

RELIGION

Students Learn to Express Themselves...on Canvas

Multi-cultural high school students at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's International Learning Program (ILP) will see their stories take form this semester in a mural project funded by the Oregon Arts Commission and led by Portland artist Isaka Shamsud-Din.

The semester long project began in February with students learning the history of mural making and sharing their visions for their 4-foot-square panels. Shamsud-Din said he is encouraging students to work on the themes and stories emerging from their own lives. Nov and Cristo

Vanna from Cambodia are working on themes from their lives—past, present and future—in their artwork.

Nov and Cristo, like many of the students at the ILP, are working on high school credits at the alternative school where special issues of multicultural education are addressed. Many of the ILP's students come from immigrant and refugee families and have found the ILP a better fit than regular Portland Public Schools. The ILP is one of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's refugee and immigrant community min-

istries initiatives. Through personal instruction, students obtain high school credit with special focus on language skills they would not otherwise receive.

The project, funded through an Oregon Arts Commission grant, is teaching students about art and providing a forum for discussing the way the stories of their lives can be expressed artistically. A mural unveiling is planned for June. For information about the mural project, contact ILP program manager Jackie Sandquist at 503-232-5334.

S P H E R E



Body, Mind,
and Spirit
By JOY RAMOS

Just recently, I saw a science-fiction thriller called "Sphere" that involved an alien being. The movie did a great job alluding to how the Universe operates under the "Law of Attraction." The beauty of this principle is that we can draw experiences to us through the attracting force of our thoughts and emotions. Our greatest desires can be made manifest if we worked with the simple mechanics of this law.

A friend of mine related a past experience to prove the "Law of Attraction." When he was in his twenties, he had dealt with unresolved authority issues. He had a personal belief that Authority was out to put him down. His anger coupled with a negative mindset attracted five cops with bad attitudes in one year. He had turned on a "magnet" that said, "Hassle me!" When he realized that he created these circumstances by his own thought-forms and strong emotions, he changed his awareness and began to meet "good cops" that placed high value in serving and protecting people.

So how does the "Law of Attraction" work?

As a basic premise, we hold within ourselves great Power. It is our imagination, will, intention and focus. They act as a vehicle through which our thoughts and emotions can out-

flow. What we manifest is in proportion to our vision. If we dare to dream big, then abundance will be ours.

According to Reverend Neil Heilpern, "That which you dwell upon comes into your life like a gift from God. God loves you so much that He gives you more of whatever you think you are, even if you have a victim mentality. I believe God answers everything. Every thought you have is a prayer."

Fleas have a super strong ability to leap long distances. They can be trained to do stunt work. As training, they are placed in a circus ring with a glass dome over them. This keeps fleas within the boundaries. If they jump too far out, they bang themselves against the glass. After a while, they learn to perform within their given space.

Our minds are like a glass barrier keeping us in a mental rut. It is also like our negative beliefs that have gone unchallenged and keeping us ineffective.

Manifesting our highest vision takes more than Creative Visualization and a positive attitude. That approach is too fragmented. Pictures help but it is really the emotional attraction we have towards those pictures that imbue them with vitality.

It's also not enough that we put physical and mental effort to make a goal a reality. A final step is needed. It is to simply get out of the way.

"After you select the proper goal and make the appropriate efforts, you must simply relax and allow God to do His part in the creative process of manifestation. For in truth, you do not work alone, but in partnership with Spirit. We can be too anxious, fearful, or attached to the outcome to let Spirit do its part. The worst ones are those who think they know better than Spirit. They try to direct it, but this can't be done. If these anxious ones would only relax, they'd find that Spirit can be trusted! In fact, the results will be greater, more surprising and original than anything the human consciousness alone could ever have achieved," explains Ariel Tomioka, author of "On the Breath of the Gods."

Jesus made the "Law of Attraction" known by saying, "It is done unto you as you believe." Life is your dream, what are you going to attract?

OBITUARY

Alvin Gale Deskins

Final disposition was by cremation.

Mr. Deskins was born on December 30, 1954 in Portland, Oregon to Curtis X. Deskins and Gracie Lee Brown Deskins and passed away in Portland on February 27, 1998 at the age of 43. Cause of death was apparently an auto/pedestrian accident on I-5 near Jantzen Beach.

Alvin attended John Ball and Portsmouth Grade Schools and Roosevelt High School. He liked music (especially drums), basketball, tennis and kids. He had been a production worker at Freightliner Corporation in Portland.

He and Abbie L. Deskins were married on June 10, 1995. He was not a veteran and was not active in any church at this time.

