

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### The men they will become

Eli H. Newberger, MD, one of the leading experts on child and family development and author of the critically acclaimed, "The Men They Will Become: The Nature and Nurture of Male Character" will be in Portland for a one day seminar on April 24, 2000. The conference, which shares the title of Dr. Newberger's book, will be held at the Kennedy School in Portland, Oregon from 9 am. to 4 pm. Dr. Newberger's book explores the developmental process of building character in boys. Call 503/281-6151, ext. 12.

### Run, walk and stand for the earth

The city will be host to a unique celebration in observance of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day on Saturday, April 22, 2000 at 7:30 am. The three main organizing groups, the Earth and Spirit Council, the City Repair Project and The Green House Network, have planned a series of participatory events, including a run to stop global warming, a human circle around the city of Portland, a Mardi-Gras style procession honoring the earth's myriad life forms, tree planting, and a multi-cultural ceremony and celebration at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

### Career Connections 2000

The Urban League of Portland announces Career Connections 2000, on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 am. to 7 pm., at the Memorial Coliseum Exhibit Hall. This year's event marks the eighth annual job fair. Over fifty employers with current openings will be on hand to accept applications, resumes and answer questions.

### Americorps VISTA volunteer positions

Excellent opportunity to gain experience in the nonprofit community economic development field. Two VISTA positions available, one in Hillsboro and one in Portland. Both positions work with Individual Development Account (IDA) programs. IDAs are matched savings accounts that low-income people use to go to school, buy a house, or start a business. For more information, please call Shannon Snow at 248-5200x26983 (Portland) or Connie Sherrard at 693-3246 (Hillsboro).

### Procession of the Species

Now through April 20, *Community Art Workshops* for the Procession of the Species will be held at 49 SE Clay (near OMSI), Itisness Studio at 3016 NE Killingsworth and other locations around the Portland-Metro area. Learn about ecological issues and other interesting species facts, while you get help creating your favorite species for the Procession. For the schedule and registration information, call 503/244-2602 or visit [www.earthandspirit.org/earthday2000](http://www.earthandspirit.org/earthday2000) and click on Art Workshops.

### "Raise the Roof" day in oldtown/ Chinatown

Under plastic and scaffolds, Portland's Classical Chinese Garden is taking shape on Saturday, April 15th Mayor Katz invites the public to "Raise the Roof" Day in Old Town/Chinatown from 11 am - 4 pm to support the Garden and view its progress. The event will also be a one-time opportunity to sign the roof tiles being sponsored to support the Classical Chinese Garden "Raise the Roof" Community Campaign. Call 503/228-8131.

## DePriests exemplify excellence to music and the community



The 2000 DePriest Award went to James and Ginette DePriest for their two decades of commitment and service to the Portland community. They were honored by Volunteers of America Oregon and The Hollywood Theatre Project on Oscar night, March 26, 2000.

CONTRIBUTOR STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On March 26, both James and Ginette DePriest became the first recipients of the Volunteers of America DePriest Award of Excellence. An award they say is humbling and undeserved despite their accomplishments.

Even after 20 years, Ginette DePriest still attends every performance.

She watches as her husband James DePriest, music director and conductor of the Oregon Symphony hobbles to the stage in the leg braces he's forced to wear after a bout with polio in 1962. She watches as the audience files in. Those who attend the Oregon Symphony are no longer a group clad in furs and jewels and three piece suits. Now the concert hall is filled with jean-clad generation-xers, and families and retired couples and students.

The symphony is available to all Oregonians and the DePriests have worked for more than 20 years to make it that way.

The DePriests have become two of Oregon's most recognizable faces. While James DePriest, a tall, regal man with a baritone voice is the most visible as the premiere conductor of the symphony, Ginette DePriest works just as hard behind the scenes. The Oregon Symphony is a full-time job for both, although he's the only one with an official title.

A primary responsibility for the music director



(Please see 'Award' page 2)

## Debate continues around urban renewal program

BY LEE PERLEMAN  
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"If you want it, here it is, come and get it, but better hurry, 'cause it's going fast."  
— The Beatles

For the past month, citizens of north and northeast Portland, or those with an interest in the area, have been gathering regularly at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, 4134 N. Vancouver Ave.

White, black, red and brown, they are united by their interest in green.

A citizen advisory committee working with the Portland Development Commission is crafting policies governing the proposed Interstate Urban Renewal Zone. Foremost among these is the boundaries of the zone, showing where the funds can be spent.

The zone was conceived last year as part of the funding package to finance the Interstate MAX light rail project, a \$450 million extension of the light rail system from the Rose Quarter to the Expo Center. Community groups later suggested that the district's tax increment funding could be used to fund public projects and improvements in the area.

In an urban renewal district, as land and property values increase, the extra taxes collected from this increase are placed in a special tax increment fund, to be used exclusively for projects within the district boundaries. The amount that would be generated depends on what the final boundaries are, but PDC's John Southgate says that "a real rough estimate, just a guess," is \$150 million. Of this, \$30 million is pledged to the rail project.

