

Pacific Crest Community School Graduate

Kate Feit had always done well in school. However, by the time she was a freshman in a large Portland high school, she hated her education. Disenchanted by huge classes and an alienating social scene, Feit dropped out.

Over 3-1/2 years, Feit's love for learning returned full-force as a student at Pacific Crest Community School. Now she is preparing to begin an undergraduate program in cultural studies at Eugene Lang College in New York. She attributes her attitude change to her experience at Pacific Crest, where she graduated June 6.

"I've been able to find myself and grow as a person at this school. And I have really learned how to think," she says.

Pacific Crest Community School, located at N.E. 29th and Davis, is based on a very different model than most urban high schools. Its 10:1 student-teacher ratio and small, intense classes foster a sense of community and an academic program individualized to each student.

"At Pacific Crest, I've been able to take classes I really wanted. For example, I took at least six literature classes - everything from Shakespeare to women's literature," Feit says. Although students develop their own curriculum, they must be proficient in all essential skills - the arts, social sciences, language arts, math and sciences - in order to graduate. Students do not receive grades but must instead build portfolios that serve as samples of their high school work.

"I feel that the portfolio says so much more about what I learned than grades would have," Feit says she also notes graduates' track record in all college acceptance. Of this June's 14 Pacific Crest

graduates, 12 applied to colleges and all were accepted. Most will attend small liberal arts colleges that help them continue their commitment to community and academic excellence. Academically, the school's students rank high by several measures. SAT scores are above average, and four National Merit Scholars were chosen this school year. In 1997-98, Pacific Crest students outranked students throughout the state by an average of 28% in meeting statewide standards by subject. Executive Director Jenny Osborne admits that her school represents a small sample, but feels that the difference is largely due to small classes and the sense of community that Pacific Crest students feel.

That civic spirit is part of the curriculum. All students are required to complete eight hours of community service per month. Feit's class threw a Halloween party of children in shelters last year. Examples of other projects include neighborhood cleanups and school improvements.

Feit says that sense of community and her teachers' enthusiasm were key to her learning experience. "There's really a refreshing and strong sense of community here," she says. "Students are allowed to love school and enjoy their teachers." She contrast her previous high school experience of learning history in a class of 70 freshman with her small Pacific Crest class and a teacher who was "so into her job and had so much energy." Although Feit did not feel motivated to study at her previous school, she maintained good standards at Pacific Crest partly because of how much she respected her teachers. "I wanted their respect too," she says.

The senior year is designed to

Local Residents Receive Guide Dogs

Ms. Patricia Kennedy and Ms. Rebecca Pickett of Portland were part of recent graduating class for the Oregon campus of Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. Patricia graduated with a Golden Retriever Guide Dog named "Selena" at her side. Becky's new partner is a Yellow Labrador Retriever named "LaReue." Graduation took place on Saturday, June 5, 1999, at the 27-acre campus located 25 miles east of Portland in the town of Boring.

Patricia works part time as a vending stand operator in various Federal and State owned buildings. She returned to the Guide Dog campus to replace "Abba." The Golden Retriever had been her faithful guide since March, 1989. "Abba" will remain with Patricia as a pet.

Rebecca is a student at Portland State University where she is taking classes towards her undergraduate degree. She enjoys working on the computer.

During the course of training Guide Dogs and their new partners learn to work as teams. They practice safe travel techniques on stairways and learn to work as teams. They practice safe travel techniques on stairways and el-



Photo by Bruce Allert
Ms. Patricia Kennedy of Portland is shown at the campus of Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc., with "Selena," Golden Retriever Guide Dog.

evators, on crowded sidewalks and across busy streets.

Guide Dogs learn to stop at all curbs and wait until their partners command them to go forward or turn. They will disobey a command to cross a street if traffic is approaching. They guide people safely around pedestrians and obstacles, including overhead ob-

be especially challenging. Each student creates and completes a dissertation of original research. Feit found her project, a history of an obscure Chinese-American village in Bridal Veil, Oregon, to be extremely challenging and rewarding. She recorded several oral histories with people in that area. Her research may lead to an archeological dig and protection of the village's remains. "It was such a huge project. Now I know how much I'm capable of. I went from being totally intimidated to a feeling of real accomplishment," she says. An advisory committee of

three including an anthropologist and an historian guided Feit.

Pacific Crest Community School's mission statement sums up its educational philosophy. "Ultimately we hope that our students' experience at Pacific Crest Community School will instill a lifelong love of learning, a sense of compassion for others, and the desire to strive toward rewarding goals in their adult lives."

Current annual tuition is \$5,725. For more information about Pacific Crest Community School, call Executive Director Jenny Osborne at 234-2826.


stacles, and avoid distractions.

Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc., has produced over 9,000 trained guides for graduates across the United States and Canada since 1941. These services are provided free of charge. The organization is supported entirely by private donations.

For more information about Guide Dogs, phone or write: Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc., PO Box 151200, San Rafael, California, 94915, (415) 499-4000. The web site for Guide Dogs is www.guidedogs.com.



Photo by Bruce Allert
Ms. Rebecca Pickett of Portland is shown at the campus of Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc., with "LaReue," a Yellow Labrador Retriever Guide Dog.



