

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Lifeguard Recruitment

Portland Parks and Recreation is looking for a few good lifeguards and swim instructors to "work the water" this summer. The Parks' Aquatics Division will hold a "Lifeguard/Swim Instructor Recruitment Day" for people interested in summer employment at North and Northeast Portland pools on Saturday, April 25 from 3 PM to 5 PM at the Matt Dishman Community Center Pool at 77 NE. Knott. Call 823-5130.

Taking The Lead

Technical Assistance for Community Services (TACS) and Black United Fund of Oregon are presenting a conference called "Taking The Lead: Board Leadership Conference for North/Northeast Nonprofits," will be held on Saturday, May 16 at McMennamins Kennedy School, and will provide Boards of Directors with dynamic leadership skills to strengthen their community-based organizations. Call 239-4001.

Education Summit

Martin Gonzalez, candidate for State Representative in Portland's 18th District, today announced a community summit on the crisis in education facing the Portland public schools system. The Summit, scheduled for April 16 will be at the King Neighborhood Facility and will feature a panel of community leaders on education issues. The summit is at 7 PM.

Solidarity With NIKE

On April 18, local activists will hold a demonstration to mark an International Day of Solidarity with NIKE Production Workers. Activists and supporters will gather at 11:30 AM at the Park Blocks in downtown Portland, and march along side of giant, hand-crafted puppets to the downtown NIKE TOWN at noon. Call 291-9422.

Spring Symposium

The Ninth Annual Northwest Spring Symposium will be held Thursday, May 7 and Friday, May 8 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. Sponsored by the Institute for Nonprofit Management at Portland State University, the two-day event is recognized nationally as one of the few conferences that brings together people from nonprofit organizations, government agencies, foundations and businesses for education, training and the development of community partnerships. Call 797-2667.

Adopt A Child

Holt International Children's Services, the country's oldest and largest inter country adoption agency, is looking for families interested in adopting a child from overseas. Holt's Eugene office will host a free Adoption Information Meeting in Portland on Saturday, May 2. The meeting will be from 10 AM - Noon in Conference Room 4 on the 2nd floor of Providence St. Vincent Hospital & Medical Center, 9205 SW Barnes Rd.

Eye Care

"Eye Care: The Eyes Have It!" is a free lecture for the general public at 9 AM till Noon on Saturday, May 2 at the OHSU Old Library Auditorium. In a series of short talks, internationally known clinicians and researchers at the Casey Eye Institute will discuss new advances in eye care, technology, and research that will affect the vision of millions of Americans.

Volunteers Needed

Family Center, a program for women and children surviving domestic violence and homelessness, has opportunities for compassionate women to assist in all shelter program areas. 36 hours of training provided. In order to participate in our next training which will begin in June 1998 or to request further information, call 232-6562. Women who speak Spanish and have interpreting skills are greatly needed.

The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe

Drammy award winning Oregon Children's Theatre (OCT) presents *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* April 26 & May 3 at Portland Civic Auditorium.

Oregon Children's Theatre is bringing back this all-time favorite in celebration of its 10 year anniversary season.

Returning to the lead roles are Anthony Armstrong, as Aslan, the Great Lion, and Vana O'Brien as the White Witch. Hank Cartwright plays Fenrus Ulf, Head of the Witch's Secret Police.

Children in the cast include Emily Falkenstein as Susan, Bryce Wescott as Peter, Cody Hill as Edmund, and Katie Wilkes as Lucy.



Ebony Fashion Fair Coming To Portland

"The Jazz Age Of Fashions"

Ebony Fashion Fair, the world's largest traveling fashion show, celebrates its 40th anniversary with the "Rose City" with the extraordinary Jazz Age Of Fashions! See Details on page A5.



Oliver Lapidus' elegant dark brown halter dress is embroidered with pearls on pointed hemline accented with white silk tassels.



Magnificent black & ecru animal print gown designed by Louis Feraud has ruffles around the periphery and is worn over exotic hand painted hosiery.

Kids Shouldn't Have To Wait

Oregon steps up adoption efforts to place more children in less time with permanent families by 2000. Kay Toran is the director of the State Office for Services to Children and Families.

By KAY TORAN

"God, if you're listening, I really want a family."

-14-year-old Oregon foster child

Whether the letter begins with Dear God or Dear Santa, the wish for a family tops these children's lists.

More than a thousand children in Oregon are waiting to be adopted.

That's too many who wait, and for some it's too long. By 2000, the State Office for Services to Children and Families' goal is to reduce the number of those waiting and the length of time they wait.

Research tells us that permanency for a child means high school graduation, stable employment and the skills to prevent teen pregnancy, illegal drug use and trouble with the law.

A loving family nurtures the child and the child's hopes and dreams for the future. For

one young adopted boy, the dream was to own a restaurant where families would come and enjoy good food in a friendly, comfortable atmosphere. He would be a good boss, he dreamed, and the people who worked for him would strive to be the best in everything they do.

That boy was Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's, one of the fastest-growing quick service food empires in North America. Dave never knew his birth parents. He was adopted when he was six weeks old.

In 1990, he became a national spokesman for the White House Initiative on adoption, called "Adoption Works ... For Everyone." Since then, Dave has been a national adoption advocate, working to raise awareness for the tens of thousands of children who need permanent homes and loving families.

In 1992, Dave established the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, a not-for-profit

foundation focused on raising public awareness about adoption, helping reduce the red tape from the process and making adoption more affordable. To note, adoption through the state is free.

This year, SCF joined with Wendy's and Oregon's 12 to launch the Kids Can't Wait" public service campaign to encourage single and married people of all ages, backgrounds and incomes to consider adoption. These public service announcements run weekly on KPTV Channel 12 and feature Dave and testimonials from parents who have adopted.

The campaign, coupled with SCF's current efforts to place children in permanent homes, are key to reaching our adoption goals by 2000.

There has been an encouraging 9 percent decrease in the number of waiting children since February 1997. This is attributed to two factors: additional SCF adoption staff and the SCF program Operation Jumpstart.

The 1997 Legislature allocated additional SCF adoption staff whose assignment is to increase the number of permanent placements, reduce the length of time children wait and expand the pool

of families who are studied and prepared to adopt. Through their efforts, the number of waiting children should continue to decline.

Operation Jumpstart, which went into effect in early 1997, has concentrated on working with children's caretaker relatives and foster care providers and identifying them as adoptive resources. SCF is committed to maintaining permanent bonds with children and their caretakers and children and their relatives whenever it is in the best interest of the child.

During the last four months of 1997, 77 percent of all approved final placements were with relatives, foster parents or other kin.

For the next two years and beyond, SCF will be working to make children's wishes for a family come true. But we won't be doing it alone.

Novelist Graham Greene said, "There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in." The future is now for Oregon's waiting children. For more information about adopting a child through SCF, please call 1-800-331-0503.