

METRO Life

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Museum After Hours

On Wednesday, October 27, Museum After Hours, the popular after-hours music series at the Portland Art Museum, will celebrate the release of its first CD recording, the new "Best of Museum After Hours" with a special CD Release Party. The new recording features contributions from some of Museum After Hours's most popular performers over the years, including Pink Martini, Paul deLay, Craig Carothers and others.

The Wellness Village

The African American Health Coalition need volunteers to staff the 4th Annual Wellness Village, scheduled for October 23rd at the Center of Self Enhancement. The Wellness Village is a one day event drawing people from the community for interactive activities such as health screenings, physical fitness, healthy cooking demonstrations, dynamic speakers, health education workshops and children's activities. Call 503/413-1850.

Bowl for Breath

For Halloween this year, you can help make a difference in cystic fibrosis research by participating in the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's annual Bowl for Breath at Sunset Bowl in Beaverton. Bowl for Breath includes both a COSMIC BOWL on Friday, October 29 from Midnight to 2 AM, and a fun-filled BOWL-A-THON day on Saturday for the whole family. To sign up, please call 503/226-3435.

Law Class for Bicyclists

On Thursday, October 28, from 5:30 PM to 7 PM, The Multnomah Bar Association is hosting a class on Oregon's vehicle laws from a bicyclist's perspective with Bike Lawyer Ray Thomas. The event will be at the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, 1117 SW Washington in downtown Portland. The cost is free. Call Kristin Kidd at 503/228-5222 to pre-register.

Interfaith Spiritual Center

Free classes on spiritual practices from the world's religions are offered at the Interfaith Spiritual Center, located at 3910 SE 11th in Portland. The classes will be held on first Wednesdays from 6PM - 7:30PM. For a brochure on these or other programs, call the Interfaith Spiritual Center at 503/233-2026.

I Believe I Can Fly

The African American Chamber of Commerce along with The Walker Institute will present a special event on October 23rd entitled "I BELIEVE I CAN FLY", a salute and recognition to some of Oregon's African American men for their outstanding business, community and civic achievements. The event will be held at Double Tree Hotel at Jantzen Beach starting at 7PM. Advance tickets are available for only \$20. (\$35 at the door). Tickets are available by calling 503/244-5794, Ext. 22. Special grants are available for certain non-profit and youth organizations.

Seed the Future

Friends of Trees will launch Year 4 of Seed the Future, a five year tree planting campaign on Saturday, November 13. Secretary of State Phil Keisling will join Friends of Trees along with Portland General Electric and other supporters at a planting in Brooklyn Neighborhood. Volunteers and supporters are invited to join Friends of Trees' Seed the Future campaign by attending the kick off planting, helping to plant trees or becoming a member of Friends of Trees. Call 503/284-TREE (8733).

The Community Alliance of Tenants

The Community Alliance of Tenants, a non-profit tenants rights organization, is requesting donations of new or reusable household items to continue our mission to promote safe, stable, and affordable housing in Oregon. To schedule pick-up, delivery, or for more information, please call 503/460-9702.

Raise the Roof Day

CONTRIBUTED STORY

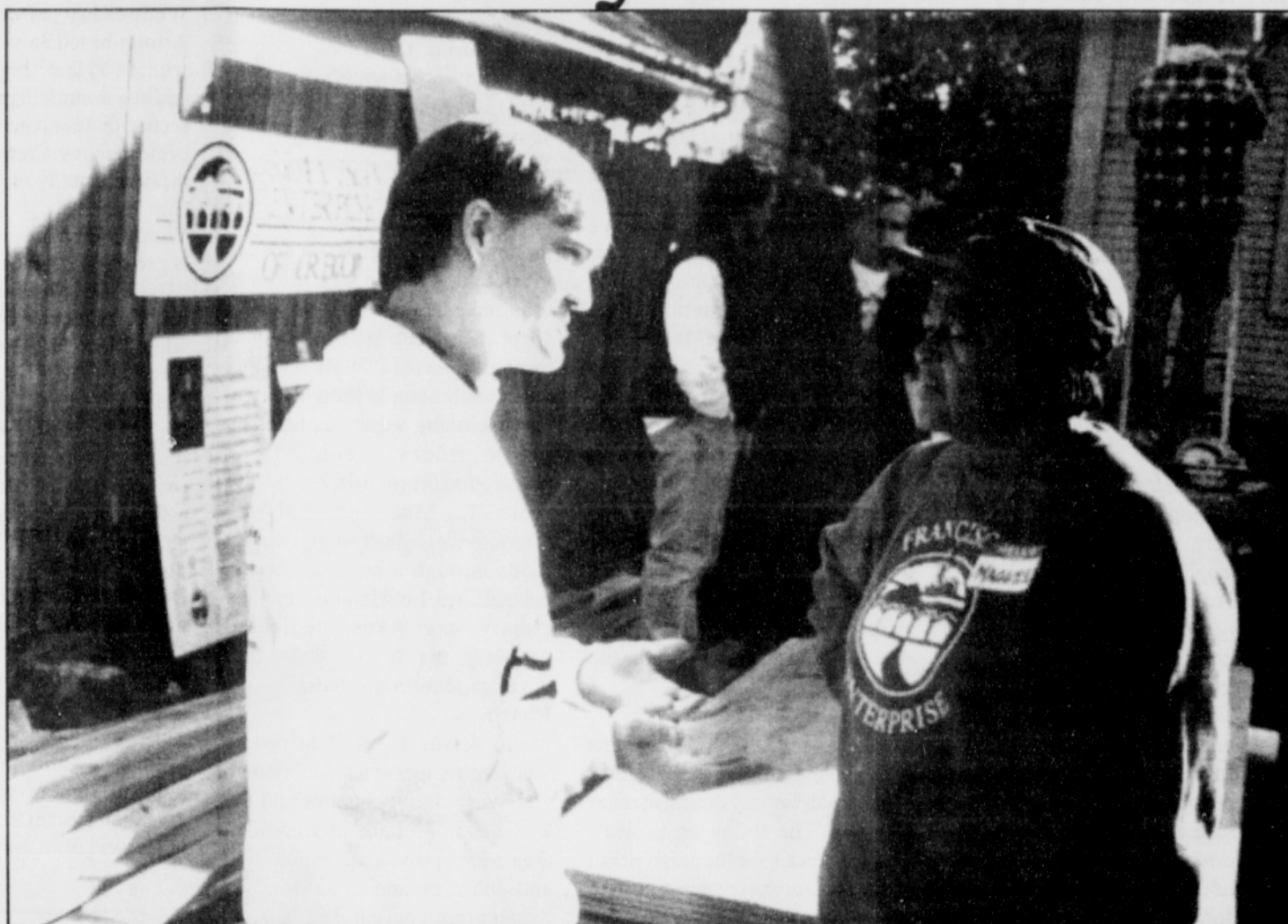
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

