

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Spring Clean-Up

The King Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a Spring Clean-Up on Saturday, May 16th, from 9 AM to 2 PM. It will be held behind NE Precinct (6th and Killingsworth). Bring you trash, bulky waste, yard debris, tires and scrap metal. Call 288-6920.

PSU Annual Book Sale

More than 5,000 volumes and numerous magazines will be for sale at "really reasonable rates." Tuesday through Thursday, May 12-14, at the Portland State University Library's annual book sale. The sale takes place in Portland State University's Smith Center Ballroom, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 9 PM and Thursday from 8:30 AM to 2 PM.

Small Business Dialogue

Small Business Dialogue is an open discussion of topics relevant to small businesses. This event is put together by the Portland Chamber, with more than 2,000 firms in the organization. The Business Dialogue will be on Thursday, May 14 from 4:30 to 6 PM. The cost is \$5 for Chamber members and \$7 retail. Call 228-9411.

Seminar On Retiring

Bank of America is holding a seminar called "Retiring When You Want - In the Lifestyle You Want". This will be a free seminar on May 12 at the DoubleTree Hotel Portland - Lloyd Center. The speaker will be Jim Reitan, Senior Vice President of Global Private Bank. He will explain what it means to financially survive your retirement. Call (800) 241-8769.

Swim A Lap

The 23rd annual Jantzen Swim A Lap to benefit Albertina Kerr Centers is set for Saturday, May 9. Participants are asked to raise pledges based on flat amounts or pledges per lap.

Swimmers may complete the required one hour of swimming at any time, at any site, leading to the event. Call Geoff Knapp at 239-8101.

St. Johns Parade

The St. Johns Parade Committee is pleased to present the 36th Annual St. Johns Parade on Saturday, May 9th from noon till 2 PM. Starting at N. Burr traveling west on N. Lombard through downtown St. Johns, turning right at N. New York and disbanding at N. St. Johns Street next to St. Johns Park.

Oweesta Conference

On May 15-19, representatives from Native American tribes and organizations around the country will gather in Portland at the Doubletree Lloyd Center to learn how to succeed economically while at the same time survive culturally.

The Ninth Annual Oweesta Conference (Oweesta is the Mohawk word for money), is an opportunity for Native Americans to learn from one another and top experts on how to blend Native cultural values with the best of what Wall Street has to offer.

Call (540) 371-5615.

Volunteer Opportunity

Want to learn communication, assertiveness, empowerment, conflict resolution problem solving skills and help elder abuse victims? Volunteer to be an Ombudsman for Victims of Elder Abuse.

Elders in Action is developing a brand new, one-of-a-kind in the nation, program to advocate for victims of elder abuse. Call 823-5293.

Theologian Martin E. Marty Received An Honorary Degree

**Concordia University
Graduated 198
Saturday May 02,
1998**

One of the world's most well-known and respected scholars of religion and ethics shared the spotlight with 198 graduates at Concordia University's Spring Commencement held at 11 a.m. on Saturday May 02, 1998 in the university's gymnasium. A 9:30 baccalaureate service at St. Michael's Lutheran Church preceded the graduation ceremony.

Rev. Dr. Martin E. Marty received an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters for his long service to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and for his influential scholarly career, said Concordia President Dr. Charles E. Schlimpert. Marty will give the commencement address.

For 35 years, Marty was professor of American Religious and Cultural History at the University of Chicago until his retirement this March. In retirement, Marty will serve as Director of the Pew Foundation's Public Religion project, a \$5 million dollar project to interpret the role of religion in American public life; The four year project will examine: 1997 -- Religion and Mass Communications; 1998 -- Role of Religion in Politics and Government; 1999 -- Role of Religion in Business and Commerce; 2000 -- Role of Religion in Education.

In 1986 Time magazine said Marty "is the most influential living interpreter of religion in the U.S." In 1997 he was the



Rev. Dr. Martin E. Marty pays a visit to Concordia University.

(Photo by M.Washington)

recipient of the National Humanities Award, awarded to him by President Bill Clinton.

Student speakers will be Karen Storment, a psychology major from Milwaukie, and Koty Zelinka, a secondary education major from Portland.

The College of Education graduated 97 stu-

dents, 47 undergraduates and 50 master's degree candidates. The School of Management had 73 graduates, 59 in Business department and 14 from the health and Social Services department. The Arts & Sciences and Theological Studies colleges graduated a total of 28.

