

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Celebrate Chinese New Year

The Taoist Tai Chi Society of Oregon invites the public to join them in celebrating the arrival of the Year of the Dragon. The society will be hosting a Chinese New Year's Celebration featuring a traditional Chinese dinner, speakers and Tai Chi demonstrations on February 6, at the Great China Seafood Restaurant, 336 NW Davis, Portland at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person with proceeds going to the educational scholarship fund, which allows the Taoist Tai Chi Society to improve the quality of the training offered. Tickets are available by calling the society at 220-5970.

Dead Mathematicians' Society

The Dead Mathematicians' Society at Mt. Hood Community College presents a winter lecture series, "The Infinite Enrichment Series." The series began with a January 20th lecture, "Solving the Cubic Polynomial Using Cayley's Method," by Bill Hlstead, a mathematics student. On Thursday January 27, "Implications of DNA Technology on the Tree of Life," will be presented by Michael Boyer, an environmental specialist in transition. Other lectures follow on February 17 and 24. All lectures are on Thursdays at 4:05 p.m. on MHCC's main campus in Room 1571, and are free and open to the public. For more information contact Bill Covell at 503/491-7437.

Poems Over Broadway!

Poems Over Broadway! is a monthly open mike poetry reading for poets of all ages, skill levels and styles. With an intimate, relaxed and non-confrontational atmosphere, it's great for first-time readers. Poetry lovers will enjoy meeting and hearing poets from the area read their work. The event will be at Barnes & Noble at NE Broadway and 13th on Friday, February 11 at 7 p.m.

Free Photography Contest

The International Library of Photography is pleased to announce that over \$60,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Amateur Photography Contest. Photographers from the Portland area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 1,300 prizes. The deadline for the contest is March 31. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE. You can visit their website at www.picture.com.

Learn to Meditate

Free Learn to Meditate 3-week course offered by the Sri Chinmoy Centre. Discover how meditation can simplify your life and deepen your sense of happiness, many techniques taught by experienced meditation teachers. Downtown Library (801 SW 10th), Sundays, January 30, February 6 and 13, 1:30 - 3 p.m. Phone 503/471-1588 to register.

Grand Floral Parade

Tickets are now available for the Portland Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade held on Saturday, June 10 at the Memorial Coliseum at 10 a.m. Prices are \$23, \$20 and \$11.50 (includes convenience charge - add \$.50 for phone/internet orders). Call Rose Quarter Ticket Office at 227-2681 or any Ticketmaster.

Brooks learning to take control of his emotions



Brandon Brooks defends against Benson High School in the Friday game that led USA Today to name them the fourth best team in America.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

During Friday's Jefferson vs. Benson boys basketball game, Brandon Brooks took over in the closing moments of the first half. Jefferson's point guard pierced Benson's zone defense and found teammate Antone Jarrell for a basket. A dunk by backcourt partner Aaron Miles, a steal by Jarrell and a three-pointer by Brooks ignited the huge crowd at the Chiles Center.

As the half ended, Brooks' running jumper capped a 12-4 run by the Democrats, whom USA Today rates as the nation's fourth-best high school team.

At the center of it was the 5-foot-11 Brooks: splitting the defense with the quickness that led recruiting services to rate him as the third-best point guard on the West Coast; defending Benson's fine forward, Robert Day; strutting before a wild Jefferson crowd. Brandon Brooks is on fire. And his is a flame that burns within. At times, the senior's fiery nature has gotten the better of him. As a freshman, he clashed with then-Jefferson coach Bobby Harris and quit the team. He transferred to Grant and led the league in scoring his sophomore year. But his outbursts led PIL coaches to leave him off the all-league team. He has had academic troubles and has been suspended for fighting. Last year, he returned to Jefferson and began to settle down, though he sat out games this season for disciplinary problems.

Brooks is among the most controversial players ever to play in the Portland Interscholastic League. He also is among the most talented. He is an explosive scorer and fierce competitor. He blends speed with great court awareness. It's his passion, though, that makes Brooks stand apart.

As with many of us, Brooks' greatest strength is his greatest weakness. At 18, he's just learning to control the flame.

"That's all in the past," Brooks says of his outbursts. "I'm doing what I've got to do now, and that is all that matters."

Brooks has the ability and the work ethic to play at a top college program. Colleges, however, were skeptical he could meet NCAA academic requirements.

But Brooks surprised some recruiters by getting a 930 on his SAT last fall. Marshall Haskins, his coach at Jefferson, says Brooks will be eligible if he gets C's this year.

