

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Free Social Services

Social Service providers will be at the King Neighborhood Facility from 11 to 2 PM. at the King Neighborhood Facility to answer questions about, and provide referrals to people who need help with things like low income, health insurance, child support payments, etc. These services are provided through the Community Court. Call 248-3337.

"Dis/Place"

A mixed-media exhibit on images that deal with the migration of African Americans to Portland during world War II, their initial settlement in Vanport, and their relocation to Albina after the Vanport Flood of 1948. Other displacement periods affecting African Americans will be depicted. The showing is by the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center Gallery on June 4 - 27. Call 823-2000.

Entrepreneur Conference

The Oregon Entrepreneurs Forum will be hosting the 1998 Conference on Entrepreneurship entitled "University of the Entrepreneur". This will be held on Thursday, May 21st at the Greenwood Inn in Beaverton. This half-day conference will focus on educating executives at emerging growth companies about finance, marketing and fast-track management in order to help their companies succeed. Call 233-1224.

Multicultural Fair

We would like to extend a personal invitation to you, your family, and friends to attend the Boise-Eliot "Multicultural Fair Celebration of People" on Thursday, May 21st, from 6-8 PM. Our celebration is now in its 17th year, and we are expecting over 3,000 people. Call 916-6171.

Youth Gangs

Do you have concerns about gangs, drugs, and violence in your neighborhood? Join along in the Youth Gangs Task force meeting for community citizens. The next meeting will be on June 17th at 6:30 PM at the King Neighborhood Facility on 4815 NE. 7th.

White Collar Crime

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners determined in a 1996 study that fraud is costing organizations more than \$400 billion per year and more than \$9 a day per employee. Fraud experts will discuss fundamentals of fraud detection and deterrence on June 1 and 2 at The Greenwood Inn in Beaverton. Call (800) 245-3321.

Shakespeare Festival

Mt. Hood Community College will again offer a summer tour to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon on July 8-12. Also available are a raft trip on the Rogue River and a backstage tour of the festival. This offer is on a space-available basis. Early reservations are strongly suggested. Call 667-7260.

Artful Gardens

Artful Gardens, this year's annual spring garden walk in Historic Forest Grove will be held on Saturday, June 6th from 10 AM to 3 PM. Focus will be on plants, trees and flowers, but look also at the many forms of art that will be displayed among nature's beauty. Call 648-5833.

Five hosts, many topics appear on NE Spectrum TV show

BY NEIL HEILPERN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER STAFF

The Paragon Cable Studio was quiet and the floor director held up three fingers, then two and finally one pointing at Yolanda Russell-Alexander, one of the five revolving hosts for Northeast Spectrum.

Only moments earlier, she was sitting in a small reception area reviewing topics with the guests for each segment of the one hour talk show.

Aimed primarily at the African American community, NE Spectrum is aired live each Wednesday on Paragon channels 38 and 54 and is repeated several times throughout the week before another live show is produced, with a new host.

Executive Producer Dave Ashenbrenner calls it "the only program like it on television right now that addresses Portland's north/northeast African American community, and we do everything from promoting upcoming events to local follow ups of mainstream television topics such as ESPN's recent program on racism in sports."

What do they talk about? That depends on the individual host and that person's specific background and personal interest.

