

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Adoption Information Meeting

Holt International Children's Services, one of the world's largest intercountry adoption agencies, will conduct a free Adoption Information Meeting in Salem on Monday, July 14. The meeting will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Coldwell Banker real estate office, which was formerly a Casa Real restaurant, at 698 12th St. SE. The cross street is Mission. The meeting is open to anyone interested in adoption and is free of charge. A reservation is not mandatory but would be appreciated. For more information or to make a reservation call Kathie at (503) 246-3236.

#### Sexual minorities

Love makes a Family Inc. present Columbia University's Professor of higher and adult education Dr. Lee Knefelkamp on Monday, July 14th at 7:30 at the Portland Public Schools District Office, 501 N. Dixon. Dr. Knefelkamp will be discussing trends and issues of concern to sexual minorities in school and the workplace, and will be available to answer questions. She has written widely in many areas of education especially with respect to ethnicity, gender, race and class and is an incredible resource. The forum is free of charge, and all are invited. For more information, please call (503) 228-3892 or by email at [lmfamily@teleport.com](mailto:lmfamily@teleport.com).

#### Don't be silent

A march and rally to protest the violence in our community will take place Saturday, July 12 at noon. Area residents are invited to join and speak out during the march which begins at the Lutheran Inner City Ministries, 4219 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and proceeds to Broadway. For more information contact Pastor Willie Banks at 833-8915 or 314-7760.

#### Celebrate diversity

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission provides free diversity training for all people in our community. You are invited to participate in the Dynamic Differences workshop on Monday, July 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott, room 6.

#### Jefferson reunion

A Jefferson High School alumni reunion for the classes of 1970 through 1979 will be held Aug. 8 from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Sheraton Airport Hotel. A dinner and dance is planned. For more information call 735-9251.

#### Concert dates begin

A free Concert in the Commons series is held each Friday night during July and August by the lake in downtown Tualatin. The Latin American group Conjunto Alegre kicks off the series on Friday. Bring your beach chairs or blankets.

#### Roar Faire at zoo

The Washington Park Zoo hosts Roar Faire, a celebration of the things we're all doing to make the world a better place for animals and people. Saturday, July 12. The day-long event features more than 30 booths and games, crafts, children's activities and free things to take home. Birds of prey and reptile shows are scheduled and special entertainment is also planned.

#### Cat lovers converge

The Fort Vancouver Cat Fanciers is sponsoring an "Independence Cats" show July 19-20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the W.D. Jackson Armory, 6255 N.E. Cornfoot Road in Portland. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors.

#### Watercolor challenge

Mt. Hood Community College offers a watercolor class "Painting Naturally" at various locations on Wednesdays, July 23 through Aug. 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Artist Kathy Allegrì will teach you how to paint lush summer landscapes while engaging in lively lunchtime dialogue.

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

## Summerbridge brings students together

BY NEIL HEILPERN

**M**ention the need for attending summer school and most kids will cringe at the thought of giving up a big chunk of their vacation time to hit the books.

But, more than 80 youngsters from 17 Portland middle schools purposely went through the rigorous application process to be selected for an unusual program being held this year at Portland Episcopal School.

Summerbridge Portland gathers students from a variety of ethnic, economic, cultural and family backgrounds. The youngsters are given more intimate group learning experiences and their teachers are only a few years older than they are — usually high school or college students who are learning how to become teachers.

"Our regular teachers would never let us argue or debate the way we do here," said Jetay Barber, an eighth grader from Holy Redeemer School who was part of a small handful of youngsters in a mock legislative session considering a "babysitting training act."

They took roles as legislators and lobbyists, examining whether or not to require babysitters under the age of 18 to have a minimum of five hours instruction before being allowed to take charge of another family's children under the age of 10.

An initial 2-2 tie vote reflected societal choices, in this case between governmental regulations safeguarding children and the freedom of parents to choose babysitters regardless of governmental approval.

"Parents must have the choice whether they want babysitters with certificates," argued Barber.

