

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Black History Month

Mayor Vera Katz and the Regional Arts and Culture Council cordially invite you to attend the unveiling of 160 new street banners along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. in celebration of Black History Month and the North/Northeast community. The program begins 11AM on Saturday, January 31, at the Harry Jackson Plaza at adidas on the corner of MLK Jr. Blvd. and NE. Alberta St.

New Line from Nike

The Evolution of Skin, Nike's first ever national television ad for its apparel, will debut during Super bowl XXXII on Sunday, January 25. The campaign focuses on the sports company's performance athletic wear, all designed to help athletes perform better.

Governor at Central Library

Governor John Kitzhaber will be in Portland Tuesday, January 27, from 9-11 AM at the Multnomah County Central Library to discuss critical issues facing the tri-county region with local elected officials and business leaders.

Furniture Giveaway

Once again U.S. Bank is clearing out its storage warehouse by offering a furniture give-away. This is an opportunity for non-profit organizations in need of office furniture to obtain these items free of charge. Furniture give-away will begin at 9AM on January 31 at U.S Bank's Columbia Center Plaza Bldg.

Women in Communications

The Portland Chapter of the Association for Women in Communications welcomes Marti Chaney as guest speaker at its January 30 lunch meeting. Her topic is "Managing Your Career for Life." The lunch program is from 12 to 1PM at Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oregon. Bring a brown bag lunch. Call 244-2706.

Career Fair

Attend the free Northwest Career Fair and Job Expo presented by KXL Newsradio 750 and 95.5 The Mix, Saturday, February 7 from 10 AM-4PM at the Oregon Convention Center. In addition, presentations will be offered continually in two stage areas from 10:15 AM to 4PM.

Jewish Film Festival

The Northwest Film Center will present the Fourth Annual Portland Jewish Film Festival. The Festival runs through February 22. They will showcase new works about and from Israel in addition to premiering new works of Jewish themes from around the world.

Do Wop Dance

The fifth annual Do Good Do Wop Dance, scheduled for Friday, February 13 will benefit a network of four non-profit social service agencies that provide emergency services to people in need. For tickets and information call St. Vincent de Paul at 238-5778.

Bill Naito Award

The Portland Urban Forestry Commission is now accepting applications for the Second Bill Naito Award. The award was created in honor of the late builder and community leader who did so much to beautify Portland trees. Applications must be received by February 28. Call 823-4443 for an application packet.

Task Force Meeting

Do you have concerns about gangs, drugs, and violence in your neighborhood? Please share your experiences and questions at the following Youth Gangs Task Force meeting for Community Citizens at the King Neighborhood Facility on 4815 NE 7th on February 18th at 6:30 PM.

Book Details Rainbow Of Opportunity

By NEIL HEILPERN

Several Portland high school athletes who went on to play basketball at Oregon State University are featured in a new book about the years of Oregon State University Coach Ralph Miller.

Miller's Time, A Legacy of OSU Basketball, written by K.J. White, is filled with statistics, anecdotes and year-by-year progress reports of the Beavers under Miller.

The author, an avid sports enthusiast on and off the field, attended David Douglas High School and graduated from the University of Portland.

He talks of Miller years (1971-89), when the Beavers amassed a 359 wins-186 losses record over 19 seasons, including eight NCAA tournament appearances, four Pac-10 championships and 17 100-point games.

White's book brings out a special quality of Coach Miller to create "new horizons where men of color would find their rainbow of opportunity."

