

Education

The Truth Is Out There

Back to school issues of your local high school paper will be a little more interesting this year. For the first time high school journalists are getting a new tool from the state to help uncover the truth about tobacco products.

Starting this fall, The Oregon Health Division's Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP) will introduce a new program called the Tobacco Prevention News Service (TPNS). This program is designed to keep students aware of the implications of tobacco use. Every other month, high schools will receive a packet full of tobacco-related stories geared to students' interests. Each packet will include News Briefs featuring top tobacco news stories/information relevant to high school students, and News Tips to assist students in tobacco-related story development.

Pac/West Communications, a Lake Oswego based Public Relations firm, which manages the program for the Health Division, says TPNS was designed to stimulate interaction at the high school level, as well as give young journalists the opportunity to cover controversial topics.

"We believe the best way to counteract tobacco industry marketing is to give youth the resources to find out the truth for themselves," says Scott Ballo, account manager at Pac/West Communications.

The Oregon Tobacco Prevention and Education Program is a comprehensive effort designed to reduce the use of tobacco and exposure to secondhand smoke. It includes programs in local communities, schools, businesses, media and special populations.

The Program is funded by a tobacco tax increase by voters in 1996. Ten percent of the new revenue is allocated to tobacco use prevention and reduction.

During the summer, Multnomah County school superintendents, law enforcement and public safety officials, met to address the issue of safety in our public schools. One of our goals was that parents, students, school administrators and law enforcement officials work together to ensure student safety at school. We are committed to working with Oregon Legislators during the next legislative session to address school safety issues.

In an effort to clarify how schools and law enforcement will work together in the future, we felt the following questions were important to answer.

1. What incidents should schools report to police?
2. When will police inform the school about a student's behavior?
3. What acts will cause arrest and removal of students/perpetrators from school?

Our plan is as follows:

Multnomah Education

Schools will request police intervention when the following behaviors and/or criminal acts occur:

- Possession of firearms and/or dangerous weapons to include explosives and chemical agents
- Possession of simulated or look-alike weapons, if used to threaten or menace
- Threats of serious physical injury or bodily harm either on or off school grounds
- Serious physical assault
- Physical abuse, sex abuse, rape or sexual misconduct
- Gang related activity
- Robbery
- Hate Crimes
- Arson, vandalism and/or criminal mischief
- Possession of and/or delivery of

drugs to include alcohol

Police may inform schools about a student's behavior if the involvement could lead to violence at school. Information may include:

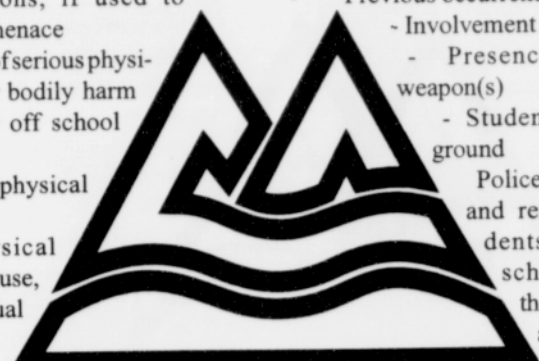
- Type of incident
- Degree of harm or level of threat
- Previous occurrences
- Involvement of gangs
- Presence of a weapon(s)
- Student's background
- Police will arrest and remove students from school when the following acts occur?
- Student is in possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon
- Student has committed an assault with a firearm or dangerous weapon
- Student has committed a serious

violent crime

- Student exhibits assaultive behavior while in possession of a weapon

We want to emphasize that the purpose of our meeting stems from our concern for, and commitment to, the safety of the students in our communities. We believe that every child has a right to a safe learning environment. We would like to work with you to continue to improve school safety. It is our belief that the best avenue to provide that encouragement is through conversations with parents, neighborhood associations, students and school leadership councils.

We strongly believe that our public schools are still a safe place to be. The plan we presented here is part of our continual work toward school safety. Please contact your local school principal, superintendent or law enforcement official if you have questions or concerns.



You can now find us on the Web! <http://www.portlandobserver.net>

Brazilian Master Presents Music And Dance Workshops At PSU

Jorge Alabe from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, leads a series of workshops on Brazilian music and dance, September 14-17 at Portland State University. Jorge Alabe is a master of Condoble drumming, dance, and Orixas songs, and escolas de samba leader. This unusual opportunity for people interested in Afro-Brazilian dance, rhythms, and culture is co-sponsored by PSU's World Dance Office, the PSU Samba Club, and the Lions of Batucada.

Workshops are offered Monday through Wednesday, September 14-16, on Atabaque drum and song, 6-7:30 PM, and Orixas dance and song, 7:30-9 PM.

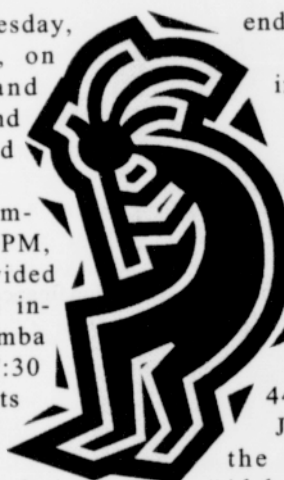
Thursday, September 17, from 6-7:30 PM, instruction is provided on many Brazilian instruments and on samba dance. Then, from 7:30 to 9 PM, participants can join Lions of Batucada, Portland's own samba/percussion band, in a rousing

end to the class.

