

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Health Conference

Oregon's first lady and a popular TV star, Ann Jillian will join hundreds of women in the Portland-area who will be taking a day for themselves at the fourth annual *A Day for You* event. The all-day conference uses humor, hope and health to nurture the needs of women as they journey through the various stages of life. The conference is 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW 6th in Portland. Cost is \$25 per person or \$20 for Providence Health Plan members. Lunch will be provided.

It's Hoop Time!

Want to dribble and shoot? Montavilla Community Center is the place to start! Take the ball to the hoop with Basketball for Lil' Dribblers (ages 4-6) on Mondays, Nov. 13-Dec. 11, from 4-4:30 p.m., \$10, and Basketball for Junior Hoopers (ages 7-9) on Mondays, Nov. 13-Dec. 11, 4:30-5:15 p.m., \$10 (City of Portland residents). Call 503/823-4101 or visit their website at www.PortlandParks.org.

Solutions March

The Juneteenth Association NW will be having a Solutions March on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 1-5 p.m. as a prevention against violence. The march starts at Alberta park and ends at Unthank Park at SEI. An open mike and forum is planned. Additionally, the Juneteenth Association NW is planning a meeting for Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Self Enhancement Inc. People with event experience needed. Call 503/281-8472.

Antique and Collectibles

Experience nostalgia and sophistication this Nov. 18 and 19 at the Oregon Convention Center Antique & Collectible Show, located at the Oregon Convention Center. It will feature over 700 upscale booths along with exhibitors, nationally renowned appraisers and restoration experts. Collectors can learn about family antiques or their favorite collectibles from Harry Rinker, nationally renowned antique and collectibles consultant. Call 503/282-0877 or visit www.palmerwvrf.com.

Dance! Dance! Dance!

Every Monday, Nov. 13-Dec. 11, little dancers can increase motor skills, balance and coordination with Dance Creatively (age 3-4) at 2:30 p.m. and Towards Ballet (age 4-5), at 3 p.m. \$12 for either class. Older dancers will learn the basics of ballet, jazz, and tap with our combo classes: Ballet & Jazz Combo for age 6-9 at 3:45-4:45 p.m. and Jazz & Tap Combo for age 8-13 at 5-6 p.m. \$24 for either class. Call 823-3661 or visit www.PortlandParks.org.

Stress-Free Living

A one-day class on stress-free living through self-empowerment will be held on Sunday, Nov. 19 at the Subud Center, located at 3185 NE Regents Dr. from 1-5 p.m. You will learn to invoke a deep state of relaxation and instill positive suggestions into your unconscious mind. Also, you will be taken on a journey of self-empowerment as well as gain the experience that will enable you to bring relaxation into your daily life. Call 503/224-5959.

Raphael House Benefit

Raphael House will host their 18th annual dinner and auction, "A Home for All Seasons" on Saturday, Nov. 4. Proceeds will go to support the organization's emergency shelter, transitional housing, education outreach, and programs for the care and support of women and children escaping domestic violence. The evening includes a silent auction, live auction, raffle drawing and gourmet dinner. The event will be located at the Oregon Ballroom of the Portland Marriott, 1401 SW Naito Parkway. Call 503/222-6507.

Museum Family Sunday

Museum Family Sunday on Nov. 5 offers families the chance to experience the many treasures of Russian Avant-Garde painter Malevich, Kadinsky and others in the splendid current special exhibition *Painting Revolution: Kadinsky, Malevich and the Russian Avant-Garde* and the preeminent American landscape painter in the exhibition *In Search of the Promised Land: Paintings by Frederic Edwin Church*.

Gun Control Group Rallies

Handgun Control President Brings "Bush And Guns Truth Tour" To Oregon

Oregon religious leaders, gun control activists and local victims of gun violence joined Michael Barnes, president of Handgun Control, the nation's largest gun control advocacy organization, to discuss Texas Governor George Bush's record on guns.

A news conference was held Thursday in the South Park Blocks in front of the First Congregational Church.

The "Bush and Guns Truth Tour" has traveled across the county exposing Bush's record of catering to the gun lobby, especially the law he signed allowing Texans to carry loaded, concealed handguns into churches, synagogues other places of worship, hospitals and amusement parks.

The Nation Rifle Association strongly supports Governor Bush and has even bragged that if Bush wins, "We'll have a president where we work out of their office."

Gun control advocates say restrictions on owning and using firearms will be loosened if Bush is elected president, putting American lives in danger.

"I'm very concerned about Bush's record. All the things he's said are not represented by his tenure in Texas," said Rebecca Lynn, whose 18-year-old daughter Betina was shot three times in a 1998 shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield.

Betina Lynn is still recovering from the incident. Her mother has become a passionate advocate of tighter gun control measures.

"Our family has been through quite a bit of trauma," she said. "I can't even tell you what it's been like."

