

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Spring College Fair

The Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling (PNACAC) Portland Spring College Fair will be held at the University of Portland Chiles Center on Sunday, April 2 from NOON - 3 pm. Over 100 colleges and universities from throughout the country will be on hand to share information with students and their families. Area high school counselors and financial aid administrators will be available to answer specific questions about college planning and financing an education. The University of Portland is located at 5000 N Willamette Blvd. Call 503/943-7147.

Lecture on Chinese Healing System

Medical science is currently investigating the effectiveness of QiGong in relation to modern day health syndromes such as stress, high blood pressure and immune disease disorders. A lecture on QiGong, a Chinese Self-Healing System will be given by Grandmaster Ou Wen-Wei, research director at Guangzhou University in China. It will be held on Thursday, March 30, 7-9 pm. and workshops on Saturday, April 1, 9am.-3pm. at the Friendly House located at 1727 NW 26th & Thurman. Call Donna Selby at 503/675-9809.

Changing the IRS

On Saturday, March 25, the Citizen Advocacy Panel Public Forum on Changing the IRS will be held from 9 am. to noon at the Portland Conference Center at 300 NE Multnomah Street. Independent panel invites public comment on issues relating to IRS policy, procedures, and customer service. Call 1-888-912-1227 to participate. Five minutes allotted to each speaker; additional time may be provided at discretion of panel. Assistance is also available for individual tax problems.

On the Verge

Poised on the verge of a new era, Bridge City Productions is set to open its third season of theatre at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in Portland, Oregon. On the Verge, or the geography of yearning by NBC writer and Reed College graduate Eric Overmyer will be the first of two exciting productions from BCP this year. Scheduled with a gala opening Friday, March 24 at 8 pm., On the Verge will continue Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm. and Sundays at 2 pm. through April 15, 2000.

US West Portland Festival Symphony

The US West Portland Festival Symphony presents its Einstein Chamber Orchestra in a benefit concert for the Goose Hollow Family Shelter and KBPS, Portland's Classical Music Radio Station. The concert will be on Saturday, March 25, 2000 at 7:30 pm. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets available at Ticketmaster and PCPA. The Portland Festival Symphony will be joined by Michael Allen Harrison, noted pianist, and selected members of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony for a night of romantic classical music.

Portland Men

Wanted For

Hazardous Journey

Promise Keepers (PK), the Denver-based international ministry for men, officially announced the date and venue for its year 2000 men's conference in Portland. The Rose Garden will host an expected 19,000 men for a day-and-a-half conference on July 21 and 22. The Portland conference is expected to draw men from throughout the Northwest including California, Nevada, Idaho and British Columbia.

Bowling for Rhinos

Help save the endangered rhinos by bowling with the keepers from the Oregon Zoo. The event will be held on March 25. For more information and to pledge sheets, call 226-1561, ext. 255.

Evelyn Collins, founder of Christian Community Center, dies

BY DANNY BELL
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Her favorite phrase from the Bible was "Delight thyself also in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." And for over fifty years she toiled diligently in the field of the Lords ministry nurturing a segment of society that had been pushed to the edges of the mainstream and America, the poor, the downtrodden, and primarily black in both Washington D.C. and later Portland. Her name? Evelyn Margaret Collins.

Miss Collins as she was affectionately known, founded the Christian Community Center in 1954. Years before she had suffered harsh criticism from her congregation in the Belmont district for her ministry working with Black youth in N. /N.E. Portland. Despite the criticism she continued to work with the youth and families of Portland's Black population. She had worked with a



mission in Washington D.C. with black youth in 1949 to 1951. She stated that God had touched her heart to minister in the black community. In the 1951 Miss Collins and her mother moved back west due to health concerns for Grace Collins who was known as mother Collins.

Arriving in Portland in 1940. She consequently earned her degree at Portland Cascade College in 1944 and shortly thereafter began to pursue a career in the ministry. In 1954 some of the single parents of the children she ministered to approached her about the possibility of Day-care. If it was made available then they could seek and gain employment and break the cycle of poverty in the process. Once again she was touched and parlayed a small inheritance her mother received and a \$300 loan from her employer Meier & Frank to buy a house and open a day-care for children. Within a year the demand for day-care had out grown the house and she found and later purchased a former German Dance Hall at 128 N.E. Russell.

