

**Artharee to address journalists**

Community leader honored by Portland Association of Black Journalists.



See Metro, inside.

**Main Street Theater features Tobray**

Musical comedy opens this weekend downtown.



See Metro, inside

**Patti LaBelle's good vibrations keep comin'**

High Priestess of song releases new album.



See Entertainment, page B3.

# The Portland Observer

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper University of Oregon Library Eugene, Oregon 97403

25¢

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Woman denies 22 killings**

A worker at a Danish nursing home pleaded not guilty to charges of killing 22 elderly residents with overdoses of painkillers. The case is being called the biggest mass killing in modern Danish history. The woman, who was not identified, cried as she entered her plea to the charge of killing. Police statements in the woman's case indicate the deaths might have been mercy killings.

**US says Microsoft violated pact**

The Justice Department has announced it's taking action against computer giant Microsoft. Attorney General Janet Reno is accusing Microsoft of using its Windows "monopoly" to force computer makers to include the Microsoft Internet browser in pre-loaded software. Department officials believe that puts rivals such as Netscape at a competitive disadvantage.

**IRS plan on the table**

The chief tax writer in the House of Representatives is expected to propose legislation that would revamp the Internal Revenue Service. House Ways and Means Chairman, Texas Republican Bill Archer is proposing among other things to shift the burden of proof from the taxpayer to the IRS if the agency charges a taxpayer with wrongdoing. Archer's bill would also create an independent oversight board with authority over the IRS.

**Heart Trouble for Women**

A new study shows that heart disease is the leading cause of death among American women and could reach epidemic proportions as the population ages. The study published in the British Medical Journal says older American women are 10 times more likely to die from heart disease than breast cancer, dispelling the myth that coronary problems are mainly a male affliction.

**GM: Raise gas prices**

A General Motors executive says gasoline prices should be raised so that Americans will be forced to try more fuel-efficient vehicles. Louis Hughes, GM's executive vice president of international operations, says a tax increase of 50 cents on a gallon would get Americans to change their gas-guzzling ways. He spoke in advance of the Tokyo Motor Show, where global warming and fuel-efficient, clean-car technology are hot topics.

**White House denies tampering**

The White House is denying it doctored any of the videotapes showing President Clinton courting Democratic donors at the Executive Mansion. The suggestion of tampering was made Sunday by Rep. Dan Burton, the Indiana Republican chairing the House committee investigating fund raising in last year's campaign.

**Ginkgo Shows Promise**

Researchers say extract from the ginkgo tree seems to help people with dementia. The extract helped patients with Alzheimer's disease, the most common cause of senility, and those with vascular dementia, according to Pierre LeBars and colleagues at the New York Institute for Medical Research. It delayed progression of dementia by the equivalent of six months, they reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

## North Portland clinic faces crisis

**Mariah Taylor's clinic, a loving, healing place**

BY NEIL HEILPERN

Chipping paint on the sign outside Mariah Taylor's pediatric nurse-practitioner clinic needs healing.

Inside the small brick building the healing for patients, age birth to 21, combines a blend of love and medicine.

Hundreds of children's photos and their art work cover the walls; shelves display teddy bears eventually given to young patients.

Taylor is the most impressive piece of art in the place, switching from a pensive face studying someone's condition, to a burst of energy exploding into an exaggerated facial expression that shows patients what she expects them to mimic during examination.

Most people leave with a hug.

A plaque on the wall attests to her work as a "Front Line Soldier," which she was designated by the Albina Ministerial Alliance in 1991.

A "soldier marching and fighting for the health of children and people too poor to afford health care," it reads.

When she couldn't find a job in 1980, Taylor squeezed out from her psyche the philosophy of resourcefulness and problem solving learned in a farm family with 20 children. She joined another nurse and found space in a local doctor's office. The current clinic was opened in 1981.

"My parents taught us not to blame others for our lack of services and resources," she told The Portland Observer. "We were never taught Black paranoia that emphasizes other people are picking on us."

"Instead," she says with a broad flowing, gentle smile, "we were taught that we are all interconnected, all brothers and sisters."

"This is my ministry, where my life, love, talents and skills are given to further the ministry of the Lord," said Taylor. Without that attitude, she "would have given up a long time ago."

Other clinics have closed because of fund-



Nurse Practitioner Mariah Taylor examines Gerardo Murillo-Castro.

(Photo by Neil Heilpern)

ing difficulties, she noted.

"I exist because of His will, even though at times I have had to close the clinic for a while, crying and experiencing burnout."

