

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Kids need coats

You can help needy children in the Portland area stay warm this winter through the Salvation Army "Coats for Kids" drive. Donations in all sizes are needed. Dry cleaners throughout the area are collecting and cleaning the coats through October. Look for posters in neighborhood cleaners or call the Salvation Army at 234-0825.

Sky shows at Mt. Hood

"Exploring the Autumn Sky, the first planetarium show of the year for Mt. Hood Community College opens Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the MHCC Planetarium Sky Theater. Admission is one dollar. The theater is located on the main campus beneath the library.

Help for depression

Is someone in your family depressed? Camerawork Behavior Health Services, a joint program of area hospitals will provide free check-ups as part of National Depression Day, Thursday, Oct. 9. Adult screenings will take place from 7-8:30 p.m. at Legacy Good Samaritan, 1040 N.W. 22 Ave. Adolescent screenings will take place from 4-6 p.m. at Boise-Eliot School, 620 N. Fremont. Pre-registration is required by calling 335-3500.

Gandhi opens series

Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma K. "Mahatma" Gandhi, will kick-off the Reed College Women's Committee lecture series, Conscience and Community, Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Vollum Lecture Hall. Gandhi will discuss aspects of community living, both in India and worldwide. Tony Hopson of Self Enhancement, Inc. is the invited speaker on Oct. 23.

Walk for diabetes

Walktoberfest, America's Walk for Diabetes, takes place Saturday at Holladay Park near the Lloyd Center. Participants will support a prevention and cure for this serious chronic illness. For more information or to register to walk or volunteer call 1-800-254-WALK.

Sauerkraut festival

Pumpkin decorating, quilt raffle, cotton candy and crafts is just a fraction of the things you'll find at Steinfield's Scappoose Sauerkraut Festival, Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Scappoose Heritage Park.

Scouts sell popcorn

Area Boy Scouts will go out into area neighborhoods during October to conduct a fundraising drive delicious Trail's End gourmet popcorn. Sixty-eight percent of the purchase price goes directly to scouting in the local area.

Church organist needed

North/northeast Portland's Immaculate Heart Church seeks a pianist/organist for its youth gospel choir. The position requires 10 to 12 hours a month playing a weekly practice and 2-3 services a month. Call 287-3724 for information.

Support for kids, parents

Common Bond, a partnership of Volunteers of America and the Urban League of Portland, offers free playgroup, parenting classes, monthly field trips and health nurse services to northeast Portland residents with children 0 to 3 years. For information contact Leslie or Ima at 280-1616.

Home maintenance tips

Instruction on home maintenance issues take place during a Portland Housing Center class Oct. 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Terrell Hall, Room 201 on the PCC Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth. The class is presented by the Portland Housing Center, a non-profit group.

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



Shanice Wright (left) and Tiairre Pratcher, both of northeast Portland, joke with Sunflower the Clown at Northwest Festival of Clowns.

(Photo by Neil Heilpern)

Clowns smile on all

By NEIL HEILPERN

The Northwest Festival of Clowns Saturday provided northeast Portland with a cornucopia of gags, giggles, smiles and cases of the sillies.

Several hundred clowns came to this three day conference for training, workshops, performances, coaching and competitions. Saturday's event, sponsored by the Rose City Clowns, saw numerous colorful characters parading their stuff for the public.

The clowns were an assortment of unique, comical characters who used their appearances, actions and skills to entertain.

Some wore white face, others had the "Auguste" skin tone make up and others wore character specialty faces.

As they paraded and frolicked in and around the Holiday Inn at the airport, it was obvious they shared a philosophy of going beyond cultural differences to give everyone a chance to laugh and create laughter.

"No one is prejudiced around a clown, no racial barriers," said parade judge Angel Ocasio, of Vancouver, also known as "Willy" the clown. He told The Portland Observer he was "impressed with the growth of quality clowns."

"At one time clowns were a male dominated role," noted Ocasio. "Now a lot of women are clowns, adding more dimension to the role."

Ocasio was also selling educational comedy magazines and videotapes in the "deal-

'One advantage of being a clown is you are no longer white, black, yellow or red,' - Harley the Clown, also known as Bob Benson of northeast Portland

to the role."

Ocasio was also selling educational comedy magazines and videotapes in the "dealers" room, which was filled with fake eyelashes and makeup, silly stickers, multi-colored clown shoes, and zany wigs, masks, magic tricks and funny ties.

Just as Ocasio, a Puerto Rican from New York City, noted that Hispanics have an "incredible passion for clowning," Gina Hernandez Wollrabe, of northeast Portland, walked through the door.

"That's where we start getting our looks," she said to a visitor, pointing to the many booths. "Out comes the wallet," she proclaimed, heading for the plastic noses. "A new red nose for Cha Cha and a flesh colored

nose for my new character Gramma Rose, the old lady."

Cha Cha is the clown name for her Carman Mirands look, complete with bunches of grapes and other fruit. When she got into costume and headed out for the parade, her comedy kept people laughing.

She walked up to people, carrying a covered bird cage, and asking, "Would you like to see my Tucan? Her name is Rosarita and she comes from the south aisle of Safeway." Once people nibbled at the gag, she uncovered the cage to reveal two cans of Rosarita refried beans.

Gina chose the name Cha Cha (short for

Continued to page B4

Vibrant youth banners on Alberta need protection

Have you noticed the colorful banners flying on Northeast Alberta Street?

The banners were created by nine youth employed in Sabin Community Development Corporation's Summer Youth Employment Program.

"The banners represent a resurgence of LIFE along the Alberta Corridor" said Roslyn Hill of Roslyn's Coffee House, an Alberta Street business.

Now, the organization needs the community's help to keep the banners hanging in good shape. Since the organization hung the banners in late August, two of the banners have disappeared, and several have come down and been recovered.

"It would be a shame to lose any of the banners. The young artists were very proud

of their work, and most wanted to keep the banners they created. It was a big step for them to release ownership of their work to share with the community a sense of pride, beauty, and promise," said Cruz.

One of the missing banners has a turquoise background with a brown figure and the words "Sky Goddess." The other missing banner has a fuchsia background with the words "Love is the Key to Life."

The organization asks anyone who knows anything about the missing banners to give them a call 287-3496. In addition, people can watch the condition of the banners and if they see any of them coming loose, call Sabin CDC.

"We appreciate the community's help in keeping the youth's beautiful banners flying high on Alberta" said Eric Beene of Sabin CDC.



Area residents continue to set priorities for the future look of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (Photo by M. Washington)

Common ground on MLK

Participants in the second public meeting on the future of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard generally supported several design concepts for the street.

About 70 area residents and business owners attended the session to review a report by the MLK Project Advisory Com-

mittee. Overall, there was agreement to remove selected mediums along the boulevard to support commercial business development while protecting residential areas.

The participants were in favor of retaining trees where possible and adding new ones where appropriate.

The group also emphasized the importance of keeping as much through traffic out of the neighborhoods and slowing traffic for businesses and for pedestrian safety.

There was also common ground on supporting improved access to businesses, including safe bicycle and pedestrian crossings and bicycle parking along the corridor.

Improved lighting, benches and covered bus stops were also promoted.