In 1995, Bush signed a law which allowed Texans to carry concealed weapons, repealing a 125-year ban on concealed weapons in that state.



Speaking out for tougher gun laws in Portland are David Bernstein of the national group Handgun Control, with support from the Rev. Mark Knutson of Portland's Augustana Lutheran Church and Rebecca Lynn, mother of Thurston High School shooting victim Betina Lynn. (PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON)

Two years later, Bush approved expanding the law to allow concealed weapons in churches, amusement parks and hospitals.

"Why, for heaven's sake, would we want to make the possession of handguns legal in public places like churches or syna-

gogues," said Rabbi Daniel Isaak of Portland's Neveh Shalom synagogue.

David Bernstein, spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based group Handgun Control, said the goal of Thursday's anti-gun rally was to present facts to Oregon

voters and not to endorse Democratic candidate Al Gore.

"We feel once people learn about Bush's extreme record on the issue of guns, they may be inclined to vote for somebody else," he said.

Bank of America Earns Good Report, Others Don't



A Portland resident uses the automatic teller machine at the Bank of America on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Bank of America is the only bank the NAACP gives a B grade or better for involvement in the black community. (PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON)

The NAACP is urging consumers to avoid some of the nation's leading banks, saying they are not giving enough opportunities to black workers, advertising agencies or small businesses. NAACP President Kweisi Mfume last week implored the organization's 1,700 branches and other groups to stop doing business with banks that earned poor or failing grades in the civil rights organization's first annual Banking Industry Report Card.

The report grades banks in five categories: employment, community reinvestment, advertising and marketing, business development, and charitable giving. The surveyed banks received an overall grade of C-minus for their involvement in the black community.

"This was a damning report on the banking and financial services industry," Mfume said. "We never like to use economic power that goes with boycotts and consumer decisions but, in this instance, we think it's impera-

tive we have the attention of this industry, which is so powerful in this country."

Mfume said the banks need to employ more blacks in high-level positions and better serve the inner city. "Over the last 15 to 20 years, it's as if the banks were like the Lone Ranger—they've left behind a cloud of dust and a mighty 'Hi-yo, Silver' and an ATM machine," Mfume said. "You can't get counseling from an ATM machine," he said. "You can't get a loan from an ATM machine."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will urge the 55 civil rights and minority organizations who cosponsored the report, religious organizations and even customers entering banks to boycott those banks that received poor grades. National City Corp. received a D-plus; U.S. Bancorp, Mellon Bank, Fleet Boston Financial, Key Corp., Citigroup/Citibank and Wells Fargo each received a D.

"We are puzzled and disappointed by the NAACP's surprisingly low ranking, which we do not feel is warranted by the facts," Mellon Bank said in a written statement, noting the company's corporate giving, sponsorship of the arts and loans for low- and moderate-income individuals.

Suntrust received an F, the lowest grade possible, for not participating in

the survey.

But spokesman Barry Koling said that occurred because of the bank's reorganization. Other banks, such as Wells Fargo and USBancorp, also said their poor grades resulted from not having the requested information available.

The report did acknowledge some signs of success. The industry as a whole received a B for reinvesting in communities through programming. Bank of America received the highest grade - B. "It's like winning the gold medal," said Henry Hicks, a Bank of America vice president.

"We want to serve people from all walks of life," Mfume said the NAACP and Bank of America's \$6 million agreement in July to increase home ownership in poor areas and aid small businesses in urban areas did not influence the bank's ranking.

The report is the organization's third in its ongoing Economic Reciprocity Initiative to inform consumers about where to spend their dollars.

The organization released reports on the lodging industry last month and on the cable industry this spring - both concluding that those industries need to improve their treatment of blacks. The NAACP expects to release a report on the telecommunications industry by the end of the year.

Motorists Asked to Consider Alternatives to Studded Tires

The winter driving season is just around the corner and some drivers are starting to think about when to put on their traction tires and carry chains in the trunk.

Motorists in Oregon may use studded tires on their vehicles from Nov. 1 to April 1. But Oregon Department of Transportation officials encourage

drivers to consider other types of traction or chains because of the highway damage caused by studded tires.

"ODOT spends about \$11 million a year fixing studded tire damage on our highways," said Tom Lulay, ODOT Executive Deputy Director.

"Anything drivers can do to reduce that amount is money we can spend

elsewhere on the highway system," he noted.

Lulay says that other types of tires are available to drivers to use instead of studded tire when chains or traction tires are required in Oregon's snow zones.

These traction tire meet the Rubber Manufacturers Association definition

as suitable for use in severe snow conditions and carry a special symbol on the tire sidewall showing a three-peaked mountain and snowflake.

Go to the "winter travel" heading at www.tripcheck.com. ODOT's travel information Website to find additional information about chain laws, traction tires and minimum chain requirements.