

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Teen Parent Project

Willamette University is providing an opportunity for our community to discuss issues regarding the prevention of teen pregnancy. The first conference will gather young adults for insight on teen pregnancy prevention. The event will be held on March 12 from 6:30 till 8:30 PM at Willamette University in the Smith Auditorium. Call 399-5517.

Town Hall Meeting

Senator Randy Leonard will be hosting a meeting in East Portland to provide an opportunity to hear two candidates who are running to succeed him, State Representative Lonnie Roberts and State Representative Frank Shields. The meeting will be held on March 14 from 10AM till Noon at the Portland Police Bureau's East Precinct on 737 SE. 106th Avenue.

Free Men's Clinic

Men, do you feel you have reached your optimal level of health? Now you can get a free check-up and learn about naturopathic health care on Saturday, March 14, from 9AM to 1PM at Natural Health Centers East, the teaching clinic of National College of Naturopathic Medicine. Call 255-7355.

All-Star Music

Special guest Michael Allen Harrison will join a cast of Portland jazz luminaries for a multicultural evening of music, dancing and good food at Showtime '98, Thursday, April 2 at the Melody Ballroom, 615 SE. Alder St. Advance tickets, including hors d'oeuvres, are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for couples. Call 916-6480.

Chamber of Commerce

Learn about the benefits the Portland Chamber has to offer. The Portland Chamber has more than 2,000 firms and is the area's largest business organization. The event will be held on April 2 from 7:30 to 8:30 AM and free to the public. Call 228-9411, ext. 203 to register.

Governor's Award

Statewide nominations for the Governor's Community Partnership Award are now being accepted through Friday, April 3 at 5 PM. The award, which includes a \$1,000 cash prize, honors businesses, nonprofits, government agencies and foundations that have collaborated to meet shared community goals. The winner will be announced at a luncheon on Friday, May 8. Call 797-2667.

Heritage Auction

"Riches of a City" Heritage Auction to benefit the Bosco-Milligan Foundation and help open the Architectural Heritage Center. Tickets are \$25 for Foundation members and \$30 for the general public. The event also includes a buffet dinner and drinks. Call 231-7264 for tickets and information.

Learn First Aid

The Red Cross is teaching an eight-hour course designed specifically for those who care for children on an ongoing basis. The course teaches how to prevent and care for childhood injuries, care for an infant or child who stops breathing or is choking, and give CPR. Also included is important information on hazardous plants and toxic art materials. The classes will be held on Saturday, March 14 from 8:30 AM till 5:30 PM.

SEI Celebrates First Anniversary With A Party

BY NEIL HEILPERN

A steady stream of people joined the party Saturday when Self Enhancement Inc. (SEI) celebrated the first anniversary of its new facility on NE Failing Street.

"I'm feeling excited that the community has chosen to show up again," SEI President Tony Hopson told The Portland Observer. He recalled the 2,000 people who were on hand for last year's opening ceremonies. "They are letting us know they are still with us."

Visitor wandered about the place, enjoying the interactive experiences that reflect what normally goes on at the center.

"During the first year we got the kids on task within SEI and familiar with the building," said Hopson, noting that the second year will be expanded to include "more of the community."

Hopson said SEI is starting an adult program, including athletics and recreation, as well as computer classes.

He also expressed joy over last week's \$5 million gift from Portland businessman Ellison "Eli" C. Morgan. The funds, to be deposited over a ten year span, will create an endowment to provide SEI with a solid financial foundation.

Hopson said the endowment would eventually provide \$250,000 annually when the endowment matures in 10 years. "However, we still need continual dollars toward today's operations," he noted.

Senator Ron Wyden and jazz musician George Benson also joined the festivities.

Benson, in town for a Portland's Friends of the Performing Arts benefit, joined a hundred people in the multi-purpose auditorium to chat about jazz styles and personalities. Calling SEI "a lifeline to the community," Wyden said "every day in Northeast young people are on the right track, doing better in school, staying clear of gangs and drugs because of SEI."

When Wyden stopped in the art room, he watched youngsters painting and drawing. He invited Shara Brazzi (16), Rahel Patterson (11) and other children to visit the

nation's capitol, and he would get them free passes to visit the U.S. Mint.

