

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

West Side Story

The musical masterpiece West Side Story is back and more exciting than ever in a new national touring production that sings, dances and rumbles its way to the Civic Auditorium Tuesday, Nov. 11 through Sunday Nov. 16.

Poets on parade

Poets of all ages and skills are invited to participate in the Oregon State Poetry Association's fall poetry conference, Saturday, Oct. 18 at Marylhurst College, south of Portland between Lake Oswego and West Linn. Registration opens at 8 a.m. Workshops start at 9 a.m. For details call 638-7488.

Pioneer birthday

The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City will host a variety of free events and activities in celebration of Oregon Territory Gov. Abernethy's birthday, Oct. 11-12.

Paper sculptures

Paper sculptures of milk cartons, egg crates, pop cans and paper plates are some of the materials used by Meng Huang of Seattle, on display during October at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Huang is a native of Hong Kong who recycles salvaged scraps in a modern interpretation of a traditional Chinese craft

Harvest Fest moves in

The 25th annual Harvest Festival is a celebration of creativity, fun and ingenuity. The event is held Oct. 10-12 at the Oregon Convention Center, presenting a unique marketplace where artists and craftspeople from all over the country sell and demonstrate handmade works.

Advocates sought

Volunteers skilled in investigation and advocacy are needed to serve as ombudsmen for residents in nursing homes, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities and adult foster care homes. Call Kathy Walter with the state Ombudsmen program at 1-800-522-2602.

Festival of clowns

You can enjoy a parade of clowns, face painting, balloons and other party favorites during the Northwest Festival of Clowns, Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Airport convention center just east of N.E. 82nd on Columbia Boulevard.

Arts fair Tuesday

Students interested in the areas of music, dance, theater, graphic design, painting and other areas of the arts are invited to attend the Portland Performing and Visual Arts College Fair, Tuesday, Sept. 30 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel, Columbia River.

Beach cleanup set

Celebrate an Oregon scenic treasure by volunteering in the 14th Great Fall Beach Cleanup. The cleanup will take place Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. along the entire Oregon Coast. Call Stop Oregon Litter & Vandalism at 800-322-3326.