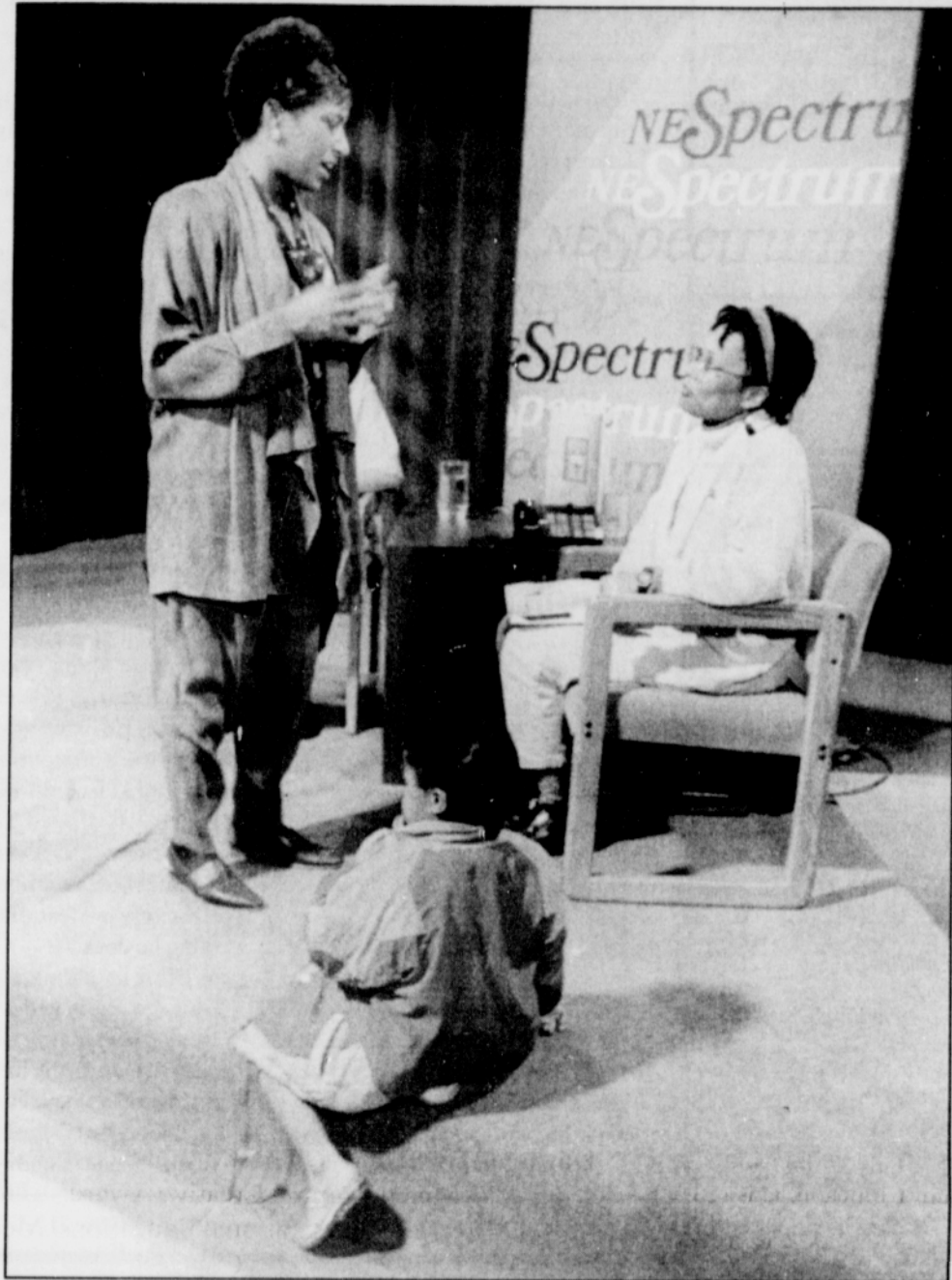
"The hosts are responsible for their own topics," Ashenbrenner told The Portland Observer. "They have their fingers on the pulse of the community and bring in issues they feel need to be discussed."

Although some of Russell-Alexander's shows reflect her position as an administrator for the Multnomah County Health Department, her multi-faceted roles as a long-time community activist reflect a plethora of interests.

They might range from elections and political systems to economic development, leadership empowerment and youth.

On this particular night she interviewed an activist for the Living Wage Campaign, members of Portland's Northwest African American Ballet and a local gospel singer.

"My interest is in communications—professional and personal—and getting high quality information out, having people well



Two of NE Spectrum's hosts, Raina Beavers (left) and Yolanda Russell-Alexander (right), chat during a break between tapings. (Photo by Neil Heilpern)

informed for decision making."

Her health shows may range from HIV and youth, diabetes or sickle cell disease in the black community or domestic violence.

One of the more touching programs she recalled during her eight years on the show

included a six year old boy who came on the set with his grandmother, to tell what it is like to not have his deceased mother around anymore.

Ashenbrenner often chooses which producer/host will be best for a particular topic,

if someone calls in with a suggestion.

When Russell-Alexander's show ended last Wednesday, host Raina Beavers entered the studio to tape what the industry calls a "teaser" and a "before shot" for her show scheduled to be aired this week.

