

Michael Jordan Launches 'Jordan Fundamentals' Education Grants for Teachers



program for teachers. Administered by the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE), the "Jordan Fundamentals" provides grants for teachers in public secondary schools that serve disadvantaged students.

Recently at John Philip Sousa middle school in southeast Washington, Jordan said that the grants program will be funded by a portion of the proceeds from the JORDAN brand, specifically a minimum donation of \$1 million a year for the next five years. Jordan said he hoped to en-

courage more mentor-like roles for teachers of underserved students.

"My own desire and ability to succeed are the result of many blessings, none greater than those of the excellent role models I had," said Jordan. "My father, Dean Smith, Phil Jackson and many of my teachers were just a few of the many role models who taught me that my achievements could never exceed my expectations of myself. I hope that these grants empower more teachers to do what they do best: find creative ways to give kids the means and the inspiration to succeed — in academics, sports, family, and in their life."

The "Jordan Fundamentals" grants will recognize and support lesson plans written by teachers that demonstrate instructional creativity and exemplify high learning expectations for underserved students. In its first year, the program will make 400 awards of \$2,500 each available to teachers. The first round of grants will be awarded in mid-September; the deadline for that round of applications is May 15.

and we are committed to supporting and growing this program as we grow our business."

Additional funding for the grants program will be sought through fundraisers and other corporate partnerships. Among the participants at today's press conference were U.S. Department of Education Secretary Richard Riley, Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, JORDAN brand president Larry Miller, National Education Association President Bob Chase and NFIE Executive Director Judith Renyi.

The "Jordan Fundamentals" program complements Michael Jordan's ongoing support of families and communities which include support for The Jordan Institute for Families at the University of North Carolina, the James Jordan Boys and Girls Club, UNCF/The College Fund and America's Promise.

The NFIE was created in 1969 by the National Education Association. The Foundation works to improve

the quality of teaching and learning in public schools and higher education institutions nationwide.

FAQ: Nike Inc., a sports and fitness company based in Beaverton, Oregon, employs over 7,000 people in the U.S. and 22,000 worldwide creating authentic athletic footwear, apparel, equipment and accessories. During the last fiscal year (June 1, 1997 - May 31, 1998), Nike contributions to various programs, causes, and not for profit organizations reached \$34 million in cash and products. From safe playgrounds where kids need them most, to support of 100 Black Men of America mentoring, education and health programs, to a program which helps disadvantaged women in Asia open their own businesses, Nike focuses its corporate outreach on children and communities who can benefit from programs designed to nurture, educate and inspire. For more information, visit Nike's Web sites: www.nikebiz.com, www.nike.com and www.nikeworkers.com.

Continuing his efforts to support education and provide quality role models and mentors for children, Michael Jordan, speaking as head of the JORDAN brand, announced the launch of the "Jordan Fundamentals," an education grants

school in southeast Washington, Jordan said that the grants program will be funded by a portion of the proceeds from the JORDAN brand, specifically a minimum donation of \$1 million a year for the next five years. Jordan said he hoped to en-

Hunger increasing among working people due to high housing, child care costs

Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force report recommends refundable tax credits and \$300,000 in state food stamp outreach to working families

Oregon's plummeting welfare case loads and growing work-fare programs are hailed as national models in moving people toward self-sufficiency, yet low-wage workers and their families are swelling the lines at food pantries around the state. Key changes in food stamp and tax credit policies during this legislative session could help these families get enough food, according to a report issued today by the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force.

"Many full-time workers cannot afford to cover the costs of rent and child care and still properly feed their families," said Task Force Chair Ellen Lowe of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. "Shoring up their

budgets is the very least we can do to help ensure a minimum level of nutrition for these families."

The report entitled *Working But Hungry: When Work Is Not Enough*, combined data from multiple sources to analyze factors impacting low-wage workers. It was accompanied by a letter from the Oregon Food Bank Board of Directors and Executive Director urging the Governor and top state officials to take note of the growing incidence of hunger amongst the working poor and other groups.

If Oregon were to allocate \$300,000 to match federal funds for targeted food stamp outreach to working poor families, Lowe and other advocates are confident that the growing burden on families and on charitable food providers would be somewhat lightened.

A 1998 survey conducted by Or-

gon Food Bank found that 41 percent of Oregon households receiving emergency food boxes last year had at least one worker, an increase of four percent over 1996. In Multnomah County, the 1998 figure reached 70 percent.

According to November 1998 data from Oregon's Adult and Family Services, only 52 percent of eligible Oregonians are currently receiving Food Stamps, down from 71 percent two years ago. Food Bank data shows that just 52 percent of emergency food box recipients are receiving food stamps, though 91 percent live below the federal poverty level.

The Task Force also recommended that the legislature make the state Earned Income and Working Family Tax Credits refundable to ensure that even the lowest wage earners would benefit. People earning less than the

taxable income threshold could then receive a return although they did not pay taxes. This return would help offset federal deductions for social security.

"Even with help from the public and the government, the charitable food system cannot fully absorb this growing burden. Our facilities, staff, and funding are limited," said Oregon Food Bank Executive Director Rachel Bristol. "Income supports are the primary tool government has to prevent hunger while encouraging people to move into the work force and remain there."

