements of the native dancers. "He tries to connect and be one of them."

Dominic turned, smiled while continuing his movements, and said, "I dance like an Indian too."

Four young girls in fringes, bells, medium or ankle length braided hair paraded around the circle after one dance number and group drumming, carrying a blanket. The announcer explained this was a collection blanket for people to donate toward the expenses of the particular group which had come a long distance to attend the pow wow. Although most groups were from Oregon and Washington, several came from places as far as Montana and Canada.

Dominic felt a connection and wanted to help. He was soon walking up to the approaching blanket bearers and solemnly dropped a dollar before returning to his parents with a satisfied look on his face.

The announcer called for the tiny tots circle dance and Dominic quickly recognized the red and white costume of his new friend. Raymond was in the circle, stoically guiding a little sister's steps, guided by deep inner connections with the energy of all his ancestors — feet purposely meeting the ground in a tap-stamp-tap-stamp cadence and torso bobbing in its native American rhythmic manner.

The rains came again, as the three day pow wow came to a close. The rains cleansed the air and the pow wow expanded the horizons of two little boys — and some older ones as well.

Independence observed in Portland Juneteenth celebration

Freedom celebration



Addressing celebrants is Bernard Walker, a member of the minister's staff at Northeast Portland's Bethel Church.



Virginia Lopez picks up the drums to entertain a festive audience.



Members of the Sabin Elementary School drill team find comfort at the desert table.

Juneteenth comes with a bounty of 'home cookin', served in part by Lynia Briggs.



Bethel church officer Janis Allen (left) and Clara Peoples make another Juneteenth successful. The day commemorates the year many black Americans learned they were free by the Emancipation Proclamation.

Oregon researchers find outrageous gouging

Rent To Own stores target low income, poor with 115 percent interest rates

Oregon State Public Interest Research Group released a report which examined the outrageous interest rates the Rent To Own industry is charging its customers, a large majority of whom are low income citizens with poor credit histories.

The report surveyed 124 Rent To Own stores nationwide, including 5 here in Or-

regon, and found that the industry charged Oregon consumers an unbelievable average of 115% interest just to buy a household appliance. This was higher than the national average of 105%.

The RTO industry in Oregon and 45 other states, unlike other retail and credit businesses, is not subject to mandatory interest rate caps and is not required to disclose the sky-high

interest rates it is charging. "The Rent To Own industry, through past lobbying, has been able to dodge out from Oregon's disclosure and consumer protection laws," said Matthew Berndt, an OSPIRG consumer researcher, "thus, it can charge consumers hundreds, or even thousands of dollars more in interest."

In addition to the high interest charges the RTO stores collect, these stores also set the initial cash price of the item far above its true retail value. A Portland area Rent-A-Center charged \$408 for a 19" TV that retailed for

around \$200. Used items are also sold at a much higher rate. A Portland Rentown USA store charged \$419 for a used 27" TV, hundreds of dollars more than the market value. When coupled with the high interest rate, a consumer could pay a RTO store 3 to 8 times more than the items retail value.

Also in each of the stores OSPIRG surveyed, the interest rates were nowhere to be found. When OSPIRG calculated the Annual Percentage Rates, it found that the Oregon stores charged as high as 123 percent.