

Community Group Call Attention to Transit Affordability

Education is a basic right afforded to everyone

Students who can't find a way to get to school, do not have equal opportunity to exercise that. Over the past year Sisters in Portland Impacting Real Issues together (SPIRIT) surveyed over 2000 students in schools across Portland to find out how they were getting to school and what they identified as problems related to taking public transit.

According to Tri-Met's own estimates, youth constitute upward of 20% of public transit ridership. Close to 15,000 kids use public transportation to get to and from school every week day. A key issue for many parents and students is the cost of getting to and from school. SPIRIT discovered that, while school districts in cities close to Portland, such as Seattle, subsidize public transit passes for students, five years ago the Portland Public School District was exempted from a State Law requiring districts to provide free transportation for middle and high school students traveling up to a mile and a half to school. The city of Eugene's school district was also exempted. This means that families are forced to bear the cost of getting their kids to school.

SPIRIT spoke with parents, counselors, teachers and administrators in the schools and found that access to transportation for students is a concern shared by anyone interested in a child's education. Counselors and teachers reported that students often use lunch money to get to or from school or teachers use their money to get kids home.

Although only 19.2% of its funding comes from passenger revenue, Tri-Met's fares remain unnecessarily high. Out of the 107 American

cities included in the American Chamber of Commerce Research Association's survey, Tri-Met's standard fare of \$1.35 is more than 30% higher than the national average. In September of this year youth fares increased to 1.70 per round trip. A monthly youth pass is \$29. This means that a household with two school-aged children pays close to \$60 to get two kids to school on public transit each month.

Shaneva Jackson is a 13 year-old SPIRIT member who travels across town to get to school. Her situation and the experience of many youth in the organization prompted SPIRIT to take on this issue. "I have missed school a few times because my mom didn't have the bus money or a car. She takes care of five of us. That means sometimes it's food or a bus ticket". (Shaneva Jackson) A national study conducted by Teen Adolescent Magazine in 12 urban high schools, reported that 10% of high school drop-outs cited transportation problems as their primary reason for quitting school.

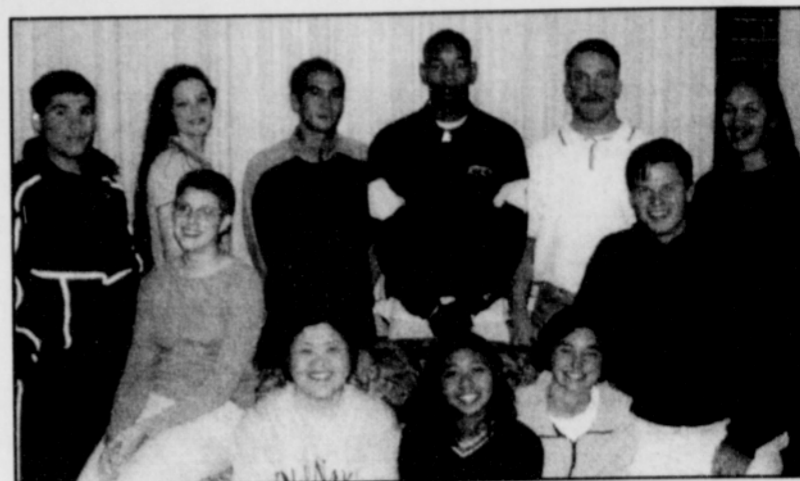
As Mayor Vera Katz explores the issue of a fareless transit system as a way to decrease traffic congestion, the parents and students of SPIRIT point to an additionally compelling reason for Tri-Met to take this solution seriously. If Tri-Met truly believes in its slogan How You Get There Matters, perhaps its new leadership will understand that how they get to school matters--Kids Shouldn't have to Pay the Price.

SPIRIT will hold a public town Hall Meeting on February 2, 1999 to discuss this issue with Tri-Met, the city, the county and the community.

Bruce Chevrolet's Event Benefitted Meals On Wheels Charity

For the past of months Pacific University students working as General Motors Marketing Interns have successfully created an exciting promotional event entitled, "Celebrate the Seasons of Chevrolet". Following market research and a formal proposal to their client Bruce Chevrolet of Hillsboro, the students set Saturday, November 14th as the event day full of prizes, activities for the child and the adult in us, food, music, and new Chevrolet cars. The event ran from 10 a.m. to 4: PM on Pacific University's campus behind

the Taylor-Meade Performing Arts Building, on the SE corners of Cedar and Pacific Avenue. The event featured a combination of cars and trucks: the Malibu, Cavalier, Monte Carlo, Silverado, Yukon, S-10, and the Blazer courtesy of Bruce Chevrolet of Hillsboro. Visitors came to check out the new vehicles, and receive a special pricing offer coupon, learn about the special financing program for college students, and won prizes including a trip for two to Lake Tahoe. Proceeds from the event benefitted meals on Wheels of Forest Grove.



Innovations Unlimited: Front Row (L to R) Jan Osborn, Patty Im, Kelcy Asuncion, Susie Weber, & Scott Heuston. Back Row (L to R) Fernanco Sanchez, Tina Quarles, David Rummel, Anthony Boyd, Jeff Inman, & Corey Robertson.

