

The Jefferson Arts Program Kicks in "ArtForce"



Emily Norton Plays "Especially for Children"



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Happy Mother's Day
to All of the Mothers Out There - From The Portland Observer

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The Portland Observer

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Cinco de Mayo

In honor of Cinco de Mayo, Tri-Met is offering a free ride home to those who take buses or MAX light rail trains to the festivities at Portland's Waterfront Park. Free rides home are good Wednesday, May 5 through Sunday, May 9. To receive a ticket for a free ride home, attendees only need to present their Tri-Met receipt at the festival's main booth.

Cascade Symphony

The Cascade Symphony is looking to build its already healthy orchestra membership by announcing a call for additional string players (violin, viola, cello and bass). Please call Maestro Aszemar Glenn at 286-5032 if interested. The Cascade Symphony meets once a week for about 2 hours to rehearse and perform their concerts at the historic Hollywood Theatre in Portland.

Yugoslavia Bombing

Local feminists will speak about what is behind the U.S.-led NATO military aggression against Yugoslavia and how to pressure the American warmongers to stop the bombing on Thursday, May 13, at 7 PM. An Eastern European buffet will be available at 6:30 PM for a \$6 donation. The event will be at the NW Neighborhood Cultural Center, Community Room, 1819 NW Everett, Portland. Call 503/228-3090. Wheelchair accessible.

Book Drive

The Friends of the Multnomah County Library is in need of thousands of used books in good shape for the annual county-wide Book Drive on May 8-22 at the Central Library (522 SW Fifth). Please no old textbooks, Reader's Digest Condensed Books or magazines. And especially no torn, ragged or moldy books. We also appreciate CDs, audio and video tapes, LPs and sheet music. Call 503/224-9176.

Artist Workshops

The Regional Arts & Culture Council presents Survival and Growth: Tools and Strategies for Artists and Arts Organizations. The next workshop is on Saturday, May 15, 9 AM - 2:30 PM. There will be information for individual artists on presenting and documenting their work, and strategies for career development. Sessions will focus on writing skills (resumes, artist statements, proposals); documenting art work on video, slides, and other media; resume/video/portfolio review sessions; and a panel discussion on career development strategies featuring prominent local artists from a variety of artistic disciplines. Call 503/823-5417 or 823-2927.

Book Group

Who would have thought that coming out as a young gay man in Sri Lanka could be such an amusing and touching event? Join us this month, as the Eastside Gay & Lesbian Book Group discusses *Funny Boy*, by Shyam Selvadurai, a smart, moving story of growing up gay in a most repressive society. The group will meet at the Barnes & Noble (in the Lloyd Center) on Wednesday, May 26 at 7 PM.

Hands On Portland

Hands on Portland is hosting a concert on May 20 to celebrate volunteerism and raise money to expand Hands on Portland's services. Pepe and the Bottle Blondes and Jamie Hampton and the Essentials will be playing, and the concert is open to anyone 21 and over. It will be a fun event for a great cause. All proceeds benefit HOP, which mobilizes teams of volunteers on diverse service projects that are "done in a day" and have a direct and ongoing impact on the community. Call 503/234-3581.

Medicare And Women

The Portland Chapter of the Older Women's League (OWL) invites mid-life and older women to a free, open meeting and discussion opportunity. Ruth McCormick, MSW will be speaking on "Medicare And Women", OWL's annual Mother's Day Report to Congress. The lecture will be at the Portland Impact Center (4707 SE Hawthorne) on Saturday, May 8, from 9:45AM until NOON.

Soldier's Family Celebrates News of Impending Release

By PAULINE ARRILLAGA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Only a day ago, prisoner-of-war Steven Gonzales sent his parents a message from Yugoslavia, apologizing for the agony his captivity had caused them.

On Saturday, all the pain was overcome by joy after Rosie and Gilbert Gonzales learned their son and two other American soldiers would be freed.

"We just thank God so much for answering our prayers," Mrs. Gonzales, wearing a smile for the first time in weeks, told reporters. "We can't wait to hold him."

"We probably won't sleep tonight," her husband added. "We'll probably be watching

the TV news all night long waiting to see them get on that bus and get out of there."

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic agreed Saturday to release Army Spc. Gonzales, 22; Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, 25, of Smiths Creek, Mich.; and Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles.

The decision followed a meeting between Milosevic and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who had visited the three soldiers Friday in Belgrade. Jackson said the POWs would accompany him to Croatia on Sunday and then fly to the nearest U.S. air base, likely in Germany.

