

Oregon to Get New Area-Code

PORTLAND, OREGON — The demand for separate telephone lines to link dedicated Internet lines, faxes, and burglar alarms has just about used up the telephone numbers in Oregon's five-oh-three area code. So now part of the state is getting a new one. Officials have decided to over-lay the area code, instead of

carving out a separate area for it. Jim Haynes with U-S West says new phone lines in the current five-oh-three area will get the new area code, which is nine-seven-one. Haynes says the new area code will go into effect this coming January, and will mean dialing ten-digits even to make local calls.

New Math Approved For Portland Schools

PORTLAND, OREGON — Portland Public Schools will become one of the largest districts in the nation to use a new distinctive method to teach math. The school board has approved the method known for allowing elementary and middle schools to rely on student discovery and not teacher lectures.

The method has many supporters nationwide and is common in smaller districts. It allows teachers to go into greater depth in fewer topics. A school official says it will cost about 700-thousand dollars to train teachers. The new system will be used in kindergarten through the eighth grade.

More Racial Charges At University

CORVALLIS, OREGON — Benton County District Attorney Scott Heiser says his investigation of an alleged racial incident on the campus at Oregon State University does not find enough evidence for a harassment or intimidation charge. OSU senior Frederick Har-

ris says he was walking home when a pair of freshmen made racial epithets and threw firecrackers at him. He complained four years ago that white students had insulted him. University President Paul Risser says the school will continue to try to improve its racial climate.

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Heaven, Spirit, Creator — but all missing the point. The point, according to the true wisdom of every culture is — We are, in our deepest nature, connected to everyone and everything out there and in here.

If our religious communities would act responsibly instead of habitually or traditionally, we would stop repeating such self-pitying phrases as, "We were conceived in sin, born in sin and there is no health in us" found in one form or another throughout the world. This expresses the hopelessness of people (slaves) who feel they can do nothing but wait for a savior to come and rescue them.

Well, He or she has come repeatedly throughout history saying — We Are One — there is no separation — we are connected to the intelligent energy that is still forming the universe, which is alive in infinite forms including all of us.

North and South, East and West, Jew, Gentile, Oriental, Red, Black, White — we are all beautiful and unique expressions, in our true nature, of the whole, by whatever name you choose to call it.

Finally, we make a plea for perspective. Just as millions of automobiles,

trucks, trains, planes and pedestrians move safely across the face of the earth daily, while the few involved in sensational accidents are reported everywhere, so also the vast majority of young people are not sick but are beautiful, positive contributors to our lives. Digging out their newsworthy creativity requires far more sensitivity and effort than reporting what is handed out by police, fire and emergency personnel.

If we can awaken at least a curiosity about our common true nature, which is awesome and magnificent in our judgement and the judgement of many throughout history, then young people (and old) will not be threatened by jibes and insults, but will see these as coming from ignorance of who we and they really are. All may become patient with one another, allowing time to mature which is simply seeing more and more connections.

Violence will evaporate, just as the fear of the unknown evaporates with making it known. So also will violence begin to evaporate with the coming of improved awareness of what is real in human nature.

Submitted by a group of deeply concerned citizens.

Perfusionist Keeps Hearts Going

What does it take to save a life? Victoria Martin, CCP, knows firsthand. A certified clinical perfusionist, Victoria is a key member of the Providence St. Vincent Medical Center cardiovascular surgical team that works daily to save heart patients' lives.

The word perfusion has its roots in the Latin word perfusus, which derives from "to pour over and throughout." Today, that ancient meaning still applies to the relatively young medical profession of the perfusionist—a profession first introduced just 40 years ago with the advent of open-heart surgery. During surgery, perfusionists like Martin virtually take over the role of the heart and lungs while the surgeon operates.

"It's an exciting feeling to take on a challenge that seems so large," says Martin. "Even though the surgeon is captain of the ship, you still have an interesting role to play as a perfusionist. You're always aware of your awesome responsibility."

During open-heart surgery, the heart must be stopped so the surgeon can perform the necessary repair. To maintain normal body physiology while the heart is stopped, a bypass heart/lung machine takes over, circulating (or perfusing) blood throughout the body.

Once the patient is hooked up via two cannulas that drain and return blood to the patient, the perfusionist constantly monitors key substances and vital signs—blood gases, electrolytes, blood pressure, pulmonary artery pressure, temperature, and more—all while making calculated adjustments through the bypass machine.

Martin works four days a week, doing on average two surgeries a day. Depending on the heart repair involved, each surgery takes from two to eight hours. Martin has worked at Providence St. Vincent since 1979, starting her career as a respiratory therapist in cardiac recovery, then graduating from perfusion school in 1989. In the past 10 years, she has assisted in heart surgeries for newborns all the way up to octogenarians.