"But, how would parents know if the babysitters are good?" retorted David Seal, an eighth grader at Holy Trinity in Beaverton.

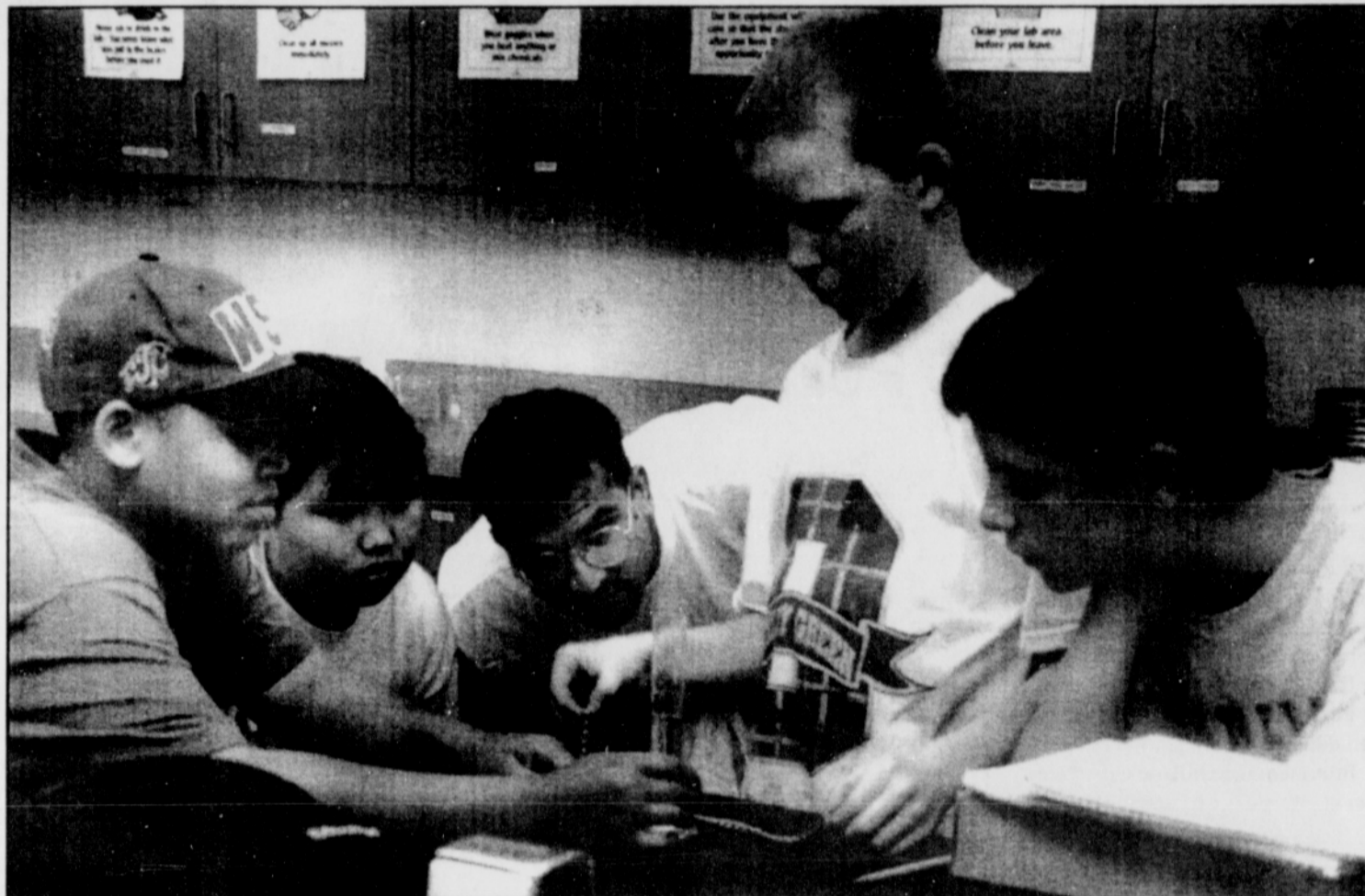
Under the guidance of teacher Heather Chase, a psychology major at George Fox College, they finally passed an amended version that provided both training and free choice.

