

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Neighborhood Picnic

Kerns Neighborhood Association is hosting its annual National Night out Picnic on Tuesday August 4, from 6 PM - 9 PM at Oregon Park (corner of NE 30th and Oregon St.). Neighborhood residents and area businesses will gather for a potluck dinner, live entertainment and a raffle.

#### Aging and Skin Cancer

On Wednesday, August 12th, Oregon Health Sciences University is offering a lecture entitled "Protect Your Skin from Aging and Skin Cancer," by Bruce Russell, M.D., assistant professor of dermatology and otolaryngology. Call 418-2000.

#### Puppetry in the Parks

Look out! Giant puppets are invading the parks. The Puppetry in the Parks Family Arts Encounter is back for the 4th year bringing kids, picnics, and quality outdoor theater to parks around Portland in a magical celebration of summer. The first performance will be on August 2nd at 12 PM at Laurelhurst Park.

#### Heart Talk

The Portland Adventist Medical Center is offering free programs and classes throughout July and August. On August 11th, a monthly support group for COPD patients and their families to provide and exchange information in a warm, caring and supportive environment. Call 251-6830.

#### Postal Service

On Wednesday, August 5th, the U.S. Postal Service's Portland Remote Encoding Center will celebrate its second anniversary by hosting a job fair to give potential applicants for new jobs a first-hand look at how the center's modern mail processing technology works. The U.S. Postal Service will accept applications for approximately 200 temporary positions throughout the four-hour event. Call 280-8178.

#### Mall Walking

Enjoy the benefits of walking in a safe, convenient and weatherproof environment. Adventist Health is a sponsor of LifeWalk at Mall 205, a loosely structured program that allows you to walk at your own pace inside the mall while tracking your progress. Registered walkers receive a water bottle, map and mileage log, and are eligible for bi-weekly prize drawings. Call 255-5808.

#### Children's Fair

Games, Music, food, free giveaways, a raffle all take place August 15th from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Common Bond 4919 NE 9th. Sponsored by Volunteers of America, Common Bond, Adult and Family Services, Albina Ministerial Association and Albina Head Start. All are welcome.

#### Pacific Rim Hypothesis

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry will host a one-day symposium on "The Peopling of the Americas: The Pacific Rim Hypothesis" on August 22nd, the final and highlight event in OMSI's Discovery Series of special programs designed to enhance the Missing Links-Alive! exhibit on human rights at OMSI through September 7th.

#### Kids Fair

The Fred Meyer Kids Fair at the Rose Quarter Commons August 22nd is a fun resource fair for children ages 12 and under combining entertainment, information and fun. The free fair includes child related vendor booths, product demonstrations, nonprofit organizations as resource for parents, tasty food and entertainment including Weinerville-live, Scooby Doo, Obo Addy, Kids on the Block, clowns, face painters and more.

## "A Life So Loved Taken To Soon"

Sean Sutton and family remember their lost love one, Chris Sutton. A memorial service was held at Benson High School. Chris Sutton was killed July 21, his murderer has not been found.

(Photo by M. Washington)



## Portland To Receive Funds For Community Based Crime Prevention

### Values-Based Violence Prevention Initiative

President Clinton announced a new initiative to provide funds to civic, community, and faith based organizations to fight crime.

This program, to be called the Values-Based Violence Prevention Initiative, will provide \$2.2 million in grants to 16 cities around the country to fight youth violence, gangs, truancy and other juvenile problems by promoting common sense values and responsibility. The initiative will work with community based groups, including religiously affiliated organizations, to reach out to at-risk youth, instill values in them and thereby improve public safety.

The 16 cities are: Salinas, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Washington DC; Miami, FL; Chicago, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Baltimore, MD; Detroit, MI; Kansas City, MO; Hempstead, NY; Portland, OR; Philadelphia, PA; Charleston, SC; San Antonio, TX; Richmond, VA; and Seattle, WA.

To find out more about the specific programs in your city that are receiving grant money, please call the DNC Press Office at 202-863-8148.

## District One Champions

The Proud Team of Peninsula and Riverside are the Champions of the District One. 13 year-old All-Stars, the team entered the State Tournament as Favorite to win the championship.

(Photo by M. Washington)



## Council Puts Mediation Program Back In City

By LEE PERLMAN  
PORTLAND OBSERVER STAFF

After more than a year and thousands of dollars of study - and a stress-related death - the Portland Neighborhood Mediation Program is back where it started.

Last week the Portland City Council unanimously accepted the Neighborhood Mediation Center Advisory Committee's recommendation that the program be operated permanently by the city.

"I'm absolutely elated," longtime mediation specialist Eddie Collins told the Observer. "Council in its wisdom made a decision that will benefit the citizens of Portland. We hoped they'd see it our way and, by golly, they did!"

The program has been run by the city since it was created in 1978, first under the now-defunct Metropolitan Human Relations Commission and, since 1983, by the Office of Neighborhood Associations (now the Office

of Neighborhood Involvement). However, in 1997, as a budget-reduction measure in the wake of Ballot Measure 47's passage, ONA director Diane Linn and commissioner Gretchen Kafoury called for the program to be taken over by a private-non-profit corporation, with the change to occur by year's end.

Staff and advocates for the program resisted the change. Their efforts gained impetus after the death last November of Mediation's longtime director Emmanuel Paris of a heart attack, which some attributed to stress brought about by the impending program change. Shortly afterward Council appointed the advisory committee to study Mediation's future, and extended its funding through June. During budget deliberations last spring, at the committee's request, Council approved city funding and operations for one more year.

The committee's final report found that no existing agency could offer the services now

provided by the program. A public Request for Qualifications, asking private entities to take on the program's role, received no responses.

Future funding remains an issue. In 1997, Council appropriated only \$200,000 for the program. Maintaining its current level of operations would cost \$400,000 and, as Kafoury noted last week, Council has yet to indicate whether it would approve the additional money.

Nonetheless, acting ONI director Celia Heron saw last week's vote as a strong endorsement of the program. "Six months ago, they rather grumpily said, 'Okay, you can have more money, but you'd better be gone by June,'" she said. "Now we have five solid votes to continue the program indefinitely."

The report called for "diversification" of funding, seeking sources outside the city general fund. Heron said Mediation recently received a \$33,000 grant to work with communities on siting halfway houses and social

service facilities in neighborhoods, and is seeking other grants. However, she says, these are one-time-only funds for special projects. "When the project goes away, the funds go away," she says.

A possible source of funds are the Portland Police Bureau and Multnomah County Animal Control, which frequently refer cases to the program, Heron says.

The report also called for an ongoing advisory committee and recruitment and training of volunteers to handle some disputes.

Collins says the program in the past has had as many as 57 volunteers. "It's spreading the gospel, so to speak," he says. "These are conflict resolution skills that they can use for the rest of their lives."

Given its outcome, was the long study necessary, and why was it done only after deciding to spin the program off? According to advisory committee co-chair Joanne Jack

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