

## Neighborhood At Odds Over 7-plex

CONTINUED FROM FRONT.

can do this whether you like it or not."

Neighbor Kenneth Bello added, "You have made up your mind already, and you're wasting our time."

Strachan retorted, "If it was a done deal, why would I stand here and take this sxxx for an hour?"

Ediger later told the Observer that Sabin CDC has never before had such a high-intensity dispute with neighbors since it was founded by members of the Sabin Community Association in 1993, and that it isn't

enjoying the experience.

Jeff Moreland, a leader of the opposition, says he would like to see five owner-occupied dwellings on the site. He feels there is a disproportionate amount of low-income rental housing in Northeast Portland, and especially in the immediate area. "Is there a need for it?" he says. "Absolutely. But there's more of a need for low-income home ownership opportunities." The Sabin CDC proposal is "looking for (zoning) loopholes instead of acknowledging the spirit and good intentions of the Albina

Community Plan."

Ediger says the project is funded by \$666,000 from the Portland Development Commission and a private lender that specifies rental housing. She is unsure if there is funding for the sort of project that Moreland and others want. "The vast majority of city funding is for rental housing," she says. "We try to capture as much funding for owner-occupied housing as we can." Securing funds to reconfigure this project will be "a big uphill battle," she says.

## Neighbors of abused kids to become activists

CONTINUED FROM FRONT.

"If children are bombarded with the negative, they see this as normative behavior," which adds to the problem of child abuse.

Portland Observer officials agreed about the need for more success stories to enthrone people and promised to provide more stories about people who make a difference and people who are overcoming challenges to provide children with a better home and social atmosphere.

"Although we work with the whole family, the child is our primary client," said Toran, who has headed the state agency for more than three years.

"When we become aware of a report that a child is the victim of abuse and neglect, we make a full assessment," she said, with common solutions ranging from financial aid,

classes in parenting or anger management, to substance abuse programs.

"The problem is that there is not enough money for all these things," she said. Solutions to child abuse need to be a "front-end early prevention approach" instead of the "back-end that leads to costly incarceration of people."

Asked why surplus state funds can't be used for that purpose, Toran said, "The community voice is needed at the state legislature, mostly to provide programs of prevention and early intervention, the best ways to keep families functional."

Foster care for the children can be an intermediate step, while the parents get their act together, she noted, with adoption kept as a last step to protect the child.

If more quality programs aren't funded or provided soon, she said, there is danger that the children will become greater problems themselves and graduate to the juvenile justice system. That bears a higher cost. The next step up is the adult criminal system with costs of \$40,000 annually per person incarcerated, she stressed.

Acknowledging the "fear-protection reaction" that causes society's rush to incarcerate violators, Toran said, "It is a lot easier to put more resources into family and kid programs than later putting someone in jail because they hit someone over the head with a baseball bat."

One problem with funding is the lack of "outcome data" to understand how well or poorly our use of resources is, she said.

## Oregon Education Process In A Daze (Again), Part II

By Prof. McKinley Burt

Some of the Portland Observer's readership seemed quite "dazed" by last week's citation of the 170 year-old state of Massachusetts' teacher standards for high school instructors. "I never dreamed...what in the world has happened to education in this country?" asked a local administrator who requested that his name be withheld.

I was pretty certain that I would hit a number of raw nerves with that polemic on 'universal or national standards' ("Quality Control") being a rather obvious prerequisite to developing an orderly and efficient education structure - an approach that is commonsensical by definition. This is not the opinion of rocket scientists but that of our readers and that general public with whom, we interact. Isn't Europe moving toward a 'uniform currency'?

An attorney not only adopts my models - "Standard Time Zones, standard prescription labels, uniform widths of railroad tracks for 'all the state's'" - but states that in the legal profession "we have moved far beyond the earlier advances such as 'uniform partnership laws, sales acts etc. but have instituted many standard procedures for the federal legal system."

Our barrister goes on to say, "I

cannot understand today, a hundred and seventy years later than the Massachusetts concept for both a standard curriculum and a related standard for the teacher, how there can be those who propose that America can successfully advance and compete in the year 2000 - Not without agreement on the basics."

