

Hope in the Cities Brings Portland Into Race Talks

Hope in the Cities is the title of a conference described as "an honest conversation on race, reconciliation and responsibility," part of a national dialogue.

This conference will take place on November 1-2 at Portland State University and is initiated by Moral Re-Armament (MRA) in association with Portland State University, the Urban League of Portland, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Institute for Judaic Studies and the Office of Neighborhood Associations.

MRA's goal is global transformation carried forward by people of different convictions and faiths who seek God's inspiration for individual and common action.

The purpose of the conference is to establish an ongoing dialogue

among the diverse ethnic, racial and religious communities in the area. Participants will be invited to come to grips with subtle racism, latent anti-Semitism, stereotyping, urban-rural divisions, and the collision of values as newcomers move into the community.

The conference will launch a "Call to Community" which has been signed by a national group of leaders and by local officials including Governor Kitzhaber, former Governors Atiyeh, Hatfield, and Roberts, and Mayor Vera Katz, Multnomah County Commission Chair Bev Stein, and some thirty prominent citizens from different backgrounds.

"We must demonstrate," states the Call, "that our diversity is our greatest strength and that out of this diversity is rising a new Ameri-

can community."

The conference will build on the work of the Richmond (VA) based Hope in the Cities, which is an inter-racial, multi-faith coalition of individuals in business, government, education, media, religious and community organizations.

The Richmond delegation will be led by State Senator Henry Marsh III, the first African-American Mayor of Richmond, Virginia, and his successor as Mayor, Walter Kenney. Among speakers from overseas will be Hari Shukla, for nineteen years head of race relations in the English city of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Case studies will be presented from other parts of the U.S. and time in small facilitated groups will enable participants to get to know each other.

Registration will take place at 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 1 in Portland State University's Harrison Hall.

The conference includes a Saturday evening banquet and will conclude with a concert by African American singer Joe Carter at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 2, at Neveh Shalom synagogue on Peaceful Lane in SW Portland.

To ensure participation and meals, registrations are asked for by October 20. Cost is \$10 for any or all sessions, Saturday Box Lunch \$6, Saturday night banquet \$15, and Joe Carter Sunday afternoon concert \$7.50, with discounted admission of \$5 for Seniors and students.

For further information, contact Michael Henderson at (503) 636-5454.



Joe Carter entertains at Hope in the Cities Conference.

Kaiser Service Employees Are Back

Kaiser Permanente service employees are back at work after voting to ratify a new 21-month contract, thus ending a 33-day strike. Most employees reported to their jobs on Monday, October 6.

"The new contract meets our objective of keeping health care affordable for members while ensuring that our total compensation package for employees remains among the best in the community," says Jim Pruitt, Kaiser Permanente's director of labor relations.

"Service employees are joining the majority of other Kaiser Permanente employees and contributing an amount equal to 10 percent of their monthly benefits package, for the service employees about \$80," he adds.

The new contract, which ends June 30, 1999:

It immediately boosts wages 2-percent and provides another 2-percent increase on July 1, 1998.

It phases in over the next 15 to 30 years employee contributions toward post-retirement medical coverage. This is a benefit that is not even provided to other local health care workers. With the change, future retirees will ultimately pay 30 percent of their coverage's cost; current retirees will continue to receive fully employer-paid coverage.

It requires service employees to pay \$7 for medical or dental visits and \$3 for prescription.

And it raises the amount Kaiser Permanente contributes to the union's education.

The first day back on the job was filled with emotions for all staff as people began getting back to normal routines. In many locations, employees brought cookies or other baked goods to welcome the returning employees. Hundreds of staff who had been temporarily replacing the service employees returned to their regular jobs. Individual and small-group meetings took place in all the medical and dental facilities, offering people a chance to talk about what happened during the strike and to focus on meeting members' needs.

Kaiser Permanente's Operational Support Services Manager Ray Robertson says, "Everyone worked very hard to care for our members during what turned out to be a long strike. We missed our colleagues, and it's good to have them back as part of our health care team."

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVE A GAMBLING PROBLEM?

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PDC
PORTLAND
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING

Date: October 24, 1997
Place: Masonic Hall
5811 S.E. 92nd
Portland, OR

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC or by calling 823-3200. Citizens with disabilities may call 823-3232 or TDD 823-6868 for assistance at least 48 hours in advance.

PDC is the City of Portland's urban renewal, housing and economic development agency.