The Task Force's report emphasized the lack of livable wage jobs in the state despite continuing low unemployment. More than 75 percent of Oregon jobs do not pay a livable wage for a single adult with two children and more than half do not pay a

livable wage for a single adult, according to a recently released report from Oregon Action entitled the Northwest Job Gap Study. Housing costs are a major factor in the lack of livable wage jobs, with nearly half of Oregon renters spending more than the federal standard of 30 percent of their income on housing and utilities.

While government supporters help, cuts in food stamp benefits to families leave the average food stamp recipients receiving just \$0.70 per person per meal. Childcare subsidies provided by the state calculate hourly costs at below market rates, and leave the lowest wage earners with unaffordable co-payments.

Several programs, which do help ensure adequate nutrition are reaching less than one fifth of eligible recipients, making outreach a critical component of the Task Force

recommendations. The Summer Food Service Program only reaches about 15 percent of eligible children, while the WIC/Farmer's Market program reaches just 17 percent of eligible pregnant or nursing women, infants and children.

Overall, more than 401,000 people each received emergency food assistance at least once from the agencies of the Oregon Food Bank Network last year, including nearly 165,000 children. That number represents an increase of 5 percent over the year before. In Multnomah County, food box recipients increased by 8.5 percent last year.

Oregon Food Bank also conducts advocacy and public education programs to help fight the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Monitoring Your Health—At Home

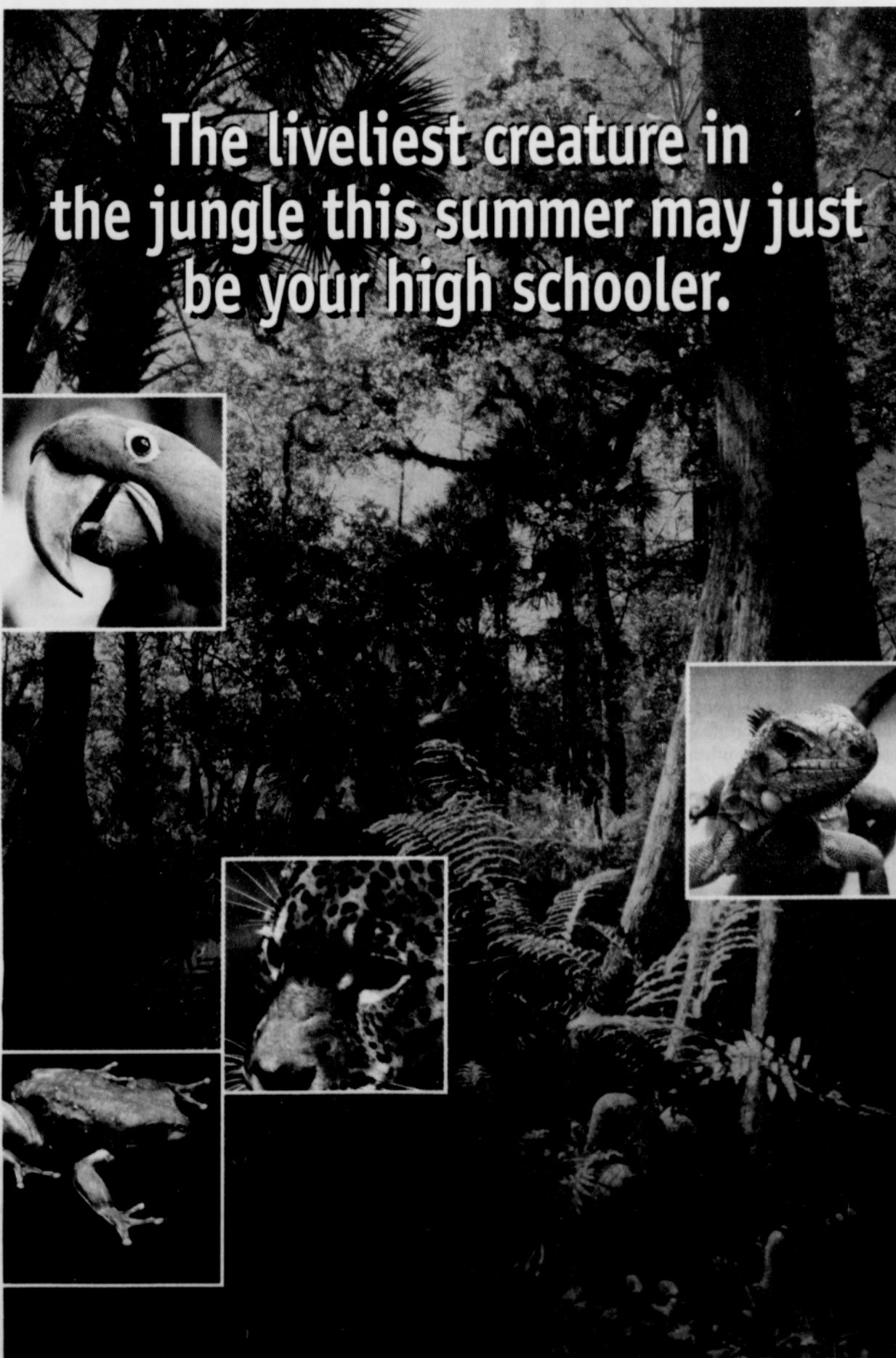
(NAPS)—For the first time, patients on anticoagulant therapy may be able to avoid life-threatening complications by using an at-home monitoring test. The system, available through a doctor, measures the clotting activity of blood.



A new at-home monitoring system may help patients on warfarin achieve better health outcomes.

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