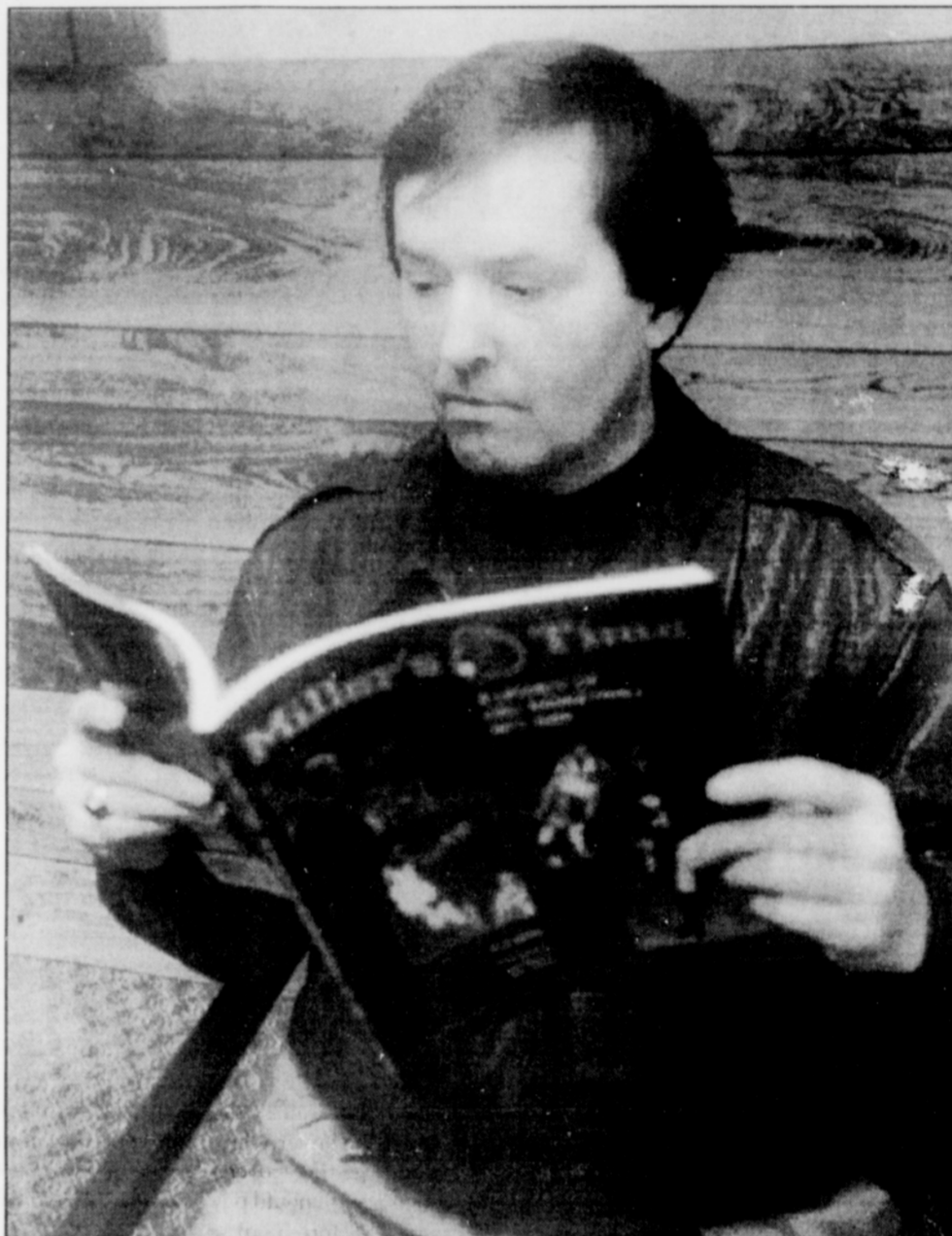
"He battled prejudice. People weren't used to seeing five black players on the court at once," White told the Observer. "It didn't bother him. He was color blind, in that the best five players will play."

It was a far cry from the Paul Valenti coaching years, with four straight years of non-winning seasons that included unjust criticism of a black player and boycott by black players of both OSU and UofO teams for a "Civil War" game.

The book praises Miller for using "the best athletes to execute his system ... not 'because' they were black." Corvallis was slow to accept his use of African-Americans, but the team's improving record brought the community around to root for the new dynamism of OSU basketball.

Miller's efforts showed "how a community would learn the true meaning of brotherhood," White said. But it was an era where "the style was straight-forward, no-nonsense, and all business."

Several players from Portland schools were part of those years. Rickey Lee, (Benson) played at OSU 1974-78, and is quoted about



K. J. White reviews a copy of his book Miller's Time. (Photo By Neil Heilpern)

Miller's toughness and sparseness with compliments while he got the job done: "His few compliments were greatly appreciated and meant something ... you were there to perform."

Billy Nickleberry, a black Jefferson high grad, played under both Valenti and Miller.

White describes the shift in styles that made "Billy Nick" declare the tough times as "a whole new learning process for me."

Although Nickleberry got less playing time and scoring under Miller, he eventually became the coach's first graduate assistant and helped a lot in

recruiting.

The description of Miller's non-nonsense style of coaching includes a quote from Parkrose grad Steve Woodside, who played at OSU 1983-86: "The goal was to take individuals and fit them into his system."

Portland players under Miller were Steve Bakke (1974-1976), David Douglas; Troy Berry (84), Benson; Ray Blume (78-81), Parkrose; Darryl Flowers (83-86), Madison; A.C. Green (82-85), Benson; Rob Holbrook (79-82), Parkrose; Rickey Lee (74-78), Benson; Andy Mott (83), Grant; Billy Nickleberry (71, 72), Jefferson; Mark Radford (78-81), Grant; Brett Starr (81-83), Jackson; Greg West (84), Grant; and Steve Woodside (83-86), Parkrose.

Crisp photos show a dribbling Mark Radford (Grant) and Ray Blume (Parkrose) in the air for a layup shot. They were starters for OSU's 1979-80 squad that catapulted to #2 in the nation.