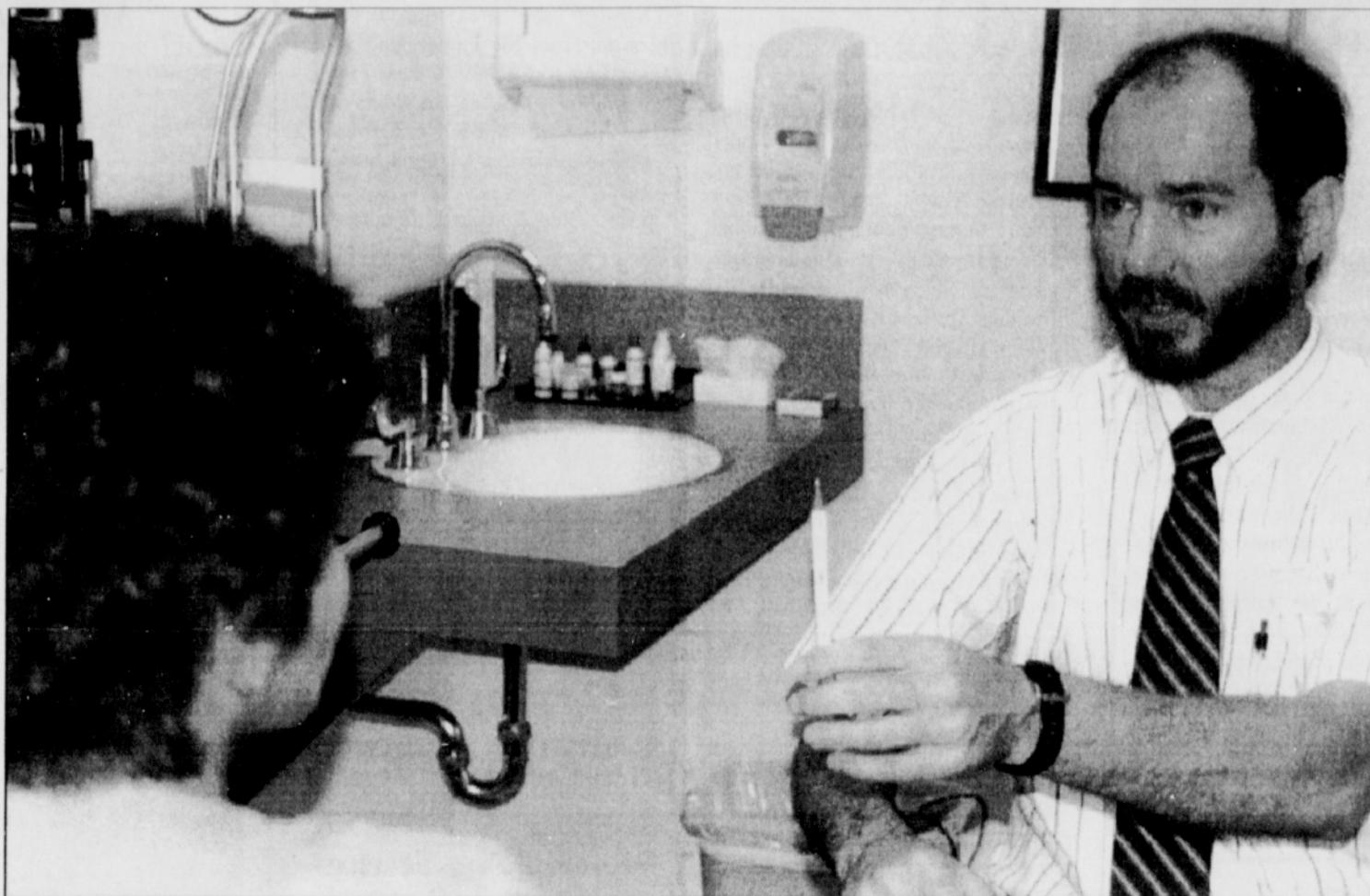
Village School

A meeting introducing Ikonnwa-the Village School, a free alternative elementary school in the Portland School District, will be held Thursday at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave. at 6:30 p.m. Call 282-0727 for more information.

Hood River expo

The Hood River Valley Harvest Fest is held Oct. 3-5 with handcrafters, fresh local produce, food, wine tasting, demonstrations and live entertainment on the Hood River waterfront.

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



Matt Terwilliger examines a patient at the Pacific University College of Optometry's Northeast Eye and Vision Center at 5329 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard provides complete eye and vision exams for children and adults.

(Photo by M. Washington)

Eye clinic offers affordable, good service

By LEE PERLMAN

Pacific University College of Optometry's northeast Eye and Vision Center is an anomaly: an inner city low-cost health care resource that's underutilized.

The center at 5329 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard provides complete eye and vision screenings for children and adults.

"We do everything eye-related," attending physician Dr. Brooks Aldredge says.

This includes a test for glaucoma on the clinic's state of the art Vision Field machine, and extended care for the disease if it is detected. The charge for all this, for those covered by health insurance plans or meeting county low-income guidelines, is \$25, which Aldredge says is "one half to one third of commercial rates." The cost of a Vision Field machine test alone is normally about \$80, he says.

New prescription glasses, with a variety

of frames, cost \$90 apiece for single vision, \$135 for bifocals.

The center is a partnership between Pacific University and Multnomah County. The intent is to "provide care for the community at a price they can afford, and also to provide training for (optometric college) students," Aldredge says.

He adds that the training doesn't come at

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School days, but no golden rule

By PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

In view of the current turmoil in the Portland school district, is it any wonder that many Northeast residents are demanding a "return to basics?" And this time their relevant queries are as vigorously directed to the core of the educational process as previously applied to the basic "3Rs."

Backgrounding this tumultuous stage, we have the frenzied headlines, "District Plans for Bierworth Departure: Educators wrestle with how to keep the system running..." -- "Finances Consumed Energy, Fueled Controversy" -- "Deputy's Interim Role Unclear Despite Experience" -- "Outward Bound

Coming on the heels of the "Humboldt Blowup", Superintendent Bierwirth's resignation was hardly an announcement designed to sooth the jangled nerves of frustrated parents

Blamed For Jump."

