

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Older Women's League

The Portland Chapter of the Older Women's League invites mid-life and older women to an open meeting on Saturday, September 12th, from NOON to 2 PM. The speaker is Beverly Stein, Chair of Multnomah Board of Commissioners. The topic will be "All Issues Are Women's Issues." Visitors may bring "brown bags" and coffee, tea and dessert will be available. Call 771-2583.

#### Veterans Conference

The Fourth Annual Veteran's Conference will be on Thursday, September 10th and 11th, from 9 AM to 5 PM at the Ramada Plaza Hotel on 1441 NE Second Ave. Free health screenings will also be offered. Call (503) 402-2903, or call toll-free at (800) 949-1004 ext.57013. Bring a copy of form DD-214 for medical enrollment.

#### Steppers Night Out

Feel like dressing up and dancing? You are invited to attend our Steppers Set. This is a new and exciting event to get you on the dance floor to learn basic dance skills and enable you to create your own personal style of Stepping. We encourage everyone to dress up in formal dance attire. Open to everyone ages 28 and up. The event starts on Friday, September 25th at 8 PM till 2 AM at the Adrianna Hill Grand Ballroom on the 2nd floor (918 SW Yamhill). The next set will be on Friday, October 16th. Check out their website at 503steppers.com.

#### Japanese Garden

The Japanese Garden Society of Oregon invites you to come and enjoy the beautiful Fall colors at the Japanese Garden. The garden's monochromatic color scheme is replaced by blazing reds, yellows and oranges. Willows, Vine Maples and Japanese Maples all join in, turning various shades of yellow, gold and red. Plan a visit in mid-to-late October to catch the color at its peak. Call 223-4070.

#### Shelter Youth Program

The Bradley Angle House Shelter Youth Program is seeking volunteers to run therapeutic kids groups; art, cooking and gardening projects with the moms and kids; individual mentoring time; play therapy; and administrative support. Fall training starts September 22nd. Call 281-3540.

#### NAACP

The next NAACP (Portland branch) meeting will be on September 12th, from 1-3 PM at Bethel A.M.E on 5828 NE. 8th Ave.

#### Japanese Americans

Playwright Wakako Yamauchi will be on hand at Powell's Books in Portland to give a reading of the play "12-1-A", about the experiences of Japanese Americans interned during World War II. 1005 W. Burnside. Call 370-6061 or visit <http://ssd1.cas.pacificu.edu/as/mpu>.

#### DADA Ball

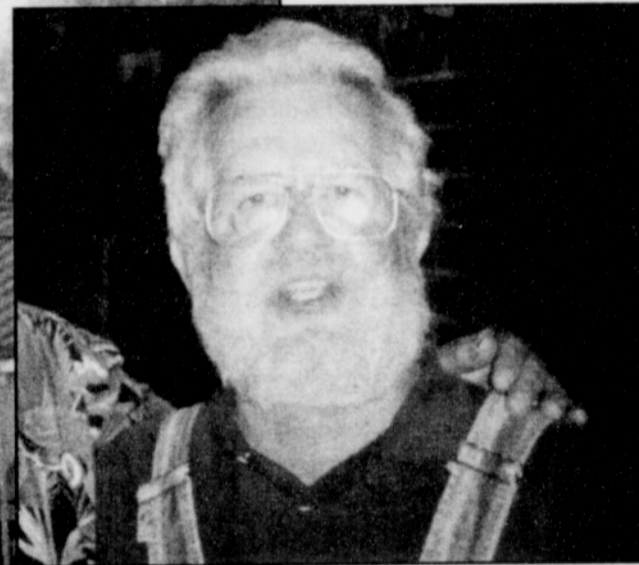
Outrageous! Playful! Surprises of all sorts! Portland Institute for Contemporary Art hosts the 3rd annual DADA Ball! This extravaganza of free expression will benefit PICA. \$25 general admission at 8 PM. Call 242-1419 for tickets and information.

#### Environmental Health

On Thursday, September 24th, from 7-8 PM, the Oregon Pesticide Education Network (OPEN) will host a public forum on Children's Health, Pesticides, and Our Right to Know. The forum will feature Dr. Routt Reigart, an expert on children's environmental health. The forum will be held at Portland State University in the Smith Center, Room 238, the Browsing Lounge. Child care and refreshments will be provided. Call 222-1963, ext.111 or 231-4181.

#### Women Entrepreneurs

The Women Entrepreneurs of Oregon will be hosting a program entitled "Public Relations" with dinner included. This event will be held on Tuesday, September 15th at the Ristorante Platti, on 319 SW Broadway, starting at 5:45 PM. Call 229-3819 to make reservations.



Mayor Bud Clark is the owner of Goose Hollow Inn which is located along the new Westside MAX line that's ready to roll on Saturday, September 12th. He served as Portland's mayor for two terms from 1984-1992. His platform during the mayoral elections was to open up the city to more participation by neighborhood groups. Bud Clark is the famed resident of Goose Hollow which is featured in the Neighborhoods section.

## Lynda Lewis Named Merc Human Resources Manager



Lynda Lewis

The Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission (MERC) has named Lynda Lewis as Human Resource Manager.

In this capacity, Lewis will manage human resource matters for all MERC facilities: the Oregon Convention Center, the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Portland Civic Stadium and the Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center, as well as the MERC administration office.

Her responsibilities will include management of training, employee relations, recruitment, performance planning and evaluation, and compensation systems.

Lewis brings over 20 years of human resources experience to the position, in both the private and public sectors.

She most recently served as Organizational and Development Manager for Metro, where she was responsible for the development of strategic organization-wide change initiatives; she previously served as Recruitment and Selection Manager for Metro and prior to that, for the City of Portland.