(Please see 'Brooks' page B3)

Seminar highlights Passages from Martin Luther King Jr.



Dr. Clayborne Carson

On Friday, January 21, Willamette University held a rousing celebration called "Passages of Martin Luther King." The beloved Civil Rights leader was honored at the annual event held at the Smith Auditorium to a sold-out crowd. This free event was sponsored by the school's Multicultural Law Students Association.

The highlight of the evening was a docu-drama given by local talents like Oregon's Governor John Kitzhaber portraying John F. Kennedy and Assistant Attorney Okainer Christian Dark as Coretta Scott King. Other historical characters represented by locals were Daddy King, Malcolm X and Stokely Carmichael. The actors and actresses delivered with a passion that was reminiscent of the era's turbulence.

Another highlight of the evening was the gospel songs performed by the Gospel Music Workshop of America. Their stirring performances served as the background music of the entire docu-drama.

Dr. Clayborne Carson was the producer of this year's event. His background as a Stanford professor, Civil Rights historian, director of the King Papers Project, and senior advisor for the PBS series "Eyes on the Prize" made him the ideal candidate to organize such a grand event.

A reception immediately followed in the Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center that included food, drinks, a discussion by Dr. Clayborne Carson and an award given to former Oregon Supreme Court Justice, Edwin J. Peterson by Willamette University's Multicultural Law Students Association for his commitment to diversity.



Governor John Kitzhaber

Portland Community Design makes changes in head office

By LEE PERLMAN
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Having done more to shape the look of housing in Northeast Portland in the last decade than any other person, Peter Wilcox is ready to seek greener pastures.

Wilcox will leave his post as head of Portland Community Design at the end of this month. He will turn over the reins of the non-profit urban design firm to Suzanne Zuniga.

"I felt that Suzanne was the right person to be my successor, and that I had better take advantage of that," Wilcox says. "After a decade here, I'm ready for change and new challenges."

Officially incorporated in 1991, Portland Community Design has played a role in creating 350 new housing projects, most of them for low-income families in inner Northeast Portland. The group has worked with such non-profit developers as HOST Community Development, Northeast Community Development Corporation, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, and

Rose Community Development.

PCD and Wilcox also started the planning process that led to the redesign of parts of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and the restoration of on-street parking to parts of the street. Both played a role in the Outer Southeast Community Plan and the revitalization of the Belmont Business District in inner southeast Portland.

The agency is working on the Garfield Cherry Tree Three project at Northeast Garfield Avenue and Failing Street, and the proposed 12-unit project at Northeast Killingsworth Street and 44th Avenue. The latter, a joint venture with Habitat for Humanity, will include a park and community garden.

Prior to formation of PCD, Wilcox drafted the Ten Essentials, the base of city design standards for building in inner Northeast Portland. The essentials include a useable front porch, building at grade instead of flattening the site down to sidewalk level, and using natural material for siding. He also put together a national competition to design houses for two vacant lots in the community;

the winning designs became the seven-unit Dawson Park row houses at Northeast Williams Avenue and Morris Street, and the three-unit Going Street Row Houses on Northeast Sixth Avenue near King School.

However, he realized that A.I.A. volunteers alone "were not nearly meeting the needs of low-income communities for good housing design." Thus he organized PCD.

Perhaps the group's single most important project has been Albina Corner at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and San Rafael street. The first housing venture on the boulevard in decades, it contains 42 units built around a central courtyard one flight up. Below are Albina Community Bank, the San Rafael Cafe and PCD's own headquarters.

"It demonstrated you could successfully build housing on MLK when most people said you couldn't," chief city planner Michael Harrison, creator of the Albina Community Plan, says.

Wilcox, however, says his biggest disappointment is the features he had to cut from the project due to cost over-runs.

Aside from his innovative approach, Wilcox has been known for his willingness to work with local communities. In creating the Stanton Five infill project for HOST, PCD drew up nine different development schemes until they found one nearby neighbors felt they could live with.

"Peter is a really fine gentleman," HOST director Howard Nolte says. "He always has the interest of the neighborhood at heart. He understands not only what looks good, but what will work in the housing market."

Some of the things that Wilcox and PCD pioneered - low-cost housing that is also compatible and well-designed, high-density housing on MLK and mixed use buildings - are now being pursued by others, Wilcox and Zuniga say. Zuniga says she would like PCD to pursue mixed-income housing and "sustainable" design. The latter approach seeks to minimize use of scarce resources like fuel.

"Instead of using the best heating system

(Please see 'Housing' page 2)