She chatted with Yolanda for a few minutes, then brought a young black woman basketball player from Western Oregon University onto the set for the "before" part of a cosmetic makeover that will be shown and discussed.

Beavers also brings in a variety of topics and guests for the program, but "I really get excited when I can take the show out of the studio and visit places like schools to find out what young people are thinking."

A former administrative staff member at Self Enhancement Inc., she appeared to have a great time during a recent guest appearance by cast members from Oregon Children's Theater production of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

One of the better known hosts is Dick Bogle—former city commissioner, Portland policeman and KATU-TV newscaster (the first African American to do TV news in the Northwest).

"I love doing sports and jazz album reviews," he told The Portland Observer.

When Bogle retired from KATU, he wrote a newspaper story about NE Spectrum's director Aaron Walker who urged him to apply for a position with the program in 1995.

Bogle particularly enjoyed an interview with Police Chief Charles Moore. "I got into him, allowed him to be himself to a large audience over a time period of more than just a sound bite." Another of his favorites was a taping of a downtown performance of the Mel Brown jazz sextet.

"With different hosts, we all reflect our personal interests, backgrounds and experience," said Bogle, "so we each bring a different perspective to the program and have certain gender things that female hosts may be more sensitive to than I am as a male."

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1998 Say No To Drugs March-V.I.P. Breakfast

Celebrating Youth Making Healthy Choices!

On Friday, May 15, 1998, Oregon Partnership had their annual Say No To Drugs March and Breakfast.

The breakfast started at 7:45 am with an introduction of the major sponsors and recognition of the contributors that included Adidas America, U.S. Marine Corporation, ODOT Team Safety and Coffee People to just to name a few. There was also a presentation of the Multnomah County Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI) Board Awards, that was immediately followed by the recognition of the Portland Fire Bureau.

Beginning at 9 am the participants marched across the Burnside Bridge in celebration of the healthy life choice they had made.



Sgt. Dave Hadley, Carol Bonnono, and Michael Harper, Rep. From Ron Wyden's Office, Sam Bush. (Photo by M. Washington).

Oregon Welfare Reform Is Not Only Saving Tax Dollars. It's Also Helping Low-Income Families Achieve Self-Sufficiency.

This guest opinion is by Sandie Hoback, administrator of the Adult and Family Services Division in the Oregon Department of Human Resources.

By SANDIE HOBACK

Thousands of words have been written about Oregon's dramatic success in moving people off the welfare rolls, but here is a single fact that may be even more significant:

Oregon is moving thousands of poor families toward genuine self-sufficiency, and we're doing it without punishing people because they are poor.

In fact, Oregon is rare in that we have not forced people off welfare by tightening eligibility requirements. We have not imposed a two-year time limit. And we actively help

people even after they leave welfare.

Reducing Oregon's welfare caseload from 44,000 households in 1994 to 19,000 today hasn't been just about saving money (although hundreds of millions are being saved). It is about helping people become permanently self-sufficient and respecting the fact that people want to work, pay taxes and set a positive example for their children. Consider:

* Supports: when an Oregon family moves from poverty to work, we don't abandon them. Their eligibility for food stamps usually continues. So does their Oregon Health Plan coverage, for at least a year.

They can continue receiving help with child care expenses up to certain income

limits. And the federal Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income earners acts like a \$1-an-hour wage increase.

These supports help to explain why the typical family moves from 75 percent of the federal poverty level on welfare to 130 percent or more when working -- even if the job pays only the \$6-an-hour minimum wage. (In fact, the typical Oregonian hired off welfare starts at more than \$7 an hour.)

We're also telling people who've left the welfare rolls, "Please call us if your child care falls through, your car won't start or you're having trouble with that first job."

Ninety percent of Oregonians who leave welfare are still off after 18 months. It's an enviable record we want to improve.

* Eligibility: although many states have tightened their welfare-eligibility standards, Oregon has not. In fact, Oregon can boast the nation's greatest caseload reduction among states that haven't arbitrarily squeezed people off welfare.

* Time limits: although many states invoked a two-year welfare time limit, Oregon did not. We believe that if people will work with us, they can find a job within two years. Or if a barrier such as alcoholism prevents them from working, then we will get them the treatment or other help they need rather than creating a costlier social problem down the line.

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