He is survived by:

Abbie L. Deskins, wife; Portland, OR.
Jamall Kingham-Deskins, son; Portland, OR.
Keisha Kingham-Deskins, daughter; Portland, OR.
Ramon Benton, stepson; Portland, OR.
Chelsea Benton, stepdaughter; Portland, OR.
Nigel Kingham, stepson; Portland, OR.
Nina Kingham, stepdaughter; Portland, OR.
Barbara Jean Rhodes, sister; Portland, OR.
Donald C. Deskins, brother; Portland, OR.
Charlene G. Deskins, sister; Portland, OR.
Lisa M. Deskins, sister; Portland, OR.

Also one grandson.

His parents preceded him in death. Also survived by a host of nieces and nephews.

Promise Keepers Aims to Reach Every Man In America

1998 "Live a Legacy" Conferences Planned For 19 Cities

Promise Keepers (PK), the Denver based Christian men's ministry, today officially announced its plans for 19 stadium and arena confer-

ences. This year's conferences, with the theme of "Live a Legacy—Make A Difference In Your Lifetime" will be free of charge for the first time in

Promise Keepers' history.

The decision to waive admission fees for all 1998 events is a bold move for the eight year old organiza-

tion (which derived 72% of its income from such fees in the past). This departure from business-as-usual represents Promise Keepers'

stongest effort yet to reach out to the three-quarters of American men (some 67 million) who do not attend church regularly (Barna Research,

1996).

For more information: PK National Media Office at 303-964-7777 or Fax at 303-964-7720.

Spirited, Strategic and Storied Organizing

The eleventh annual **Peace-ing It Together** Conference will be held on Saturday, March 21, at the University of Portland's Christ the Teacher Chapel. The event will run from 9am until 1pm. Cheryl Andes, a professional organizer with the United Power for Action and Justice in Chicago, will be the Keynote speaker. The theme for the day will be "living and acting in the midst of the world as it is and the world as it should be. Broad based organizing as a paradigm for relational power and love in the midst of this tension." Ms. Andes' talk is titled "Living and

Acting with Love and Power."

Cheryl Andes works with United Power, a broad based metropolitan organization in Chicago. United Power is the newest Industrial Areas Foundation affiliate, joining 55 others throughout the U.S. Ms. Andes live in Oak Park, IL. with her husband and two children. She has been largely responsible for organizing the suburban, middle class membership of United Power, which was conceived as a metropolitan, city and suburbs, organization.

Cheryl Andes has a Masters degree in Pastoral Ministry from Bos-

ton College. She first learned about broad based organizing during an internship with the Office for Peace and Justice in the Diocese of Worcester, MA. She was inspired by the potential of organizing large numbers of people to act on their faith in concrete and meaningful ways.

Her remarks will focus upon the tension between the world as it is—a world of power, self-interest and change—and the world as it should be—a world of love, self-sacrifice and peace. She will suggest a paradigm for living and acting in the

midst of this tension.

The annual **Peace-ing It Together** Conference is being cosponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace/Campaign for Human Development of the Archdiocese of Portland, the Portland Organizing Project, and the University of Portland. Fee for the Conference is \$10 per person, or \$7 per person if in a group of four or more, with pre-registration by March 16.

Same day registration will be \$12 per person. For more information contact the Archdiocese Office for Justice and Peace 503-233-8361.

Former Resident Joining Southern Baptist Seminary

Former Portland resident Bruce Ware is joining The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY., as professor of Christian theology.

The seminary board of trustees' executive committee elected Ware to the faculty at its meeting February 3.

Ware is currently associate professor of biblical and systematic theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill. he received a Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary in

Pasadena, Calif., and earned his M.A. from the University of Washington. He earned two degrees from Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland and undergraduate degrees from Judson Baptist College and Whitworth College in Spokane.

Steven Corts, chairman of the trustees' academic personnel committee and a two-times Southern Seminary graduate, said Ware's addition to the faculty and his commitment to evangelical theology marks a new era at

the seminary.

"His strategy and practice is to engage all forms of theological thought but at the same time is to not only identify those schools but also to identify their weaknesses and then to give an evangelical theological response," said Corts, pastor of Edwards Road Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C.

"That is something... we believe is very necessary for the grounding of future pastors and missionaries in their work," Corts

added.

Ware taught at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary and served in numerous ministries in Oregon before moving to Illinois.

He will be nominated for tenure at the April meeting of the seminary's board of trustees.

Seminary President R. Albert Mohler, Jr., said of Ware's hiring, "this helps bring to wholeness the quality of evangelical scholarship that represents the faculty of Southern Seminary."

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II Cor. 5:17

† 1998 Annual Musical
Saturday, March 21, 1998 †
Bethel AME Church
828 NE 8th Avenue
Portland, OR. 97211
7:00 pm

Featured Artists
Bethel AME Cathedral Choir
Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church Young Adult
Choir
Gospel Music Workshop of America
Portland Metropolitan Youth Mass Choir
Dan Johnson, The Singing State Trooper
The Victor Brown Family
Harmony A Capella Group
Signs of Praise-Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and others

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