

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Keep Living the Dream

Oregon's largest Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at Jefferson High School Center for the Performing Arts on 5210 N. Kerby. The program will be held on Monday, Jan. 19 at noon until 6 p.m. The entire program will be simulcast on KBOO radio (90.7 FM) and Paragon Cable. The program will feature civic and community leaders followed by dance, performance, dramatic vignettes, authentic African drummers, jazz bands, gospel music and much more. Call Raina Beavers at 249-1721 or Ken Berry at 916-5666 or 727-8755.

#### United Way Needs Volunteers

United Way is recruiting volunteers to evaluate programs at local United Way member agencies. Individuals may choose to participate in helping troubled youth, elderly, disabled, domestic violence survivors, and other groups in need of assistance. The time commitment is seven hours a month from Jan. through May of 1998. Call Rochelle Henniger at 226-9357 or Bella Nissen at 226-9351.

#### Portland Center Stage

The play, Valley Song by Athol Fugard will be playing from Jan. 10 through Feb. 7. For tickets and information, please call the Portland Center Stage box office at 274-6588.

#### Free Diversity Training

The Metropolitan Human Rights Center will sponsor a free diversity training workshop at Jackson Community School on Thursday, Jan. 22 from 6:30 until 9 p.m. The Jackson Community School is located at 10625 SW 35th in Portland. The training fosters mutual understanding and respect among all members of our community. Dynamic Differences promotes partnerships for positive change across cultural differences. To register, contact Linda Hunter at 823-5136 (Voice TTY). If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodation, please call at least 48 hours in advance.

#### Help Survivors of Domestic Abuse

Volunteers are needed at Clackamas Women's Services, the only domestic violence shelter for women and children in Clackamas County. Make a difference in the life of a woman or child. Volunteers with Spanish-speaking ability are especially needed! The next volunteer training begins Thursday, Jan. 22. To receive an application packet and more information, call Delina at 654-2807.

#### Do You Love to Shop?

As a certified Elder Friendly Business volunteer you can evaluate local businesses for their "elder friendliness" and advise managers on how to better serve the older population. The next training for volunteers is Thursday, Jan. 29 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center from 9:30 a.m. until noon. For more info., call 823-5269 by Jan. 22.

#### Special Jewish Concert

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center will present a special concert featuring artist, Craig Taubman and his band on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. Tickets for the concert may be purchased by calling the MJCC at 244-0111, Neveh Shalom at 246-8831 or Temple Beth Israel at 222-1069. Tickets are also available at TicketMaster outlets.

#### Elton John at Rose Garden

One of Rock's greatest superstars, Elton John will be at the Rose Garden Arena on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at all Fred Meyer FASTIXX locations, Rose Quarter Box Office, Music Millennium, or Charge-by-phone at 224-TIXX (8499).

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

## Lewis & Clark College Arts Alive Series

Performance artist Dan Froot and guest artist David Dorfman to perform on Jan. 23 and 24

Award-winning performance artist, saxophonist and dancer Dan Froot will present a collection of short solo pieces and perform a duet with special guest artist David Dorfman at Lewis & Clark College in January. Froot will present two performances: one Friday, Jan. 23, and another Saturday, Jan.

*"[Dan Froot] is a storyteller of genuine presence. I'm not sure where Froot is heading, but I'd follow him anywhere."*

-Dance Magazine

*"Dan Froot is both imaginative and unclassifiable... a dancer, storyteller and actor who could be puckish one moment and poignant the next."*

-The New York Times

24, at 7:30 p.m. on the Fir Acres Theatre Main Stage, Lewis & Clark College, 0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road. Froot's performances are part of the College's Arts Alive series. KBOO 90.7 is co-sponsor.

Froot's performance work bridges the disciplines of dance, music and theater. He received a New York Dance and Performance Award, a.k.a. Bessie, for his music-theater piece, "Seventeen Kilos of Garlic" in 1991. Froot's shows at Lewis & Clark will mark his first headline performance in Portland.

The program will feature "Loop," a saxophone-dance, and "Knee Deep in a Kiss," a five-part set of theatrical alto saxophone solos, which incorporate vocal sounds, staging and movement.



Dan Froot

## Minimum Wage Goes Up January 1

Bureau of Labor and Industries officials remind Oregon employers that the state minimum wage rate goes up to \$6.00 per hour beginning January 1, 1998. This is the second of three minimum wage hikes approved by Oregonians through the initiative process in 1996. The first increase was to \$5.50 an hour January 1, 1997; the third takes place January 1, 1999. Oregon has the highest minimum wage of any state. Only the District of Columbia has a higher rate of \$6.15.