All classes take place in Room 207 of PSU's Peter Stott Center (formerly the Health & Physical Education building), 930 SW Hall. Contact PSU's World Dance Office, 725-5670, or Brian Davis/Lions of Batucada, 797-4494.

Jorge Bezerra carries the esteemed title "Alabe", indicating he has obtained the highest honor as

an initiated ceremony master in the Condoble religion (an Afro-Brazilian, Yoruba-based religion). He has performed all over the world for more than 30 years, including 10 years as musical director of the Brazilian folkloric group OBA. He has directed many samba schools in Rio de Janeiro. In addition, he was director of the Minas Gerias Samba School in Bela Horizonte, Brazil, and he taught at the Afro-Brazilian Cultural Institute led by Meceges Batista, the famous cultural historian.



U.S. Workers Rebelling Against Mandatory Overtime

"Millions of American workers feel they are working too much," says Margaret Hallock, director of the University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center. "Look at the recent strikes at AT&T, General Motors and United Parcel Service, where forced overtime was as much an issue as salaries. I think it

is significant that the public supported the strikers' efforts to cut back on forced overtime." UO professor Steven Deutsch, a labor sociologist, agrees. "There's a cultural shift underway in this country," he says. "Dual-earner families are now the norm. They can't work 60 to 70 hours a week and deal with family issues."

Deutsch says the average American worked only 40 hours a week at the start of World War II, dropping from a historic average of 70 hours a week.

Now, employers are fending off international competition and trying to reduce costs by reshaping their work force into lean, mean machines which are inherently unfriendly to

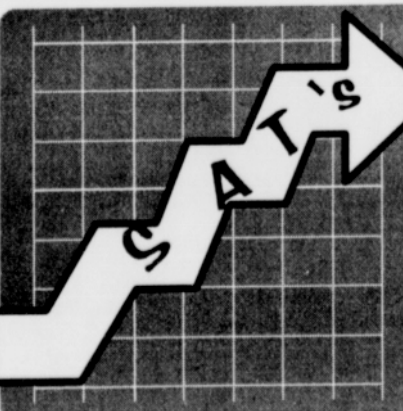
families. "Workers are getting burned out."

This is going to be a big issue for some time to come," Deutsch says.

Oregon 'SAT' Scores Continue to Climb

Oregon's SAT scores climbed for the second straight year, and Oregon remains number one among the high-participating states.

Oregon's 1998 high school graduates scored 528 on the verbal test, up 3 points from the previous year, and 528 on the math test, up 4 points. The scores are the highest since 1972, the first year for which state results are available.



This is the eighth straight year Oregon students scored the highest of the 23 states which had at least 40 percent of their students tested.

"This is another indicator of student achievement gains in Oregon schools," said State Schools Supt. Norma Paulus.

Paulus said 53 percent of

Oregon's graduates took the SAT, up from 50 percent in 1997. "The College Board, which administers the SAT, up from 50 percent in 1997. "The College Board, which administers the SAT, will tell you that as percentages climb, scores generally drop," said Paulus. "We have higher scores and higher percentages."

The national verbal score was unchanged at 505. The national math score was 512, up 1 point.

The Oregon Department of Education does not have local high school results.

They are given to schools by The College Board.

Study Volunteers Needed-High Blood Pressure

African American volunteers are needed for a 30 week hypertension research medication study. If you are 18 years or older with high blood pressure and in general good health, you may qualify. Volunteers will be thoroughly screened by the research team and their private physicians consulted. Study medication, study-related clinic visits and testing will be provided at no charge for those who qualify. Reimbursement for travel will be given. For information call 228-3217. Mon-Thur. 9-4, Fri. 9-1

Clinical Research Group of Oregon
1221 S.W. Yamhill, Suite 303
Portland, Oregon 97205

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AUGUST ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Date	Event	Attendance	Economic Impact
Aug. 1, 1998	Anthony Robbins	50	\$2,904
Aug. 5-9, 1998	American Numismatic	11,793	\$7,500,348
Aug. 11-22, 1998	Nike World Masters Games	11,400	\$ 7,250,400
Aug. 21, 1998	US Postal Service	35	\$1,848
Aug. 24-26, 1998	Composting Facility (DEQ)	186	\$4,541
Aug. 25-26, 1998	Microsoft	1,065	\$56,232
Aug. 28, 1998	MLK Statue Dedication	450	\$23,760
Aug. 28-30, 1998	Farwest Nursery Show	14,600	\$9,285,600
8 Events		39,579	\$24,125,633

Total Economic Benefit For The Region For August \$24,125,633

The Oregon Convention Center has generated a total of \$2.5 billion in economic benefits to the region since it opened in 1990.

A total of \$122 million has helped pay for school, police and local services.