"Open heart surgery is a team effort," says Albert Starr, M.D., a

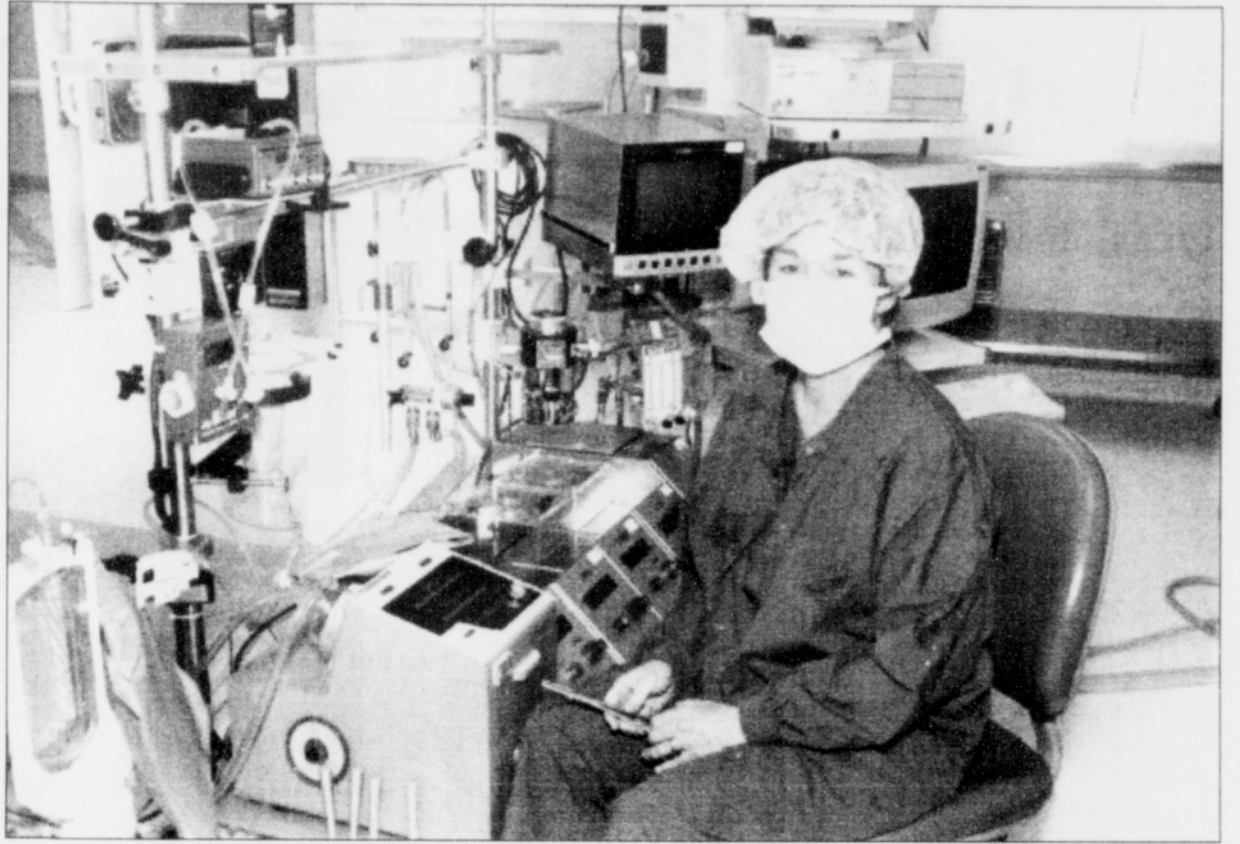
Providence St. Vincent cardiac surgeon and director of the Providence Heart Institute. "As a cardiac surgeon, it's very reassuring to know that you have the most highly-skilled physicians, nurses, and technicians like Victoria working with you to give patients the best possible care."

For many years, Martin was the only female perfusionist at Providence St. Vincent and she is still one of only six certified female perfusionists in the city. There are seven full-time perfusionists at

Providence St. Vincent, as well as three physician assistants, and seven students—more than any other Portland hospital because of the high-level of heart surgeries conducted at Providence St. Vincent.

"It's a very intense and specialized field," says Martin. "There aren't a lot of us, but we play a critical role in almost every open heart surgery. It's a very challenging career."

Providence St. Vincent is part of Providence Health System, which offers a comprehensive array of health and education services.



Life saver. Victoria Martin, a certified clinical perfusionist at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, keeps patients' hearts running during open heart surgery with a heart/lung bypass machine.

Photo By Dave Lawton

Breast Feeding Bill Passes Senate

SALEM, OREGON — Oregon mothers who choose to breast feed their children may soon have the law on their side. Oregon's Senate has unanimously passed a bill that would make it a crime to harass women who nurse in public. Portland Democratic Senator Ginny Burdick says mothers that breast feed in public are frequently discriminated against or harassed. The measure now goes to the House.

Athlete Eating Disorders Studied

PORTLAND, OREGON — A Portland physician is leading a five-year study designed to reduce eating disorders and drug use among teen-

Health Professionals Invited To Diversity Conference

Making intercultural communication in health care settings more effective and rewarding is the goal of a one-day conference sponsored by Kaiser Permanente on Tuesday, June 1st, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The conference will be

at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Portland. Keynote speaker is diversity consultant and trainer Janet Bennett, PhD. Afternoon sessions will focus on cultural conflicts in the workplace and cultural competence with Chinese-American,

Mexican-American and African-American patients. Cost is \$125 for all-day attendance or \$70 for after-noon sessions only. For more information or to register please call Kaiser Permanente's Shana Klemchuk a (503) 813-4461.

PERS Limits Proposed

SALEM, OREGON — The Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee has okayed a measure to slim down the retirement package for newly-hired Oregon teachers, police and other government workers. The Republican-backed bill passed on a party

line vote. It would reduce government payroll costs by lowering retirement checks. Senate Majority Leader Gene Derfler says it would correct what he called an "overly generous system". Democrats says it will make recruiting more difficult.

\$20 Cash for children & parents in a health-related project

One child and one adult from your family will receive \$20 each for a 10-minute confidential interview survey at your home. Questions cover health topics, including alcohol and drug use. African American and White children (9, 11, or 13 years of age) and one of their parents can take part in this study.

For details, call (503) 731-3273
Oregon Research Institute
MULTNOMAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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