At a nearby table SEI coordinator Denise Archer was painting the face of Cherie Thompson (10), who told The Portland Observer SEI "made me a different person, with a place I can go to."

In the lobby, reaching almost to the ceiling, stood an Indian teepee adorned with messages such as "SEI is the bomb," "Whitaker for Life," handprints and other positive graffiti.

Inside was a group of SEI youngsters who last summer experienced a seven day stay at Camp Caldera in Eastern Oregon.

"I slept in this teepee," said Mario Powell (14), of Whitaker Middle School. He said the new facility gave him "a place to go and meet kids from other schools. It has helped me socially, to become a people person."

Shcotta Lewis (14) from Tubman Middle School, recalled the days before the SEI building when "I couldn't play basketball in this park because of gangs and fighting. They aren't around here any more."

Jeana Dials (14), from Tubman, said SEI's building "gave us kids a place to go other than out in the streets, and we got extra help with our homework."

Tanya Harris exited the music room with her children, looked around and exclaimed, "I think I will join for myself for the adults' exercise program, as well as for the kids."

Several members of the Pamplin Fellows' teenage leadership program were on hand to guide people through the building.

"I knew SEI was going to grow," said Marty William, 17, of Grant High School. "But seeing the center grow like this provides hope for little kids. It has taught me that I can do anything if I work hard enough."

Kori Cage (17), another Pamplin Fellow and student at Grant, praised SEI's building as "the center piece, a strong foundation of the whole community." He called the activities "a stepping stone for leaders. We are family and this place helps us to be more unified."



Self Enhancement Inc. had a steady stream of visitors for the first anniversary party Saturday. (Photo by Neil Heilpern)

More than just a Farewell wish was expressed by all who attended the retirement celebration for Sidnie Moore (seated), after 23 years of service at Regence Blue Cross/Blue Shield. She was a dedicated worker, counselor, and team player. "She will be sorely missed, but we wish her the very best," stated Maggie Gibson (standing).

(Photo by M. Washington)



1,000 Portlanders to Help Raise Up Walls and Tear Down Barriers

Imagine the biggest block party in Portland—friends, neighbors, coworkers, and families celebrating the unity of their city with food, balloons and festivities. Now add an element of exercise and a noble purpose: to keep improving the community, person by person, dollar by dollar. What do you have? Portland Habitat for Humanity's 6th Annual Walk for Humanity!

On Saturday, May 2, more than 1,000 people from around the Portland metro area are expected to kick off the Walk at Irving Park at

9:30 a.m. Welcomed by Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury and emcees David "Mr.

Fix It" Ewing of 1190 KEX Radio and Scott "Project Pro" Hanley of KATU TV's AM Northwest, participants will take a 5-mile walking or 10-mile bicycling tour of more than 50 neighborhood sites improved by Portland Habitat and its Community Partner organizations, 17 other local nonprofit committed to making Northeast Portland a beautiful place to live, work and play. After the Walk, participants will enjoy a free lunch and an afternoon of festivities at the Alberta Street Fair.

Walk pledge forms are available at Washington Mutual Bank branches throughout April or by calling 503/287-

9529. Walkers and bicyclists raise pledges for the organization of their choice--100 percent of those pledges goes directly toward "raising up walls and tearing down barriers" in the community.

This year's Community Partners include Northeast Community Development, Housing Our Families, Sabin Community Development, St. Andrew Legal Clinic, Peninsula Children's Center, REACH Community Development, and Portland Community College-Cascade. The Walk is hosted by Portland Habitat for Humanity and sponsored by Adidas, Fannie Mae Foundation, Washing-

ton Mutual Bank, and 1190 KEX Radio.

Habitat and the Walk for Humanity Community Partner organizations have inspired hope and love in thousands of families and individuals while improving the entire community. Some say the renaissance of Northeast Portland is a modern-day miracle. Others see the hard work of thousands of volunteers and the generosity of donors and know the beauty is made possible by every caring individual.

For more information about the Walk for Humanity, please contact Coordinator Darcy Varney at Portland Habitat for Humanity: 503/287-9529.

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