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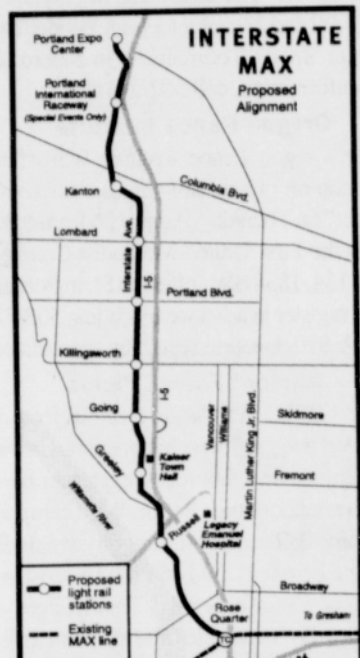
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Insight Teen Parent Program Celebrates 20 Years of Service

All are welcome to join the fun at the Family A-Faire on Sunday, August 22, when an insight celebrates 20 years of service to families in the Portland area. The event will be held from 11 am to 4 p.m. in Colonel Summers Park, located at SE 20th and Belmont. Insights' Family A-Faire will provide more family fun and excitement than you can imagine. A picnic and BBQ will be served from noon to 2. There will be live music from two Portland bands - Jass Two with Teddy Deane and the O.B. Addy & Chris Mayther Band. Other entertainment will include Ballet Folkloric de Woodburn, henna tattoo artists, a pinata

maher, Chinese calligraphy, face painting, and more. There will also be carnival booths with prizes for children, a clown, and an inflatable jumper.

Insights Teen parent Program is the primary agency serving teen parents in Multnomah County. It began as a grassroots, community-conceived agency 20 years ago. Today, Insights serves over 1200 teens clients annually, providing opportunities to improve life situations, improving academic performances, reducing subsequent pregnancies, offering situations, improving academic performances, reducing subsequent pregnancies, of-

fering information and referral, developing parenting and life skills, providing professional counseling, and helping in a myriad of other ways like skills providing professional helping hand, encouragement and emotional support. Insights' mission is to create a climate of positive options for young families.

The family A-Faire in made possible by a number of sponsors: Columbia Forest Products, Equity Home Mortgage, Equity Group Inc Realtors, First American Title Newton-Bard, old Wives' Tale, Portland Bottling Company, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Renegade Radio & Marsh, and Sequent.

Eight Counties Being Added To Oregon Respite-Care Network

Eight counties were named to receive cash grants and technical assistance from the Oregon Department of Human Resources to establish respite systems for at-home caregivers.

Twelve remaining counties will receive smaller grants to develop local respite partnerships.

"This will bring access to respite care to many more Oregonians and brings us closer to meeting the legislative requirements of a statewide network by 2003," said Gary Weeks, director of the Oregon Department of Human Resources.

Oregon is believed to be the first state creating a statewide respite-access system.

The counties being added are Coos, Curry, Douglas, Harney, Linn, Jackson, Tillamook and Wallawa. Each network will receive \$15,000 a year plus technical assistance for DHR.

The 1997 Oregon Legislature charged DHR with helping counties to establish respite networks. Respite is a short-term break for people providing round-the-clock care to a family member.

Such care may be provided to an elderly parent with Alzheimer's, a medically fragile child or an individual with a developmental disability, for example.

The goal is to strengthen families and to increase the number of individuals receiving long-term care in a community setting.

Lifespan respite networks provide a single place that families may call to obtain names of trained in-home respite providers as well as centers and other resources in the community.

Sixteen Oregon counties already have such networks in place.

Among the criteria for selecting proposals were diverse partnerships that included agencies, families and community groups committed to building local respite services, said Debbie Bow-

ers, DHR respite care administrator.

Bowers said the 12 counties eligible for one-time grants to develop community respite partnerships are Clackamas, Clatsop, Gilliam, Grant, Lake, Morrow, Multnomah, Sherman, Union, Washington, Wheeler and Yamhill.

She said an orientation conference for representatives from all 36 counties is scheduled in Newport for Sept. 28-29.

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EDUCATION CRISIS TEAM

Upcoming meetings:

**Thursday, August 12, 1999
and
Thursday, August 26, 1999**

7:00 p.m.

**Self Enhancement, Inc.
3920 North Kerby Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97227**

- ♦ The Urban League, Self Enhancement, Inc., the Albina Ministerial Alliance and the Black United Front are forming Education Crisis Teams to reverse the educational crisis that is crippling our children.
- ♦ Please join us on August 12th and August 26th. We will discuss specific steps our community must take to rapidly improve our children's poor academic performance. The plan's dual focus is on holding Portland Public Schools accountable for providing children a quality education and the development of a community-wide mobilization to address this education emergency.
- ♦ All participating organizations agree this education crisis is causing irreparable harm to children and severely limiting their future. This crisis is impairing the ability of children, families and our community to successfully compete in today's technology-based economy.
- ♦ Our choice is clear, respond to this emergency and take the necessary steps to prevent our children from joining the growing ranks of dropouts and high school graduates that possess few marketable skills.
- ♦ Please plan to attend these meetings. Our children need us, we have promises to keep.

Bishop A.A. Wells ... Tony Hopson ... Lawrence Dark ... Ronnie Herndon