Metro Gives a New Name to an Old Tradition!

Elephants always remember, but this time there's something they need to forget—the name of where they live! Today, the Metro Council voted to change the name of the Metro Washington Park Zoo to the Oregon Zoo.

"Our zoo is a world-class facility, and we are very proud of it.

This name change will help us to better identify the zoo to the people of Oregon and to people across the United States," said Metro Council Presiding Officer Jon Kvistad.

"As I was growing up, the zoo was a great place to visit and to learn, and we just want to keep it that way for future generations."

The new name will also reflect the growing importance of native exhibits at the zoo.

"We are working to build a wonderful program that will bring people in touch with the animals that are native to this region.

The name change simply reflects our changing priorities," said Metro Councilor Ruth McFarland (District 1).

Voters in the Metro region approved the funding to build the Oregon Exhibit in 1996.

Little League looking for answers to dwindling numbers of players

By NEIL HEILPREN

The number of kids running around local baseball diamonds is diminishing and little league officials are wondering how to face the challenge.

"Little league teams are making adjustments nationwide," said Nancy Smith, president of district one (north and northeast Portland) of the Peninsula's Little League. "That's particularly because of the increasing popularity of spring soccer, basketball and other activities."

"Little league is declining in numbers, and some leagues are merging to pool resources," she told The Portland Observer.

Smith describes herself as "an involved parent" who has been league president for three years, and participated two years in the junior-senior program for youth between ages 13-15.

Complaining that "volunteerism is down," she noted "so many of our children come from single parent families who's limited financial resources" don't permit the involvement needed to operate the leagues.

The numbers game is also frustrating for district administrator Sandy Berg who keeps coming back to the thought of "having the kids play together no matter what their race or background and everybody is equal on the ball field."

"That's what little league is all about." "We used to be able to field four teams in each league, but that is now down to one or two teams," she said, noting that Peninsula Little League is down to only one team in the 10-12 age bracket.

With fewer teams, the district has increased the number of inter-league



Peninsula Park All-Star Little League.

games and is making plans to combine some of the smaller leagues. For example, Kenton, Interstate and Portsmouth leagues will probably combine next year, she said, anticipating a bigger core group of volunteers and more youngsters to form teams.

"Everybody is trying very hard to get the word out," she said, "but because it is a volunteer program, there are a few people trying to do a lot of jobs to make the program work."

Mass mailing of fliers, contacts through the schools and one newspaper

ad campaign last year just hasn't done the trick.

Berg also pointed to the lack of adult volunteers to be coaches, team managers, and umpires. They are needed for two games and two practice evenings each team has per week.

Although the little league season runs from the first part of April through June 20, Berg said some help may still be needed this year for coaching, "but what we really need help in is umpiring."

"We will provide training at no cost," she said, urging potential volunteers to

call her at 288-2718.

The cost for participating ranges from \$25 to \$50, including sign-up fee, uniforms, equipment, insurance and few other details.

"It doesn't cover everything," said Berg. "That is why leagues have fundraisers."

She was quick to point out that children from families that can't afford those fees can still play. "We never refuse a child. They can still sign up for this year. Call me and I will direct them to the right league for them."

Eight Year Old Eric Baily Helps Tri-Met Clean N.E.

By LEE PERLMAN

Tri-Met is asking citizens to help it clean up its act in north and northeast Portland, and eight-year-old Eric Baily is showing how it can be done.

The Rigler School student regularly picks up cigarette butts and other debris that people leave on the ground at the Northeast 15th

Avenue and Ainsworth Boulevard bus shelter, a block from his home. "I don't like to see people leaving trash like that on the ground," he says.

His mother Karen requested that a trash can be installed at the shelter three years ago. "We asked Eric to pick up trash at the shelter a year ago as a chore, but he's continued to do

it on his own," she says.

It is one of the few cases in which a resident, of any age, has agreed to take responsibility for taking care of a Tri-Met shelter and litter can. It is the kind of "community partnership" Tri-Met is seeking from riders and neighbors.

Since January 7, and through June 30, Tri-

Met is giving special attention to the area through the Line Four Pilot Project.

According to Tri-Met outreach worker Molly Ryan, "When someone in that shelter is about to throw something on the ground, someone else will say, 'Don't you know that an eight year old kid tries to keep this clean?'"