

# METROLife

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Book Reading

Members of the Northwest African American Writers Workshop will read from their anthology, KUUMBIA IX, February 7 at Barnes and Nobles, 1231 NE. Broadway from 2-3 PM. The public is invited.

### L.A. Pop

The Tearaways, a strong guitar pop band from Santa Barbara, will be giving a free live performance with free refreshments offered at the Music Millenium - Northwest. They will perform on Thursday, February 12 at 6 PM.

### Home ownership Opportunity

The Portland Habitat for Humanity has home ownership opportunities for 12 low income individuals and families in 1998. Approved applicants must complete 400 hours of volunteer work as a partial down payment on their home. To apply for a Habitat house, attend an informational meeting on Thursday, February 19 at 7 PM. Call 287-9529.

### Diversity Training

The Metropolitan Human Rights center will offer an opportunity for people to learn about the dynamics of our diverse community. A Dynamic differences workshop will be presented at the SE. Precinct at 4735 E. Burnside on Thursday, February 19, from 6:30 - 9 PM. The workshop is free and open to everyone. Call 823-5136.

### A Children's Concert

The Oregon Chamber Players are presenting a Children's concert! Dance, sing and be a part of the Children's Kazoo Orchestra!

Saturday, February 28, at 7:30 PM. Hurry and get your tickets form FASTIXX. Call 224-8499.

### Wally Dynamite

Music Millenium - Northwest will show Wally Dynamite on Saturday, February 28 at 5 PM. This is a free live performance located at 801 NW 23 (at Johnson). Call 248-0163.

### Concerned about gangs, drugs and violence?

Who knows your needs better than you, the community citizens? Why is your voice not being heard? Please come share your experiences and questions at the following Youth Gangs Task Force Meeting for Community Citizens. The next meeting date is for February 18 at 6:30 PM.

### Stage Performance

The Portland Center Stage will be showing a premiere of Shakespeare's Macbeth on March 21 through April 25. For tickets and information, please call the Portland Center Stage box office at 274-6588.

### Ladies Basketball

The PCC Lady Panthers is offering a free admission to all games which is a great way to entertain the family. Women's games start at 8 PM for all dates. PCC's Cascade Campus is located at 705 N. Killingsworth. The Lady Panthers will be playing Clackamas on Wednesday, February 11.

### Jazz in the Afternoon

Chemeketa Community college and Willamette Valley Vineyards will be having a Jazz Series Reunion Concert featuring the Mel Brown Sextet on March 8 at 6-8 PM. For more information, call 588-9463.

### Essay Competition

The Cascade Policy Institute will be offering an Independence Essay Competition which will award \$5,000 to Oregon high school students for the best essays on the foundations of freedom. To receive the guidelines, call 224-1737. The entry deadline is March 4.

## State, Local Officials Talk To Latino Youth

By NEIL HEILPERN

A group of Latino teens sat in their favorite Dairy Queen on East Division Street last week, when Gov. John Kitzhaber, Portland Commissioner Jim Francesconi and other local officials concerned with youth walked in for a chat with them.

"Why are there so many high school dropouts in the Latino community?" Kitzhaber asked the young people.

The high school and middle school students issued a litany of problem areas that frustrate them: problems at home which require teens to work and bring money to the household, dislike of school, gangs, drugs and more.

When the governor asked about language barriers, one girl told him "Hispanics get into hard classes, don't understand the language or what they are talking about."

A boy in the next booth added, "It isn't just Hispanics, but Asians and Blacks."

Another boy noted that the increasing number of teachers who can communicate in Spanish, "but they don't understand our culture."

Francesconi asked about gang involvement. Most students said they did not want to be in gangs, but a lack of after school activities gives them no place else to go.

"We feel left out," said one boy. "No one cares about us and it feels like there is nothing to live for."

Jorge Melendez, gang specialist for El Hispanol Programa of Catholic Charities, told Kitzhaber and Francesconi that more after-school activities, like sports, would "give them something positive, not just hang out."

The issue of green cards (working permits for alien residents) was raised, with the observation that without the card young people are paid below minimum wage, in cash, under the table.