Among Lewis' private sectors posts, she has served as Senior Vice President and Manager of Human Resources at First City Bank Corporation in Houston; as Manager of Human Resources Planning at

Rainier Bank Corporation in Seattle.

Lewis holds a Master of Science degree in counseling psychology, a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and has completed doctoral level work at Boston University.

"We are delighted to welcome Lynda to the team," said Mark B. Williams, MERC General Manager. "She has the knowledge, expertise and blend of private/public sector experience necessary to manage sensitive human resources tasks in a complex organization like MERC. Her experience working with MERC and Metro is a big bonus."

## Portland Rockies: A good time, not the big time

By LEE PERLMAN

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER STAFF

It's the end of another season for the Portland Rockies, the Portland version of professional baseball - a good time instead of the big time.

The Rockies, a single A farm club of the major league Colorado Rockies, are suited to Portland in several ways.

They play in 62-year-old Civic Stadium at 1844 S.W. Morrison St. It is outdated in many ways, has no parking of its own, but its small size (23,000 seats) offers good viewing from anywhere in the house, while always offering enough seats for all. Except for the low-level boxes sold to season ticket holders, the best seats are an affordable \$7, and you can sit in the open left-field bleachers, the "Rock Pile," for \$2.50 adults, \$1 for 12 and under. The short June-through-Labor-Day season, with 38 home games, takes advantage of the region's best weather; in four years the Rockies have never been rained out. By contrast, Portland's last team, the triple-A Beavers, who left in 1993, had a hard time playing through April and May.

The team offers good baseball, though not championship-level. They are young prospects getting a tryout, and training, through the Rockies' farm system. "They're all good," owner Jack Cain says. "It's just that there are some who are a little better." All hope to make it to "the bigs" some day ("They shouldn't be here if they don't,"

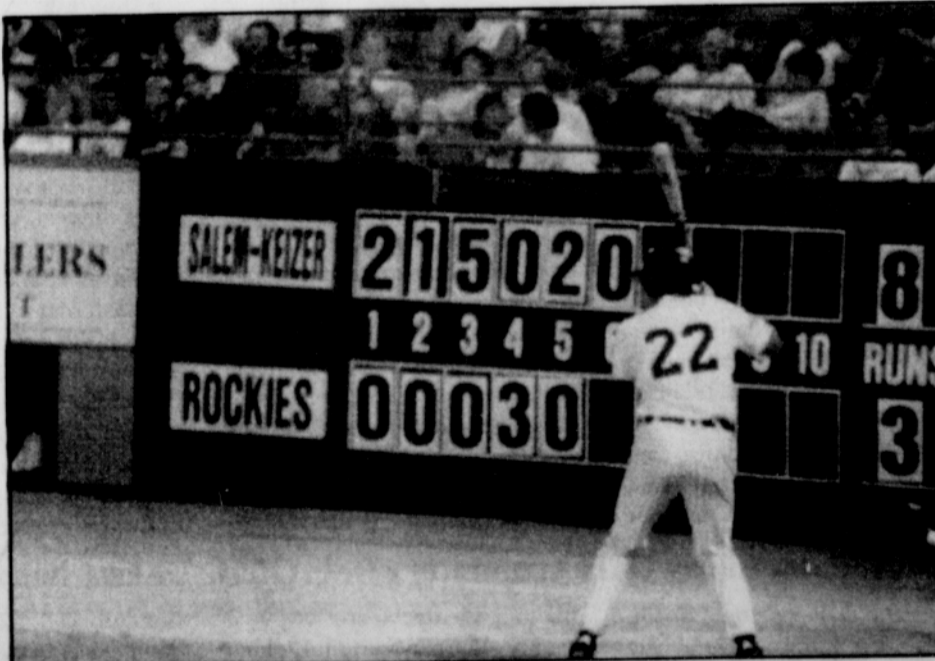
Cain says,) but only 10 percent ever get that far. Portland is a place where young players can find out if they have what it takes, or go on to something else. In the words of sports writer Roger Kahn, they are "good enough to dream."

The Rockies are not about Yankee-style dynasties. Last year's club was the Pacific Coast League champion. This year's entry had a losing season, as the 1997 stars moved up through the farm system.

"We're dependent on the players we're given, so we can't guarantee a winning season," Cain says. "A month after the game half the fans won't remember what the score was, but they will remember if they had a good time. We're here to provide entertainment."

With this in mind the schedule includes giveaways of bats, mitts, balls, and notebook binders, entertainers such as the Blues Brothers and the Santa Fe Chicken mascot, some after-game concerts, and fireworks at the first and last games of the season. The team works with Boy Scout troops and civic organizations to sell tickets, letting charities keep a commission on sales. The staff places a high premium on fan services. Because of this, the Portland Rockies are among the top 30 minor league clubs in the country in attendance, and first in their class, general manager Mark Helminiak says.

They are "family oriented," Cain says. Their audience is largely blue color, "but we get professionals too." One of the lat-



Portland Rockies player up to bat.

(Photo by M. Washington)

ter, Baruti Arthuree of the Portland Development Commission, says he sees only one or two games a year, but enjoys the experience. "You get to sit out in the fresh air, get something to eat or drink, and watch a ball game," he says. "It's affordable family entertainment; you don't have to spend \$100 before you even get out of the car."

They are the mainstay of Civic Stadium. They pay a base rent and a percentage of ticket sales to the Metropolitan

Exposition-Recreation Commission, operators of the stadium. Rockies revenue brought in \$456,000 last year. "They need us as much as we need them," Cain says.

Asked why he brought the Rockies to Portland Cain says, "I wanted to be in a business that was fun." He made more money with a chain of service stations, he says, "but I didn't enjoy going to work every day as much."