About 50 volunteers in Portland participated in the Raise the Roof Day—an unprecedented nationwide volunteer effort to rehabilitate and build housing for families in need, organized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

More than 7,000 volunteers took part in Raise the Roof Day in more than 150 cities across the country to expand the supply of affordable rental housing and increase homeownership for low-and-moderate-income families.

The event, which is the first national housing day, created a partnership between HUD, local governments, non-profit groups and businesses to organize volunteers to repair deteriorated and often vacant housing and to build new housing. The groups will continue working together to make more housing available to families in need.

About 1,800 houses and apartments in bad condition were being repaired and transformed into safe and decent housing in participating cities during Raise the Roof Day. "Raise the Roof Day isn't about big government, it's about people with big hearts helping their less fortunate neighbors get desperately needed housing," HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo said. "The labor of these dedicated volunteers is a tremendous resource that will transform homes, transform neighborhoods and transform lives. These volunteers will also focus attention on the need to provide affordable housing for more families across our nation and increase homeownership."



(above) Eric Sten, City of Portland Commissioner (left) partnered with Maggie Gibson (right).



Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs members showed up to network and join along in the festivities. (From left to right) Katrinka Rau, Freddie J. Westbrooks, Connie S. Clark, and Nichole Williams.

Leaving A Fulfilling Career

By Tony Washington

of The Portland Observer

Lyle Olson had a desire to work with youths, influencing those having a tough time making a decision about what they want to do with their life. For the past 17 1/2 years, he had served as a military recruiter since 1982. His passion has been to share with others "the wonderful opportunities I had discovered in the Air Force and Air National Guard," explained Olsen.

Lyle's military career began with the Navy and later joined the Oregon Air Guard in 1979. In addition, he did a tour of duty in flight medicine for four years. Traveling half way around the world and almost every state of the union has been for him, a golden opportunity that went with the job.

Within the military community, Lyle noticed that there were so few people of color like himself in his field. He was intent on bringing in more minorities who want to serve their country, travel and receive good technical skills. After many years of duty, Lyle is now ready to retire and let Tony Smith "take the reigns." Smith, an African American, has gladly embraced the responsibility of also making a difference in young people's lives.



photo by M. Washington

Oregon Air Guard recruiters, Lyle Olson (left) with Tony Smith (right). Tony was recently asked to attend a national seminar on policy making and received a decoration from an African American General Officer in the US Air Force for his contributions to Affirmative Action.

Together, their intent has always been to recruit more minorities who can make personal and professional gains in their lives through the military as they have.

Crime Victims for Justice

CONTRIBUTED STORY

FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

This November, voters will be asked to vote on seven constitutional amendments seriously altering Oregon's Bill of Rights. This package, referred to voters by the 1999 Oregon Legislature, are being characterized by supporters as "Victims' Rights." In addition, voters are being told that these changes to our Bill of Rights are simply a restatement of something they already approved in 1996 as Measure 40, which was later found to be unconstitutional. Both of these characterizations are false.

NO on #69 - Amends Constitution: Grants victims constitutional rights in criminal prosecutions.

Reality: Victims already have these rights under Oregon law. Prosecutor will get to pick up who the victim is. Victims have no right to enforce this "constitutional" right.

NO on #70 - Amends Constitution: Gives public, through prosecutor, right to demand jury trial in criminal cases.

Reality: Prosecutor can ignore victim (as well as defendant and judge) who does not want to have jury trial (example, sex crime).

NO on #71 - Amends Constitution: Limits pretrial release of accused persons.

Reality: Current law provides protection against release of persons accused of violent crimes. Assumes person is guilty if arrested. Costs taxpayers millions for jail space that does not currently exist.

NO on #72 - Amends Constitution: Limits immunity from criminal prosecution of persons ordered to testify about conduct.

Reality: Gives state and local prosecutors same kind of unbridled power that special prosecutor Ken Starr used against Susan McDougal. Erodes constitutional protection against self-incrimination.

NO on #74 - Amends Constitution: Requires terms of imprisonment announced in court to be fully served, with exceptions.

Reality: Takes away power from the people and the legislature to change bad sentencing laws. Prohibits release of prisoner if gravely ill even if victim agrees to release.

NO on #75 - Amends Constitution: Persons convicted of certain crimes cannot serve on grand juries, criminal trial juries.

Reality: Bars persons convicted of felony within last 15 years or "dishonest" or "violent" misdemeanor within last 5 years from serving on criminal juries. Requires state to do background check on everyone called to jury duty or requires persons to self-report.

For more information on the following measures, contact the Rural Organizing Project at 503/543-8417.