"Working in the fields, I can't raise enough to go to college," said one girl.

Kitzhaber told The Portland Observer he was aware of Northeast inner city programs for youth, such as Self Enhancement, Inc. and the House of Umoja. "But, there is



Commissioner Jim Francesconi (right) and Gov. John Kitzhaber (center) met with Latino youths. Photo by Neil Heilpern

very little here in East Portland."

He said his visit was to learn more of the Latino community's needs so he could work them into state legislative agendas.

Kitzhaber and Francesconi later met with teachers and administrators at the Harold Oliver Elementary and Middle Schools.

Francesconi told educators Portland City Council recognizes "some kids in the system are undeserved."

"The community needs to own their school districts, but they lost a lot of that with Mea-

sure 5," said Kitzhaber, referring to the real estate tax cut two sessions ago. "There are a group of kids who won't make it in the process."

Several educators noted gymnasium facilities are not sufficiently used for after school activities. They also cited need for organizers and transportation to and from these activities.

Intermediate School principal Jim Dunovan said the need for contact people to follow up on school-parental liaison work in

nearby low income apartment complexes "critical."

Even when fliers do go home to parents, noted teacher Dave Hulbert, "the parents don't understand when it says sports fees can be waived for low income students. They can't read it and the kids don't take part."

Another person noted local businesses would love if youngsters had alternatives to hanging out at the store and taking "five finger discounts."

## Hundreds Rally for Pueblo Steelworkers



On Monday, Feb. 2 at 12:30 pm, hundreds rallied with 21 union members and supporters who were arrested last November at Wells Fargo for showing their support for striking Pueblo Steelworkers. The rally took place in front of the Justice Center at 1120 SW 3rd St. in Portland where the arrestees will stand trial that afternoon.

"Those arrested are only guilty of standing up for working families," said Irv Fletcher, president of Oregon AFL-CIO. "On Monday, we'll be standing up with them, and reminding Oregonians why banking at Wells

Fargo means bankrolling war on workers."

Wells Fargo is the land financial institution in a consortium of banks that is extending a huge line of credit to Portland-based Oregon Steel Mills, Inc., whose subsidiary CF&I forced 1,000 Steelworkers out on strike last October. The United Steelworkers of America (USWA) are increasing its pressure on Wells Fargo as a major lender to bring a settlement in the labor dispute.

USWA Local 9170 President Janice Menzie from The Dalles, OR, will speak at the rally about why the union and Northwest Aluminum made a joint decision to close its \$20 million Wells Fargo pension account. A protester dressed as a police

officer displayed mock warrants for the crime of war against working families.

CF&I/Oregon Steel has rejected the workers' unconditional offer to return to work after a three month old strike over multiple violations of federal labor laws, forced overtime, and health insurance and pension issues. The company's action has opened the door to a potential back-pay liability which could exceed \$600,000 per week. Now, Steelworker supporters are intensifying their national campaign to convince Oregon Steel's creditors, customers and shareholder to intervene in the struggle.

## Ministry Group To Honor Renaissance Market

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will present the Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian award to the Board of Directors of Northeast Portland's Renaissance Market on Thursday, Feb. 5.

Bishop A Wells of the Emmanuel Temple Full Gospel Church will accept the award, which recognizes outstanding commitment to humanitarian responsibility that has significantly impacted ecumenical efforts in the state. EMO has chosen to honor the Market for its commitment to the Northeast Portland community through economic and social revitalization.

The award will be presented at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's 80th annual celebration and awards at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 5, at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. An ecumenical worship service and installation of new Executive Director David Leslie will precede the awards, beginning at 6 p.m. at the church.

Members of various civic, cultural and religious groups will participate in the service, including The Rev. Dorsey McCullough of the Bethel AME Church, Charles Jordan of Portland Parks and Recreation and Lawrence Dark of the Urban League.

EMO is an association of 16 Christian denominations working together for unity and justice through theological dialogue and education, public policy advocacy and community ministry.

For coverage of the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. and/or ecumenical worship service at 6 p.m., please contact Shannon Gustafson at (503) 221-1054.