A parent makes a similar point in her own unique way, "why does the emphasis always seem to be on testing the students, not on testing teachers. Haven't we got the 'cart-before-the-horse'." She brusquely reminded me of my similar statements to an urban economics class in the 1970s. At the time I was reciting my experiences in both industry and the classroom with young people from varying demographics and educational experiences. Their education reflected related disparities.

Some readers may recall that in previous years (decades?) I have detailed my administrative experiences either in on the job training in industry or in urban manpower programs (Dept. of Labor Funded). And I have emphatically called attention to the learning/technology interaction between the workplace and the technology parameters of industry and governmental agencies; equipment manufacturers, service industries, Bonneville Power, the former

U.S. Bureau of Standards, ETC.

A decade or more ago I had no difficulty explaining to many parents and teachers alike how the unique quality of my experience in both industry and the university enabled me to assess and identify the sources of those "related education disparities" to which I have referred. And perhaps I should add to this experiential background, more than a year of touring the nation's schools - public schools as well as universities (Industry designs machines to national standards).

The task is not that easy anymore (to at least be allowed to explain). The opposition and the ineffective seem entrenched. That parent I just quoted says that not only does her neighbor's kid fail those tests which would indicate that he could read an analog meter that displayed quantity, quality, weight, etc. - or would indicate he could perform critical operations directed by such commands as "if thus-and-so, turn clockwise" - but several conversations with his teachers leaves her alarmed.

This leads me back to my frequent account of my experience before the Oregon State Teacher Practice and standard board when Mayor Verta Katz was chairman of the related Senate Committee.

## Painkiller may lower cancer risk

A painkiller contained in Tylenol and some other over-the-counter brand medications might lower a woman's risk of developing ovarian cancer, according to a new study.

Researchers from Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital say the risk of ovarian cancer could be reduced by half for women using acetaminophen.

But the researchers, who published their findings this week in the British medical journal *The Lancet*, said more study was needed to determine whether there really is a protective effect and if so, how it works.

"This being the first report of this association, one would have to be

very, very cautious," said Dr. Daniel Cramer, who conducted the research with colleagues.

The researchers studied the use of over-the-counter painkillers in 563 women from eastern Massachusetts and New Hampshire who had ovarian cancer and 523 healthy women selected from the general population.

The researchers found that 8.8 percent of the women from the general population used acetaminophen, compared with 4.6 percent of the women with ovarian cancer.

They calculated that this indicated the risk of ovarian cancer was cut by 50 percent for acetaminophen users.

Aside from Tylenol, other pain-

killers that contain acetaminophen include Excedrin, Anacin 3 and Midol.

The researchers also found that women who took aspirin had a 25 percent lower incidence of ovarian cancer, but said this difference was not large enough to be statistically significant.

Cramer said the study was the first on the effect of acetaminophen on ovarian cancer in humans and the figures "jumped right out" of data the research team is still analyzing.

Earlier studies done in North Carolina on mice and rats indicated acetaminophen shrinks healthy ovarian tissues, he said.

# Health & Science

## Legacy Drug and Alcohol Lab to Move Under Challenging, Stringent Security

The Legacy Health System MetroLab, which provides drug and alcohol testing for clients in the Pacific Northwest, will be moving under very challenging conditions set by the federal government, in early January. This move has been long-awaited and consolidates the Legacy MetroLab with the Legacy Health System Central Lab in the former Holiday Park Hospital, located at 1225 NE Second Avenue.

Moving began Monday, January 5, at 6 a.m. to space specifically remod-

eled to meet MetroLab's needs. The newly remodeled space will be fully occupied and operational by the following day, January 6. The lab is currently located in the basement of Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, 2801 N. Gantenbein Avenue.

To meet strict federally-mandated security standards, the entire move has been carefully staged over a 32 hour period. A standard operating procedure, developed to focus on every detail of the move, as well as a copy of the floor plans, were submit-

ted for review and approval by the federal Department of Health & Human Services, and their licensing arm, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The Legacy MetroLab currently performs more than 19,000 drug screen tests a month, up from 8,000 tests a month, three years ago. Three hundred samples a month came through the lab for testing three years ago; today, more than 900 samples a day pass through.

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