"This is more challenging," said Brittany Vuylsteke, a seventh grader from Fernwood Middle School. "I like the class sizes."

"The classes are more fun," agreed Gina Johnson, a seventh grader from Lane Middle School. "More hands on, experiments and debates."

Down the hall an experiment to determine the mass of a metallic chain was in progress during a chemistry class led by Rizwan Arastu of India.

Andrew Barrick, from Ockley Green



Inside the middle school commons, children from Celtic, Asian-Indian, Euro-American, Mexican, African-American, North American Indian and biracial backgrounds chattered in small groups, sat around a chessboard on the floor or looked at the colorful signage that referred to the summer program as a "magical mystery tour."

Photo by Neil Heilpern

Middle School, dipped the chain into a beaker. Paul Peters of neighboring Holy Redeemer School, jotted figures down on the board. Vung En, of Binnsmead Middle School was wide eyed with excitement. Josh Sklar, of Harriet Tubman Middle School,

required two year commitment to this summer program," he added. "At first I thought it might be a waste of time, but I've changed my mind."

Recognizing the deeper intellectual drive most students in the program have, Barrick

*They took roles as legislators and lobbyists, examining whether or not to require babysitters under the age of 18 to have a minimum of five hours instruction before being allowed to take charge of another family's children under the age of 10.*

said the experience was better than the outdated 1971 textbooks available at his school. "And there are only five kids instead of 29," noted Peters. "I didn't think I'd learn this much, and we weren't forced to be here."

"I wasn't sure I wanted to make the

said, "Knowledge is like life to kids like us, kids who want to get something out of school. We don't get opportunities like this every day."

Like regular school, the bell chimed and students scattered to different areas for an assortment of activities. Outside some three

a frisbee while three students sat on a ledge learning sign language with student teacher Michele Friedner of Brown University.

Inside the middle school commons, children from Celtic, Asian-Indian, Euro-American, Mexican, African-American, North American Indian and biracial backgrounds chattered in small groups, sat around a chessboard on the floor or looked at the colorful signage that referred to the summer program as a "magical mystery tour."

Another sign gave them a word for the day. The word on this particular day was "magnanimous," reminding students that it meant "big-hearted, generous, altruistic, charitable."

A skit earlier in the morning found students asking teacher Arastu for magnets. He gave more and more and more magnets in a generous manner that brought home the meaning of the word.

"We need to be short and to the point with this session between breakfast and first period," said Suman Raghunathan of Port-

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## Young women honored



Debutantes for 1997 (first row, from left) Victoria Renee Collins, Gloria Temeka LaShuna Leffall and Alisha Katua Eze; (second row, from left) Jada DaNara Johnson, Tiara Nicole Cromwell and Michon Yvonne Kindred; (third row, from left) Yashica Ja'Mear Island, Karen Elizabeth May, LeAnna Fern White, April Dion Murphy and Tiana Shanelle Taylor.

**E**leven outstanding young women were recently presented to the community at Les Femmes Debutante Ball.

The 46th annual event at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn June 28 was the climax to years of scholastic achievement, community service and personal development for the women honored.

"I Believe I can Fly" was the ball theme, which featured the Presentation Waltz with

Fathers, the Grand Curtsy and Debutante Waltz, and Passing of the Presentation Candle to the 1998 Debutantes.

Rica Brooks was the ball chairperson, Rena' Allen, ball co-chairperson and Bertha Watson served as senior advisor.

JoAnn Travis, is president of Les Femmes, a group of dedicated women who contribute their time, talents and financial support to assure our youth will always soar high in achieving their goals.



## Dancing to the blues!

Merry Larsen and Robert Jones dance to the music at last weekend's Waterfront Blues Festival at Waterfront Park. Dozens of bands and singers were featured at the three-day event to help benefit the Oregon Food Bank. See Related story and photos on page A3, and B2.

Photo by Neil Heilpern