Earning \$20,000 less a year than most colleagues, Taylor manages to stay afloat, to be there for the "prodigals among the wayward youth" who come for physical healing and walk away with much more.

A blanket donated by the Emporium sits on a shelf, waiting for the return of a young patient whose family had to sleep in a nearby park.

She rattles a defective otoscope, hoping for the funds to replace the pointed instrument that

sends light into ears.

"Our patients try other clinics but can't get in because they lack the resources," said Taylor.

Seeking funding to keep the clinic open, this nurse realizes "prayer changes things. This is a faith ministry."

Prayer once resulted in an overdue PP&L bill being excused. And after the clinic was vandalized, she prayed until "out of that negative came the positive of more community support."

Now the cycle has come to the point of need once more and she is praying for help to keep her clinic and small staff working to heal the poor.

**Cash influx needed to save vital health services**

The North Portland Nurse Practitioner Community Health Clinic has provided health care to young people since November 1980, but now faces closure unless new revenue is found by Nov. 15, said Mariah S. Taylor, the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner who runs it.

Up to 15 children a day are treated for such illnesses as ruptured ear drums, skin infections, school emergencies, well child care, and conditions related to "no access to health care."

As a pediatric nurse practitioner, Taylor treats people up to 21 years, offers complete treatment/medications, referrals and follow-up care, at the clinic, at 5311 N. Vancouver Ave.

However, in the past six months, there have been a 75 percent increase in homeless families who sleep in parks, cars and on the street who need health care access, social services and support.

Taylor believes, "I am my brother's keeper, and believe wholistic health which addresses the whole person is the only way I can practice."

Taylor also provides food, clothing, educational material, immunizations, Headstart/school screenings, treatment and referrals for emergencies and minor acute illnesses.

Our peak months are October through April," she said. "That's because the winter months take the greatest toll on children's health, but we are seeing conditions in the fall which usually surface during the winter."

Taylor has one full time staff member besides herself, and depend on volunteers to staff the clinic and assist with the provision of health care. Pre-med, high school and nursing students make up the bulk of volunteers at the clinic.

Churches and community members also play a vital role in maintaining the high

Continued to page B2

**Water Bureau works to reduce lead hazard**

Program will be delivered at no cost to water users

The Portland Water Bureau is embarked on a five-year strategy to reduce lead exposure.

"Removing lead from drinking water is a federal priority throughout the United States," said Erik Sten, Commissioner of Public Works, "and the law requires each water utility to do something about it. We don't have lead in our drinking water, so it makes no sense to spend limited ratepayer dollars on a requirement that returns little value to the community. Instead, we are developing an alternative that focuses on families that are most at risk of lead exposure."

The Lead Reduction Program will establish a pilot program in the Humboldt neighborhood, with participants selected by age of homes, number of children, and incidence of elevated blood lead levels in children tested through a recent Multnomah County Program. The program will expand to other high-risk neighborhoods over the next five years.

"We are using the same dollars we would have spent on treating water to instead reduce real lead exposure in our communities," stated Sten. "Our program will be at no cost to participants."



Charles Shi



Miltie Vega Lloyd



Cliff Jones

**Nordstrom boosts cultural harmony**

Light shines on folks who have received little recognition before

Eleven local residents were honored Friday for their efforts in promoting cultural harmony in our community at the second annual Celebration of Cultural Diversity, 1997 Nordstrom Community Service awards.

The honored guests included Lanice Coleman, floor manager for the Sisters of the Road Cafe; Cliff Jones, human rights and diversity activist, Technical Assistance for Community Services; Miltie Vega Lloyd, human resources manager for The Columbian; Greg Robeson, owner of

Robeson Marketing Communications; and Charles Shi, volunteer executive director of Asian Affairs for the State of Oregon.

Also honored were student volunteers Audrey Davis, Amber Felker, Matthew Richmond, Koy Saechao, Koy Saeliew and Vi Pham with the Red Cross Peer Emergency Trainer Team.

All of "these individuals have worked tirelessly to promote culture harmony in our community, and up to this point, have received little recognition for their efforts," event organizers said.

Approximately \$35,000 was raised

for the celebration through ticket sales and individual contributions from Nordstrom and Lane Powell Spears Lubersky.

The beneficiaries included the Cascade AIDS Project, Oregon Trail chapter of the Red Cross, Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement, Refugee/Immigrant Consortium of Oregon and Southwest Washington, Self Enhancement, Inc., and Sisters of the Road Cafe.

The event was held at The Atrium at Montgomery Park and included entertainment by the NW African American Ballet.