

Minority Scholarships Available

Two minority student scholarships are available through the Oregon State University Foundation.

Deadline for the Minority Business Student Association Scholarship is May 14 and the deadline for the Procter and Gamble Ethnic-Racial Minority Student Scholarship is May 15. For information or applications contact Elona Bell at 541-737-1677.

Procter and Gamble scholarships

are established to honor undergraduate students who demonstrate strong capabilities in academics and leadership at OSU, as well as an interest in entering a business-related career after receiving a baccalaureate degree. The Minority Business Student Association serves as a support group for minorities in the College of Business. The group works to give minorities a network for employment oppor-

tunities, academic support, and build job finding skills.

The OSU Foundation is a nonprofit corporation that provides a charitable agency separate from, but working in close coordination with, the university. The foundation receives gifts of cash, securities, real and personal property, and deferred gifts such as bequests, life insurance, and life income agreements, to support the university's programs.

Lewis & Clark Law School Begins Exchange with Latvia

PORTLAND, Ore. - Faculty and law students of Lewis & Clark Law School are exchanging legal expertise with their counterparts at the University of Latvia School of Law in Riga, Latvia, thanks to a three-year, \$120,000 grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Information Agency (USIA). "The grant promotes democratic institution building and civic education," says Pat Noonan, who spearheaded the exchange. "The goal is to develop collegial relationships and the technological capability to support the long-term, reliable exchange of expertise and ideas." Noonan, special assistant to the dean for international law programs at Lewis & Clark Law School, and Justice Anita Usacka, of the Constitutional court for the Republic of Latvia, submitted the grant proposal. "Competition for the grant was stiff. The agency only awarded two grants for the Central and Eastern European region," Noonan says. "The exchange program responds to a growing need for legal services in the international arena. The exchange program responds to a growing need for legal services in the international arena. Its focus on business adds an international dimension to the law school's business law program," she adds.

Noonan and Amy Bushaw, associ-

ate of law, traveled to Latvia last September to arrange the exchange program. Bushaw returned to Riga in March to work with Kalvis Torgans, professor of law at the University of Latvia, to develop a joint course in international commercial transactions. Torgans and Usacka will visit the law school in August and September. Torgans will continue his collaborative work with Bushaw. Usacka will conduct research in legal and judicial ethics and present lectures on human rights, comparative constitutional law and European courts. Support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the George Soros Foundation and Lewis & Clark Law School, makes it possible for students to participate in the program. Edgars Dzerins, a recent graduate of the University of Latvia, is spending spring semester at Lewis & Clark Law School, where he is taking courses in street law and legal research, working at the legal clinic, and traveling with the moot court team to competitions. Upon his return to Latvia later this month, Dzerins will receive a two-year stipend from the Soros Foundation to work with the Latvia legal community to develop a legal clinic. He will also collaborate with Lewis & Clark Law School on an



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ongoing street-law program. "Democracy is not a spectator sport," says Dzerins, who fought the Latvian government's illegal practice of towing cars as a means to generate revenue. "People in Latvia aren't always aware of the law. A legal clinic helps a lot of people. When you know your rights, it becomes more difficult for

Tobacco Awareness March

What: Tobacco Awareness March
When: May 22, 1999, 10 AM-Noon
Where: Starting on Albina St. at Peninsula Park to Portland Blvd.,

people to breach them." Steve Johnson, director of the legal writing program, and Sandra Hansberger, clinical professor at the legal clinic, will travel to Riga this month to help Dzerins implement the street-law program and legal clinic. Ed Brunet, Henry J. Casey Professor of Law, will also fly to Riga to introduce Latvian law students to the concepts of mediation, arbitration and conflict resolution. In the future years, Steve Kanter, professor of law, and Jim Huffman, dean of the law school, will also visit Latvia. The law school was founded in 1885 and has been affiliated with Lewis & Clark College since 1965. Lewis & Clark College, founded in 1867, is a highly selective college of liberal arts and sciences. The largest independent college in Oregon, Lewis & Clark College is ranked among the top 10 undergraduate colleges in the nation for its international education program and second in the nation for its environmental and natural resources law program.

Child Care Bill Tied To Violence Prevention

Senator Frank Shields, D-Portland, introduced a package of early childhood legislation, which incorporates the recent brain research findings into public policy. SB 870, which requires the Department of Education to develop and implement child care training based on the brain research, has been amended to incorporate training on violence prevention. "We know now that what happens in the earliest moments of a child's life truly has a life-long impact." SB 870, originally co-sponsored by Senator Shields and Senator Avel Gordly, D-Portland, passed out of the Senate Education Committee

Lawmakers Want Schools Teaching Gun-Safety

SALEM, OREGON — Public schools in Oregon could take on the task of teaching children about gun-safety. Or rather—the task could be forced on them. The Oregon Senate has unanimously approved a bill to include gun-safety in elementary schools. State Senator Peter Courtney says it's a public safety issue because guns are in almost half the homes in Oregon. The bill now goes to the State's House of Representatives.

Women's Health Exams Covered

SALEM, OREGON — Tests to detect breast cancer will continue to be part of insurance policies for women in Oregon under a measure approved by the Oregon Senate. Portland state Senator Kate Brown says the legislation requires insurance companies to continue covering the cost of mammograms and gynecological exams for another six years.

Memorial Service For Park Ranger

NEAR MANZANITA, OREGON — A large turnout is expected in Oswald West State Park south of Cannon Beach today for a memorial service in honor of a murdered state park ranger. Fifty-two-year-old Danny Blumenthal was murdered and his partner wounded a week ago yesterday. Police have a suspect in custody.

