

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Friends of Trees

What do Rejuvenation, Inc., The Bike Gallery and Zefiro Restaurant and Bar have in common? These businesses (plus others) are teaming up to support Friends of Trees' community tree planting program in April. Friends of Trees' 2nd Annual Springwood event, a celebration of our trees and communities, is slated for April 18 through April 25. There will be live music by Point of Departure, great food, beer from Widmer Brewing and a wonderful silent auction. Call 282-8846.

Alberta Street Fair

The first Alberta Street fair "Welcome To Our Neighborhood" is taking place Saturday, May 2 from 11 AM to 6 PM. Organizers want to encourage NE Portland residents to come have fun and celebrate the changes taking place on NE Alberta Street. The fair will feature a horse drawn trolley and great raffle prizes. Call 287-3496.

Co-Housing

Community and privacy - the best of both worlds! Come find out about Co-Housing, a lifestyle popular throughout Europe and now available in Portland! Individual residences are clustered around green spaces while additional amenities provide for optional shared meals, children's play spaces, shared workshops and more! A free video screening will be shown on Thursday, May 7th at 7:30 PM at 2901 SE Steele. Call 650-7169.

Infant and Child CPR

The Red Cross will offer Infant and Child CPR at American Red Cross, Oregon Trail Chapter, 3131 N. Vancouver, Portland. The class will be held on Tuesday & Thursday, April 14 and 16, from 6 to 9 PM. Infant and Child CPR, a 6-hour course, teaches how to care for an infant or child who stops breathing or is choking, give CPR, reduce the risk of injury, and use the emergency medical services (EMS) system effectively. Call 280-1440.

Historic Columbia River

Steve Lehl and Chuck Rollins will present a slide program on the history, communities and structures along the Historic Columbia River Highway from Troutdale to The Dalles. Steve has a large collection of slides, pictures and postcards of the area. Steve and Chuck will narrate the presentation with stories they have collected from old-timers. These presentations are free and open to the public. Handicap accessible.

Packy's Birthday Party

Help Portland's famous elephant celebrate his 36th birthday. Wear floppy elephant ears, sing "Happy Birthday" and watch Packy eat his cake. Games and birthday cake for all. The event will be held at The Metro Washington Park Zoo on April 18th from 10 AM to 4 PM. Call the event info. line on 220-3687.