Throughout the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's into the 90's Miss Collins provided through the center nurturing, recreation, employment encouragement, and both spiritual and social guidance to literally thousands of youth. Many of Portland's African-American baby boomers, remember her open-door kind of friendship, understanding ways, generosity to a fault, and whose life demonstrated in deed rather than just words what it meant to

(Please see 'Evelyn' page 1)

Friends of trees 'branch out' to aid urban trees



Seed the future held it's annual 'Branching out tree and shrub sale'. This years event was held Saturday at Delta Park. Pictured from left to right are Rebecca Kessler, outreach coordinator for Friends of Trees, and Myles Black, tree inspector for Portland Parks and Recreation.

During the benefit all of the trees were sold out.

Friends of Trees promotes community partnership to plant, care for and preserve urban trees in order to strengthen neighborhoods, improve the environment and enhance the quality of urban life.

Local fashion designer retails LaNOSSI in new location

BY FELICIA L. SLIDER
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

From New York boroughs to Portland backyards to the streets of Watts, if you haven't realized that today's fashions have been heavily influenced from the USA round the way of urban culture, then you've been up under a rock.

Quincy Jones stated is best in the forward of the book *Men of Color Fashion, History, Fundamentals* that "African-American men have always maintained a sense of pride in the way we present ourselves. The root of this can probably be traced back to the motherland where festive adornment was part of our culture...representing tribal allegiance, social standing, and religious affiliation...and whenever possible, we put out our own spin on style. African-American male style is a dynamic, diverse expression of what works. Men of color are trendsetters who carry tradition in their hip pockets. Black men keep style moving...their outward has been a vital expression of inner development."

So here, we take a day in the life of one local fashion designer, Jerry Manns; the local creator & designer of LaNossi. With LaNossi,

he likes to mix the unlikely element. What might be unusual to the average designer, are likely phat and fashionable to create in Manns mind. Mann has a knack for pairing fabrics or designs that may not normally go together, but once taken to the drawing board to flip & finesse...booyaa! Manns label is definitely not a cookie cutter image of what every shorty or fella from 'round is rockin'. LaNossi's designs have been steppin' into the scene by having the knack for a whole new seam to set his retail aside from the norm.

Enter LaNossi. Here to add much flava to your fashion forte.

Q & A

Q: How long have you been designing?
Professionally, five strong years. But I started to craft my skills was when I was about 16 or 17, back in 1987. Fellas like Ray Roberts, others and I started in high school design what we labeled *Boys Making Fashions, Intl.* I started with airbrushing clothes. I had an itch for what was goin' on during the surge of hip-hop & fashion culture.

Q: What/who do you feel is your biggest competition?

Time. What I do to make it in this business is that I run all day; constantly. From sunrise to

sunset. I'm out here like Carl Lewis. The only difference is that I'm not in a track meet. I'm just runnin' for the promotion of Lanossi, its creativity, its development and its staying power. It's not even that I feel that I have to prove what I can do. It's that my ideas that I come up with; maybe say, creations that I thought of to design years ago, I see major designers just starting to flow on that those ideas now. And then I'm like those fashion spreads in *VIBE, SOURCE, BLAZE, GQ*, etc.. That's me!

Q: I hear that you're in discussion with Kenny Anderson on promoting Lanossi. How did that come about?

True indeed. It's goin' down like that! I came into contact with him when he lived & played for the Blazers. We used to hang out at the Lotus. We basically just vibed together on some ideas about my clothing line. Thus, on his recent trips back to Portland, we continue to have meetings. He saw that I was at that next level and how I still have that desire in my heart. Kenny basically said, "Word!... I'll see you out in LA with me in May." LaNossi is goin to attend this 52-team basketball summer league tournament that Anderson does in Harlem, NY. We're just vibin' like that.

Q: With starting your own line of

fashions, I assume you've had to turn obstacles into positive challenges... how do you handle negative influences, specifically as a young African-American male? Especially in the city of Portland.

Positive is as positive does. You can't vibe off of anyone doing negative 'cuz negative's not hard to do.

Q: What the biggest hurdle that you've faced with moving more into mainstream of

(Please see 'LaNossi' page 2)



Jerry Manns