Portland Community College Foundation Elects New Leaders



Clifford Chappell
PCC Foundation Vice President

The PCC fund-raising and scholarship entity, PCC Foundation, has two new people at the helm — Mary Savage and Clifford Chappell. Savage became the foundation's president and Chappell the group's vice president at the foundation board meeting earlier this spring.

Savage is the regional director of diagnostic imaging within the Providence Health System, where she oversees 17 departments. She is a graduate of PCC's Radiologic Technology program and Concordia College, where she received a bachelor of science degree. Savage also completed the master's of business administration

program at Portland State University. Savage and her family live in Gresham.

Chappell is a civil and structural engineer who runs a consulting business in project management and engineering. He is a graduate of the Oregon Institute of Technology, where he received a bachelor of science degree. Chappell worked for 18 years with Pacific Power and Light, and, until last year, worked as the senior project engineer at Pacific Generation Company. He is also the pastor of the Rhema Christian Center and the vice president of the Ft. Vancouver High School Band Booster Club. Chappell and his family live in Vancouver, Wash.

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THE CITY AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Medical Marijuana Cards In Demand

SALEM, OREGON — Oregon's Health Division reports that hundreds of Oregon patients are applying for registration cards to smoke pot. The cards cost 150 dollars a year and are being used to help cover the cost of

running Oregon's new medical marijuana program. With a doctor's certification, patients can grow their own marijuana at home to ease the pain of debilitating diseases or to curb the nausea caused by chemotherapy.



Shedding Light on Grade Retention

When it's the end of a school year, and a child hasn't grasped the required academic work, a wrenching decision may arise: Hold the child back to repeat the same grade, or promote the child for social benefits? If you're a parent or guardian fearing that decision, recent research may shed some light on what path to take. This is a decision that must be made very carefully, with a great deal of thought, with as much information as you can find, and with the best interests of the child at the heart of the decision.

Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory authors Jennifer Fager and Rae Richen take a look at the recent research in a new booklet called *When Students Don't Succeed: Shedding Light on Grade Retention*. The booklet says that "holding back" a child (now called "retention") was a common feature of American public schools in the early 1900s. At that time, about 20 percent of the kids were held back. Social promotion—promoting a child even though minimum academic competencies haven't been met—became prevalent when psychologists and educators saw that retention produced negative social and psychological effects for the child. Now, with the higher-academic-standards movement, social promotion and grade retention are under scrutiny. Some schools strive to avoid the need for either.

Today, almost everyone agrees that academic standards should be high. Some schools are putting in place tough promotion policies. Many teachers and much of the public believe there may be some benefits to retention—the child matures, catches up, builds skills. But take care: Repeating the same grade with the same curriculum with the same presentation may ultimately achieve the same disappointment. That's hardly a smart alternative to social

promotion. Nationally known researcher Linda Darling-Hammond says "the premise of grade retention as a solution for poor performance is that the problem, if there is one, resides in the child rather than in the schooling he or she has encountered." She underscores a report that says teacher expertise is the most important determinant of student performance. With recent research, many educators now believe that retention hurts more than it helps.

For example, the booklet cites various researchers:

- Pupils who are promoted rather than retained tend to learn more the next year than pupils of like ability who are not promoted
- Retention does not increase learning readiness for most pupils
- Gains made during the repeated second year fade over time
- The more times a student is retained, the stronger the chances are of that child eventually dropping out of school altogether

The decision to promote or to retain a child must focus on the benefits for the child who needs to acquire skills to move along in school and to graduate eventually. If properly planned and carried out, retention may be an answer for some. Prevention, not retention, is the best answer of all. This booklet, prepared primarily for school districts, is chock full of information that parents and others may find helpful. The free booklet is available by writing to Newspaper Column, Public Information Office, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 101 S.W. Main, Portland, OR 97204-3297.

This column by Karen Blaha is provided as a public service by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, a nonprofit institution working with schools and communities in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

1999 TRI-MET NEWS

INTERSTATE MAX OPEN HOUSES

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods and the North Portland Neighborhood Office, along with Tri-Met, the City of Portland and Metro, invite you to learn about the proposed Interstate MAX light rail line.

Monday, May 3
4-8 pm

Emanuel Hospital-Lorenzen Ctr.
2801 N. Gantenbein, Portland
(bus lines: 4-Fessenden, 33-Fremont or 40-Mocks Crest)
Sponsored by the Urban League

Thursday, May 6
4-8 pm

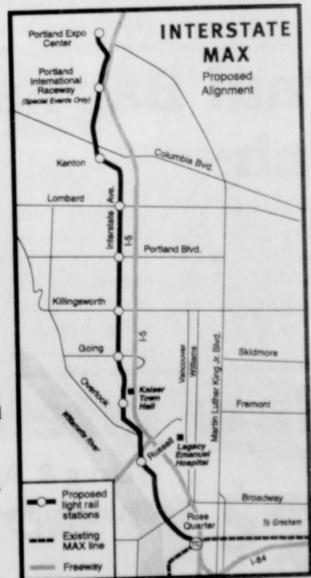
Kaiser Town Hall
3704 N. Interstate Ave., Portland
(bus line: 5-Interstate)
Sponsored by Kaiser Permanente

Wednesday, May 12
4-8 pm

Kaiser Town Hall
3704 N. Interstate Ave., Portland
(bus line: 5-Interstate)
Sponsored by Coalition for a Livable Future

You can also comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement that describes the benefits, costs and impacts of the Interstate MAX line.

For information call:
(503) 962-2499
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