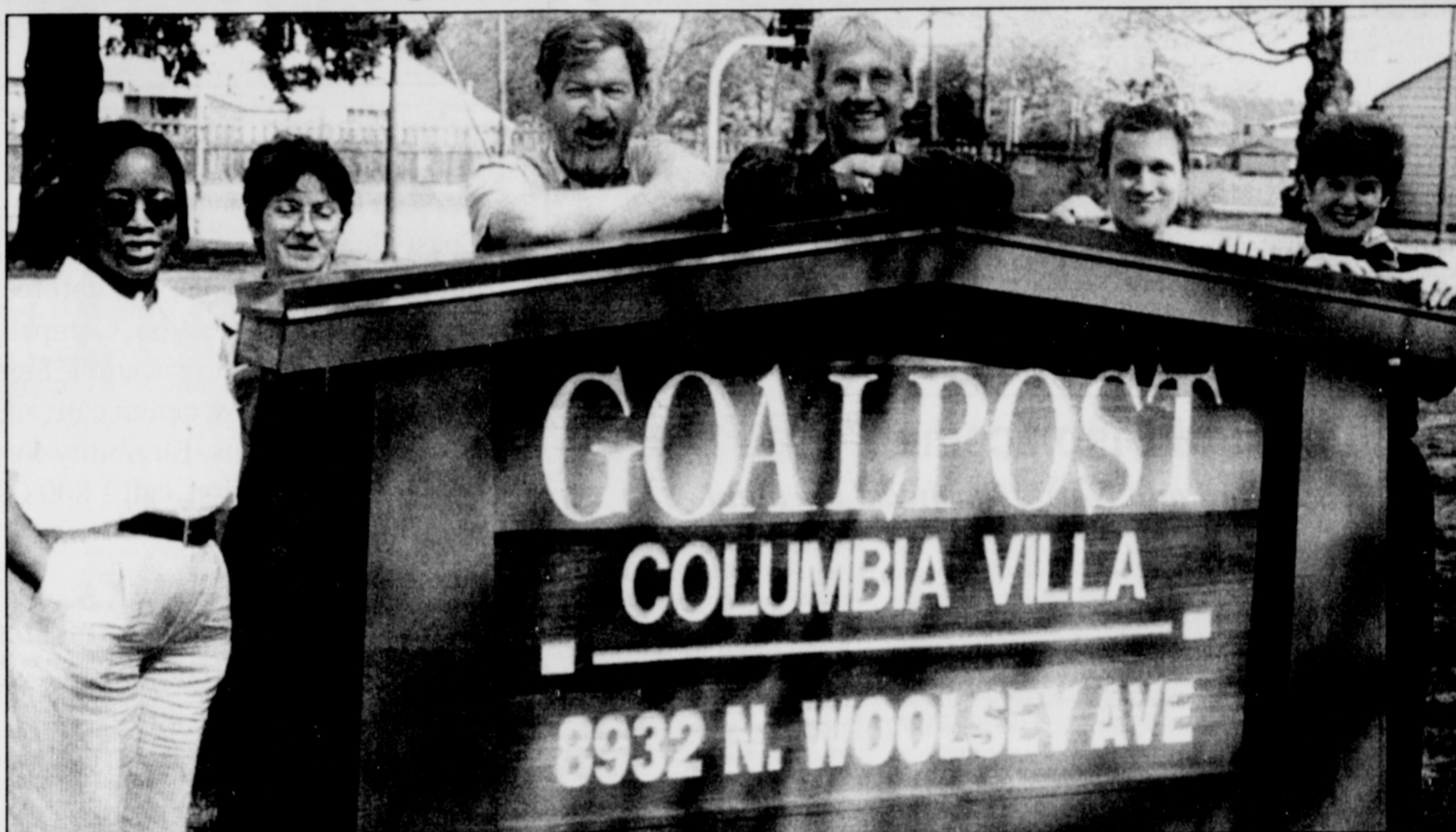
Ace Hayes

Ace Hayes was a well-known political researcher/analyst/teacher in our community, who died on February 13. He dedicated his life to uncovering lies and corruption and, using his vast knowledge of history, philosophy, religion and science, helped the rest of us understand what was really going on. His Memorial will be on Saturday, April 18, with scheduled activities starting at 3 and ending at 7 PM, at the Dance Pavilion at Oaks Park.

Fight Hunger!

Remember to help Oregon Food Bank and your Letter Carrier fight hunger on Saturday, May 9. Just place a bag of non-perishable food by your mailbox in the morning! Your Letter Carrier will take the food to your local post office, including Holladay Park, Kenton, Piedmont, Rose City Park, and St. Johns stations, where it will be boxed up by volunteers and delivered to Oregon Food Bank for distribution to hunger-relief agencies around Portland. Call 282-0555.

PCC And HAP Opening Skill Center Welfare To Work



From Left To Right: Vanessa Williams, Gretchen Quay, Eric Nichols, Richard Boland, Jacob Fox, and Kathryn Beebe.

(Photo M. Washington)

The grand opening of the Goalpost was held Monday April 6, at 8932 N. Woolsey.

Welfare to Work program is mandatory for participants with children three months or older.

The Goldpost has partnered with many other organizations to help participants with the transition.

Some of the partners are: Adult and Family Services (St. John's Family Center): The mission of AFS is to help families become self-supporting while assisting them in meeting their basic needs.

Center for Community Mental Health/PCR:

They have been doing alcohol and drug programs at Columbia Villa for 6 years, and plan to continue. They offer counseling services and support groups.

Columbia Villa/Tamarack Resident Association: The Resident Association will provide reception and janitorial services. They will use the reception and janitorial programs as training for residents.

Consumer Credit Counseling: This is a non-profit community advocate that helps people deal with credit debt. They have a strong educational focus to help keep people out of debt. They offer money management classes, and classes on how to buy a car or home.

DeLauney Family of Services: Services include: individual, couple and family counseling, domestic violence program, support groups, group therapy. They will offer evening programs, usually after 3 p.m.

Employment Department, N. Portland: The program at Columbia Villa is focused on drug and alcohol issues. It is a voluntary program, aimed at getting individuals in treatment back to work. Assistance with resumes, career planning, interviewing and individualized services. They would like to offer job search classes at the Goalpost.

Goals Program: the self-sufficiency program of the Housing Authority of Portland, Goals serves

families currently living in Low Rent Public Housing and Section 8 housing. It offers job training, access to programs, budget assistance and computer learning to help individuals become self sufficient.

PCC Literacy tutoring: PCC received a grant to tutor people in literacy. Sharon Simovec from PCC will coordinate volunteers and learners, who can meet at the Goalpost. Sharon will schedule regular weekly hours for assessment, and pair learners with tutors for individual sessions. Above are just a few of the many organizations to partner with Goalpost to make the participants transition happen.