Stone's wife, Tricia, planned to fly overseas with the couple's 4-year-old son,

Ryan, to reunite with her husband as soon as she received confirmation of his release.

"Everyday, I wait for news. When I heard this, I couldn't believe it at first," Mrs. Stone said Saturday night.

Of her husband, she said, "I'm very proud of him, and I miss him and love him."

Her mother, Lisa McKinney, with whom she and Ryan have been staying in San Antonio said:

"She's packed and ready to go if it is true. ... She is praying, and she is very hopeful that it is true," Ms. McKinney said.

The Gonzaleses also were firming up plans to travel to Europe, and when they finally do

see their son, Mrs. Gonzales said words would not be needed.

"I don't even think we'll have to say anything to each other — just look into each others' eyes and hold each other," she said.

The soldiers had been held in isolation since they were seized March 31 while conducting a routine patrol along the Yugoslav-Macedonian border. Friday's meeting with Jackson was the first time they had seen each other since their capture.

During the visit, which was televised, Gonzales apologized to his family, saying, "Sorry I put you through so much pain and agony."

When asked about his message, Mrs. Gonzales choked back tears and said, "Through this whole ordeal, even though he was the one really suffering more than we were, I know he was just constantly thinking about how we were doing."

With the news of Gonzales' impending release, residents of this southeast Texas town of 35,000 said Saturday that they, too, felt only joy and hope.

"I'm just gonna start thanking God all evening," Cheryl Leo said as she headed to a children's art festival in the town square, where the sidewalks are decorated with American flags and yellow ribbons.

"I want them to come home, get a little sleep and then party," she said.

Employees at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, where both Rosie and Gilbert Gonzales work, have been planning a parade for weeks. A date will be set once Gonzales returns.

Gonzales grew up in Palestine but his parents moved to Huntsville in 1997. He attended Texas A&M University for a year before enlisting in the Army in 1996.

In a letter his parents received earlier in the week, Gonzales said he looked forward to being reunited with his family and returning to A&M.

And while Gonzales' parents had hoped to have him home in time to celebrate his 22nd birthday last month, they said there would be plenty of belated partying once he returns home.

"We have plans for many celebrations," Mrs. Gonzales said. "We just hope that he's able to go on with life and deal with life and not think about having spent his 22nd birthday in a jail."



Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, right, Spc. Steven M. Gonzales, center, and Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, are welcomed by Rev. Jesse Jackson, back, and Rev. Dr. Joan Campbell, right, upon their release in the Yugoslav military headquarters in Belgrade, Sunday May 2 1999. Yugoslav authorities handed over the three captured U.S. soldiers to U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson on Sunday, ending their 32 days in captivity.

Parents of One Colorado Gunman Denied Immunity

LITTLETON, Colo. (Reuters) - The parents of Eric Harris, one of two gunmen who killed 12 fellow students and a teacher at Columbine High School, have been denied immunity from prosecution, authorities said on Saturday.

"We're not giving anyone immunity," Jefferson County Chief Deputy District Attorney Mark Pautler said.

Pautler said Harris' parents had requested immunity because of "what political figures were saying regarding parental culpability."

Since the April 20 massacre in the middle class suburb of Denver, people around the United States have asked how the parents of Harris, 18, and the second shooter, Dylan Klebold, 17, could not have known what their sons were up to.

Police said they found a weapon

in full view in the bedroom of one of the gunmen and discovered a journal showing the massacre had been planned for a year.

Meanwhile, Klebold's parents met Friday night with investigators, although police were not providing any details.

"They were interviewed last evening," Jefferson County Sheriff's spokesman Troy Gardalen said.

Earlier in the week authorities had indicated they were trying to formally interview the parents. They said they could not force them to be interrogated unless they became suspects in the case.

Police have been following up hundreds of leads and want to know if anyone helped Harris and Klebold — who apparently took their own lives during the shooting — carry out the attack.

Wild Oats Acquires Nature's Northwest Name and Company Philosophy to Remain the Same



Nature's Northwest announced that it is being sold to Wild Oats Market, Inc. ("Wild Oats"), its current owner. The transaction is expected to close at the end of May.

Founded in Boulder, Colorado in 1987, Wild Oats is the fastest growing company in the fastest growing segment of retail — natural products. Wild Oats currently has SEE "NATURE'S" ON PAGE B3