The media hue and cry is no less a forecast of an educational armageddon than some of the doomsday predictions of a very concerned community. Coming on the heels of the "Humboldt Blowup," the news of Superintendent Bierwirth's resignation was hardly an announcement designed to sooth the jangled nerves of frustrated parents -- and it certainly had no such effect.

It was not so much that a possible savior had departed, but more like "Good Lord, what else is going to happen - is a defecting leadership a portent of even more disruptive events to come? I find these concerns being expressed among teachers of my acquaintance as well as parents and guardians. And, certainly, the dialogue is not limited to those who are directly associated with the Humboldt Elementary School.

Of course, there is intense "speculation" within the system itself and, according to media pundits who put claim to a good relationship with insiders, "machination" was said to be a more appropriate term. It is projected that there will be a bitter and protracted battle between the "good-ol-boys" network and those "who believe school reform is possible and that Mr. Bierwirth had it right - but then came the final defunding economic blows." (Isn't their ever a "good-old-girls" network).

For now, those who are on the outside to varying degree watch the swirling shadows on the surface of the pool and speculate about the turmoil beneath. School district administrators wrestle with the expected problems; how will the new superintendent be chosen, how much time will that process take and what will be the form of the interim structure? Will he (or can he) be told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Will he or she be treated like the "Pied Piper of Hamein" who was hired to rid a village of rats, then belatedly informed, "we are broke?" It is to be remembered that Superintendent Bierwirth has three children in Portland public schools and that in the past he has said, "I would pull them out of the system if I ever believed they were not getting a sound education. But Portland schools haven't reached that point." That was then and this is now; Gone Bierwirth, gone superintendency, gone children! What is he telling us?

While many minority community leaders praised Bierwirth's commitment to raise test scores among all students (Said to be demonstrated by Humboldt), both Will Fuller, President of 'Schools For the City' and James K. Sager, former President of the Portland Teachers Union said that the superintendent made a serious mistake with his 'Humboldt blowup' (Sager is now presi-

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Fall ritual at Civic Stadium

The Wilson High School Boys Varsity Football team heads onto the field for a Friday night game with Grant. See related photos, in Sports.

(Photo by M. Washington)

Kids hear from sports legends

College, professional bests attend NIKE ceremony

By NEIL HEILPERN

Nike gave one of its shoes to Self Enhancement Inc. last week, and it seemed to really fit the need.

On the side of the athletic shoe was written an official check for \$750,000 to support SEI's summer programs for the next three years.

Handing the plexiglass-enclosed shoe to SEI President Tony Hopson, Nike Public Affairs Director Doug Stamm said the slogans of both organizations had parallels.

SEI's slogan is "Life has options;" Nike's is "Just do it."

Both challenge people to improve themselves and find personal success," said Stamm.

"You've got the safe space and caring adults," he noted. "We will walk with you and we plan to use this program as a model."

Georgetown Hoya Coach John Thomp-

son and Miami Heat All-Star Guard Tim Hardaway were on hand for the presentation and to encourage SEI youngsters during the morning's activities.

Both gave a solid message to youngsters that getting on an NBA team is not as important a goal in basketball as enjoyment of the sport and using it to get a good education.

Thompson expressed appreciation for the modern SEI facility, but noted "The most significant thing you do isn't the program or the building, but being there to give guidance to young people, sit down with them and give some direction."

He stressed the need for more role models and mentors.

Hopson noted that many people donated funds to build the modern SEI structure on Failing Street, but donations dwindled after the facade was completed.

SEI youngsters were asked what they

would do if they had the power of the president and answers ranged from stopping violence to helping homeless people find shelter.

When the children were given the chance to pose questions to their guests, Hardaway was asked how long he has played basketball.

"Since sixth grade," said the 31-year-old player, "but the hard work paid off."

A future NBA hopeful teen asked Thompson what he looks for in a point guard. "A lot!" was the simple answer, followed by Thompson's description of a visit to a prospective player's home so he could see first-hand the level of respect the young person has developed for family and community. "I also look to see if you have across over dribble."

"Don't go to school looking to be in the NBA," said Hardaway. "Use sports to get a good education. Don't take that for granted."