Publishers Share A "Sweet" Evening With Former Kansas City Monarch Player

Sweet Words From Sweet Lou -- "Sweet" Lou Johnson (center), a player with the former Negro Baseball League's Kansas City Monarchs, recently shared his career experiences with members of the West Coast Black Publishers Assn. At their 13th annual conference in Las Vegas. At the President's Reception, hosted by Southern California Edison, "Sweet" Lou announced he will ride on Edison International's Rose Parade float on New Year's Day which celebrates baseball as America's favorite past time.



Free Legal Help With Civil Legal Issues

Now held on the same days as Community Court, a legal service representative will be available on-site at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 NE Seventh Ave., on the first and third Wednesday of every month, from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. The legal service representative can answer questions, provide referrals and schedule appointments for those with questions about unfair collections practices, bad credit, employment issues or unemployment benefits, insurance issues, landlord/tenant law (except evictions). These services are free, confidential and open to the public.

Questions? Call 248-3337.

What Is Education, What Is Technology II

By Prof McKinley Burt

We may not have answered those questions for all times, but it seems that we presented an interesting overview. Last week's interface with readers and peers will attest to that.

One frequent comment was, "It is amazing how easily and unchallenged we use and accept terms without question - when, upon examination, the speakers prove to be poles apart in their meanings. But, as we saw last week, it is the case that even the 'dictionary' may prove confusing. Evidently, language is a 'work-in-process'."

A frustrated parent offered, "Meaning seems to be very much like what they say about 'beauty' - it may lie in the eyes of the beholder." Readers may be getting the idea that 'helping the kids with their home-work' may not be as easy as first projected. And that the process may be subject to Murphy's Second Law: "the expected takes longer than expected."

So, not only is there an "information glut", but there is a great deal of confusion in the methodology by which we exchange it, I will not bore (or frustrate) the reader with an excursion into the philosophy of 'meaning', but will remind that fairly often I have quoted the character of "Humpty Dumpty" who advanced the following advice in Lewis Carroll's children's (?) story, "Alice In Wonderland."

"Things are what I say they are." Don't laugh, it is fast becoming that kind of world as we approach the 21st century. We note that John Lennon of The Beatles was fascinated with Lewis Carroll who was an Oxford scholar and a great mathematician.

We note that our daily newspaper now carries a "technology section" which highlights many new advances in science but our observations apply to media as well as to text and curriculum. We must read, read and read - and we must question, question and question. Those who followed my series here, "The Lead Pencil Society" will not be surprised at an October News report that gained nationwide attention. "Internet Pioneer Calls Online World A Lie." Clifford Stoll has harsh words.

This famed author (and hands-on-practitioner) offers some startling perspectives on the failure of the 'online' and 'multi-media' delivery systems for information, education and technology. The man who gave us "The Cuckoo's Nest" "Silicon Snake Oil" had the following startling comment.

He would have us beware of the Internet and "the massive amounts of unsorted, untrustworthy information it dumps into a person's lap and the amount of isolation it can bring" I do believe that is the very same message I have been sounding in these pages. There are more echoes: "Learning requires discipline and responsibility - you have to do 'your own' homework, learning demands commitment. Learning requires a sense that there's no shortcut. There is no fun; happy, easy way to get a quality education."

This is a 'Just-in-time' warning. More and more I find myself admonishing parents and some teachers that the interesting and motivating demonstration models that I and others have developed to stimulate student learning are just that, "models." Hard work and dedication to task must follow. Real situations and useful applications will be presented next week.

Announcing Network North Portland

The second Network North Portland -- a community-based, community-wide event designed to get neighbors talking with neighbors -- is being planned for November 21, 1998. The all-day meeting will be held at the University of Portland and will highlight North Portland's assets -- its people -- and how those assets can come together to create community success. According to conference coordinator Mary Jaron Kelley, "the objectives for the conference were developed by the local community members who are organizing the event," and will include:

- * identifying and supporting assets and strengths in the community
 - * building effective partnerships to get the job done
 - * connecting resources and people to achieve long-lasting results
 - * leadership development opportunities for youth.
- The conference will feature keynote speaker John Kretzmann from the Asset-based Community Development Project in Chicago. Small-group workshops and discussions on various topics will be offered as well as a resource fair, a community share board, youth oral histories, and live entertainment. Local elected officials will also spend the day with community members.

Registration has already begun! For more information and/or to request registration materials, call Mary Jaron Kelley at North Portland Neighborhood Office at 823-4524.

IT ISN'T OVER.

Major hurricanes, storms and floods struck the U.S. this year, and thousands of families' homes and lives still lay shattered. The Red Cross is there to help storm victims put their lives back together, again, and we urgently need your help.

Please send your donation right now to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund or call 1-800-HELP NOW. With your support, one day the devastation will be just a memory. Right now it's still all too real.

Yes, I would like to support the Red Cross.

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<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Please make your check payable to the AMERICAN RED CROSS and mail your contribution to: P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013. Or call 1-800-HELP NOW. For Internet information: <http://www.redcross.org>

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OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

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Help Can't Wait