"I was always a great fan of Coach Miller," said White. Noting the coach is now 79, he said, "I wanted to do this book while he is still alive and can get some pleasure out of it and enjoy some celebrity atmosphere."

The work is part of a series of sports books White has on his agenda. Gray Thunder, Scarlet Knights, a 1955-1996 history of football at David Douglas High School, was published in 1996. Favorite Sons, which chronicles legendary teams and figures in Oregon sports history, is scheduled for release in early 1999.

White calls his book an "extremely accurate re-creation of the entire 19 years tenure of this coach and his teams during 545 games. We virtually deal with every one of them in some form or another. Once you get into it, you are catapulted back into time and we stress the accuracy and details, quotes, and pictures."

Crisp action shots and player profiles bring alive a book which sees a quality printing job and choice of typestyles that make it easy reading.

White's sense of humor spices up the statistics and game descriptions.

Support For God's Miracle Child

On July 8, 1997, Mary L. Hooks was a victim of a domestic dispute that left her lifeless and broken-up body in the urgent care of medical surgeons and Gods Mercy.

Mary was run down by a pick-up truck in front of her house on 35th and Killingworth. The truck hit her knocking her under the rear wheel which ran over her chest crushing a majority of internal organs and bones. In addition her hair got caught up in the rear axle of the truck which then dragged her about 60-80 feet causing injuries to the back of the head, back and bottom areas.

After spending over six months (5 in I.C.U.) in Emanuel Hospital with the best Trauma surgeons in the state and Gods mercy they were able to bring her lifeless body back to

life, but not without some on going treatments necessary. Her current condition has left her with a broken back which has her paralyzed from the waist down as well as her usage of a wheelchair, respirator and ventilator machine.

We are seeking support (her and her family) by way of contractors to help reconstruct her home to be wheel chair accessible, donated lumber and other materials. If you can help God's Miracle Child in this area please call Joe (Bean) Keller at (503) 903-2471 or if you would like to make a financial contribution please send or drop off at any U.S. Bank payable to the Mary Hook Recovery Trust Fund.



Mary Hooks on her way to her daughters house after being in the hospital for over six months.

PDC Study Works at MLK Development

By LEE PEARLMAN

Although development along Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard hasn't proceeded as expected, zoning isn't a barrier to getting new business there. Multiple property ownership may be. New housing on the boulevard won't do much to lure or maintain new business.

These are among the conclusions of a draft consultant study of the boulevard commissioned by the Portland Development Commission and released last week.

During the Albina Community Plan process parts of the boulevard were rezoned for high-density housing, precluding business development. In addition, the McCoy Village housing project on Northeast Shaver Street, now nearing completion, and the proposed Standard Dairy project on Northeast Graham Street are on property zoned EXD, a mixed-use zone which in this case was intended to

attract business development. This raised the question of whether housing zoning and development is shutting out business growth on the street.

"The zoning issue kept popping up over and over again," Consultant Clark Worth told the last meeting of the MLK Action Project Advisory Committee last week. "Is it a barrier? Does it make sense in the light of current development trends?"

Worth pointed out that the Albina Plan did call for high density housing on the street. "It will mean some transformation of what we've thought of in the past as a business corridor," he said.

"Can the current zoning accommodate the demand for new business development? For the time being, yes, it can," he said. His study found some 40 parcels, properly zoned and available, along the length of the corridor. Unfortunately, he also found that in many cases they are divided into small parcels in multiple ownerships. In order for such properties

to be useful, he said, "Site assembly is more important than zoning."

Worth's study did suggest that in the future the city might consider "swapping" the zoning on housing and mixed-use parcels, especially if housing land remains vacant and housing development continues on EXD-zoned parcels.

Another issue, Worth said, is the influx of social services onto the avenue. "Institutions are part of the Albina Plan," he said. "The argument that they don't belong there doesn't jibe - but there is a concentration." Specifically, he found 21 such services located on the avenue "with more coming." He added that the influx is likely to decrease as the real estate increases in value.

While saying that housing has a place on the boulevard, Worth said it would do little to stimulate business growth. "No business will locate on MLK just because of the new housing and just because of the new customer base," he said. This conclusion would hold even if future development brought in a higher

tenant income level than the current, predominantly low-income housing and even if the total population reached 500 units, he said.

In another finding, Worth said there seems to be demand for retail storefront spaces of 1200 square feet or less, rather than spaces for larger enterprises. He also said that industrial uses seem to be moving away from the boulevard.

Committee member and consultant Jeana Woolley noted that developer Barry Menashe is having difficulty finding a large retail tenant for his mixed-use project under construction on Northeast Broadway at 11th Avenue.

Carl Talton, chair of the Portland Development Commission, commented, "Zoning was a big question for me, but it would appear that it wasn't the barrier we thought it was. We thought of EX (zoned properties) as sites for employment centers, but I'm not sure how well that strategy will hold up."