Jefferson High To Become Three Schools



Jefferson High School, Three School's in one. (Photo by M. Washington)

By NEIL HEILPERN

Jefferson High School will split into three separate schools next year, with various specialties taught at each school.

Instead of one principal and three vice principals, the re-organized Jefferson will have three principals with separate support staffs, according to Portland School District spokesman Lew Frederick.

The action, he said, is being taken in hopes of upgrading program quality, creating a sense of belonging by allowing faculty and students to get to know one another better, and regaining students lost to other schools because of Jefferson's low academic ratings and disciplinary problems.

One school would contain the Ninth Grade Preparatory Academy, designed to initially assess how well students are performing in math, history, art and science.

Frederick indicated more individual attention will be given students as a result of the new format. This will also be a time when

the ninth graders survey a handful of career paths, as they decide what the rest of their high school curriculum will look like.

"By the end of the year they will be at the level where they need to be," said Frederick. "If it means three extra classes in algebra a week, then they will get that."

The arts and communications academy will be combined into a second school, with the health sciences/biotechnology academy, he noted.

The third independent program would contain the business, finance services and technology academy.

A transition summer school program will concentrate on reading and math for grades nine and ten.

Frederick cited success "all over the country where they are experimenting on schools within schools."

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Former Bloods Member Turns Playwright

By NEIL HEILPERN

Graduation from Bloods gang membership to active roles as student-playwright-director-actor has shown William Cleveland Jones he can successfully write the remaining acts of his own life's play.

Known as "Kwik" Jones, for his speed as a Jefferson High School track star, the 23-year-old Portland playwright on Friday intertwined personal life history with a wide range of emotional responses of a fictitious gang member's loss of a little brother.

The rear view mirror depiction of a pathos journey may prove to be the healing portal of recognition of truth through which this young man becomes the conscious author of a new adventure called "the rest of his life."

But, Was this Jones' life story unfolding on the stage? How much was drawn from his own experience and how much a result of his developing skills as a writer?

"Nobody would ever know," he told The Portland Observer. "I want people to find the

story ... use their thought processors. ... find out what is going on in this story and the character, not just Kwik's life."

When family communications broke down for Jones at age 13, he joined the Bloods gang in a search for a neighborhood level of family. Unlike his production, he did not have a younger brother who fell victim to gang violence.

"I'm, so proud of him getting out of that and turning himself around," said his mother, Azzie Jones. "When they are in the gang you can't talk to them because they think they know everything. You just have to have faith."

She recalled the night "some young men threw a bottle through our window," and how Jones "decided if his involvement in gangs was putting my life in danger, he would get out."

His one-man theatrical production, "Conversations," was performed at Bonneville Power Administration Building Auditorium.

This work of hindsight, mixed with a dose of creative fiction, resulted in many insights -- for the playwright and, hopefully, for mem-

bers of his audience.

Drowning in a bottle after the funeral, his character bemoans an inability to prevent violence, intensely expresses guilt, wildly displays anger towards an absent father who had not prepared him to be "the man of the house," and sadly wishes his mother had spent as much time listening to him as she did going to church.

His monologue and visual expressions painted a plethora of word and sight images -- the funeral ... memories of the kid brother's athletic achievements ... thoughts of revenge ... frustration at his inability to share sorrow with his mother.

With experience, Jones will be even more effective as he learns to project and enunciate clearly, alternate the pacing to keep the audience interested, and create more variety in tone, direction and hand gestures.

Jones is quick to point out that his gang membership helped him deal with a lot of "emotional scars that needed to be filled," as he related with others who "wanted to be part

of something." He expressed concern for people who still cling to the negative side of gang life. "I don't look down on them for it, but I do understand it."

Moved by the belief that "Everybody has a story and everybody's story is worth hearing," Jones has taken theatrical arts classes at Portland Community College, Eastern Oregon State College and Vermont's Goddard College before returning to Portland where he is finishing studies at Mt. Hood Community College.

"You only get so many chances at life, he said. "You turn this wheel so many times, but soon that wheel gets rusty and you get old. You have to do something with yourself and that wheel to make it better. Oil it up or change it. If you oil it up it may still get rusty. I changed the wheel!"

"I'm on a new direction," Jones added. "I never wanted to be just anybody, but always wanted to be the cream of the crop of whatever, somebody that leaves his mark on the world that affects everybody else."