All Oregon employers must comply with the new state wage rate. The only employers exempt from the requirement are federal government employers who can continue to pay the current federal minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour.

Other important aspects of Oregon's minimum wage law:

- There is no tip credit. Employers may not count tips when calculating an employee's wages.
  - Overtime pay is due after 40 work hours in a week. Employees must be paid time and one-half the regular rate of pay when they work more than 40 hours in a week. Some employees, for example agricultural workers, are exempt from the overtime requirement.
  - Payroll deductions can be made for the benefit of the employee, with the employee's authorization. Examples include deductions for savings, insurance premiums, and charitable donations. Employers must provide an itemized list of deductions with each paycheck.
  - All employers must post a state minimum wage poster. Posters are available at all bureau offices. Employers may also order the poster by sending \$7.50 mailing and handling fee to: BOLI, 800 N.E. Oregon Street, #32, Portland, OR 97232. Posters dated January, 1997 are still current.
- Employers with questions about the law can call the bureau's employer assistance line in Portland, 503-731-4073 ext. 4.

## Don Willner Honored For Services

Don S. Willner, a senior partner in the Portland law firm of Willner Keaney Mata & U'ren LLP, has been honored by Portland State University for his years of support on behalf of the university.

Willner was recognized for his work by Portland State President Dan Bernstine and

*"He was able to show that boosting the status of Portland State was beneficial to quality of life not only for Portland but also for the entire state."*

others at a reception Dec. 11 at the PSU Millar Library.

Willner, who served as a state senator from 1963 to 1973, was instrumental in drawing up legislation that changed the designation of Portland State College to Portland State University. University status, attained in 1969, enabled Portland State to expand its graduate and doctoral programs while meeting the longstanding need for a full-fledged state. Willner led the debate to strengthen Portland State's status, draw more prestigious faculty and help boost enrollment. He has continued to be a vocal proponent of Portland State's urban mission and stature among Oregon's institutions of higher education.

"It took six years," Willner told a group of about 100 at the Millar Library. "It's fitting that we're in the Millar Library on this occasion.



Portland State President Dan Bernstine (left) greets Marjorie Burns, PSU professor of English, and her husband Don Willner at a recent reception honoring Willner for his longtime support of PSU.

Branford Millar (PSU's president from 1959 to 1968) and I were close friends. During those six years, there were things as a legislator I could do on the outside

and things he could do on the inside" to make university status a reality.

"What Don Willner did could be termed heroic, given the sentiments of

some legislators from various parts of the state at that time," recalled State Sen. Tom Hartung (R-Dist. 3). "He was able to show that boosting the status of Portland State was beneficial to quality of life not only for Portland but also for the entire state."

Former State Sen. and retired Oregon Supreme Court Justice Betty Roberts said Willner was the "legislative catalyst" that was needed to win statewide support of Portland State's university status. "His determination and endurance, plus his ability to work with all kinds of people, made it happen."

Willner has been active in civic affairs and public service for more than 30 years.

As a state senator, he was instrumental in writing legislation that created the Oregon Scenic Rivers Act, Oregon Consumer Deceptive Trades Act, and Oregon Recreational Trails Act. He also was an ardent supporter of civil rights and migrant worker legislation.

Willner is past director of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Consumer Federation of America, and former director of the National Institute of Consumer Justice. He was named Citizen of the Year in 1971 by the Oregon Division of Izaak Walton League, and has written several articles about environmental and consumer law.

## Report Provides New Insights Into Suicide

Suicide and suicidal thoughts by Oregonians," a newly released Oregon Health Division report, provides a first of its kind, in-depth examination of suicide in Oregon.

The study is based upon 1994 data gathered from the Health Division's Adult Behavior Risk Factor Survey and

from death certificates. It describes not only the characteristics of Oregonians who have committed suicide, but provides additional, new analysis of the behaviors and demographic characteristics of others who have seriously considered suicide.

Oregon is the first state in the nation

to use this survey to examine how prevalent the thought of suicide is among Oregonians, says Grant Higginson, M.D., State Health Officer.

"Information presented in this report explores many aspects of suicide behavior. It also casts new light on some of our commonly held assumptions," he

states.

According to the report, Oregon's suicide rate has climbed over the past several decades. For nine of the past ten years, Oregon's suicide rate has exceeded the nation's by at least 25 percent; in 1994 the state's rate was 42 percent higher than the national rate.