At one point, PDC was considering as small

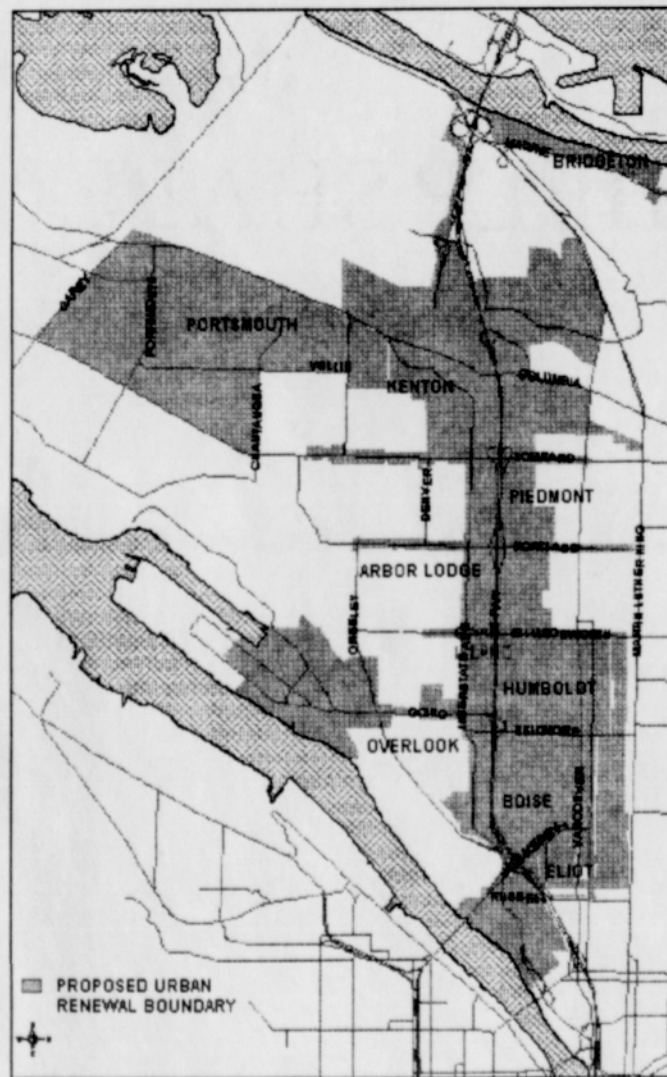
an area as a corridor four blocks wide. Since then, there have been numerous requests for inclusion. As of February 21, the district was bounded roughly by North Delaware and Williams avenues and included the Lower Albina and Swan Island industrial districts, parts of the Columbia Corridor industrial district, and Portland Meadows. Since then there have been more requests for changes.

The North-Northeast Economic Development Alliance is trying to revitalize the Williams-Vancouver Corridor, and had requested that the boundary be moved to Williams to make funds available for improvements related to the project. The Boise Neighborhood Association, which once insisted its part of the district extend no further east than North Mississippi Avenue, now wants to go almost to Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard - provided that the program adheres to a set of principles it has put together.

At a meeting of the committee last week David Eatwell of Kenton called for extension of the boundary westward past Peninsula, while Lisa Home of the Peninsula Community Development Corporation and Elizabeth Humphrey of Portsmouth said it should go still further west. Committee member Paul Mortimer felt the arterial streets running east and west should be included to deal with anticipated traffic problems from the project, and a Piedmont neighborhood representative made a similar request with regard to one, Northeast Portland Boulevard. Mark Kirchmeier wanted to include part of the Overlook area, and Overlook's Dorothy

(Please see 'Urban' page 2)

### INTERSTATE URBAN RENEWAL AREA DRAFT BOUNDARY



## Court refuses to restore Welfare benefits for immigrants

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Supreme Court refused to force the government to restore food stamps and other benefits for legal immigrants cut off in a massive 1996 welfare overhaul.

The court, without comment, rejected an appeal by Chicago officials and a group of noncitizen residents who said the 1996 law violated their equal-protection rights.

"The federal government...is forbidden to balance its budget by denying welfare benefits to lawful permanent residents," the appeal

had contended.

The 1996 Welfare Reform Act, which dramatically cut welfare rolls nationwide, barred noncitizens living in this country from collecting food stamps and disability benefits through Supplemental Security Income.

Immigrants also were barred from collecting general welfare benefits and Medicaid until they live in the United State for five years.

The cutoff was intended to encourage immigrants to be self-sufficient and to ensure that welfare benefits do not create an incentive for people to emigrate to this country.

Congress later restored food stamps and SSI disability benefits to some immigrants living in the United States before August 1996.

The city of Chicago and a group of legal immigrants challenged the welfare law in federal court, saying it violated some immigrants' equal-protection rights.

A federal judge upheld the limits on benefits, and the 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed.

The government is not required to give all aliens the same welfare benefits provided for citizens, the appeals court ruled.

In the appeal acted on just recently, lawyers for Chicago and the immigrants said Congress' decision to allow people into the country but deny them benefits unfairly raises costs for state and local governments.

Justice Department lawyers said the benefit restrictions were a valid restriction on aliens' conduct in the United States.

They noted that the Supreme Court in 1996 let the government require immigrants to live in this country for five years before collecting Medicare.

The case is Chicago vs. Shalala, 99-898.