

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Thanksgiving at Timberline

Celebrate a harvest season tradition at the historic Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. Feast on turkey in the classic dining room overlooking the Oregon Cascades and snow-covered ski slopes. Reserve your seat now on this holiday Gray Line bus trip sponsored by Portland Parks & Recreation's Senior Recreation program. The bus departs from the Hollywood Senior Center on Thursday, Nov. 23, at 11 a.m. and returns at 6:30 p.m. All expenses included in the \$67 fee and all ages are welcome. Call 823-4328.

### Windows to Africa

Windows to Africa cordially invites you to attend a "Sisterhood Saturday" that will feature a fashion show, luncheon, networking, and guest speaker Evangelist Laura A. Howard. The event will be at McMenamins at Kennedy School in the "Martha Jordan Room," located at 5736 NE. 33<sup>rd</sup>. Tickets are \$25. Tickets on sale at Destiny's Shoes and Accessories, 6720 NE. MLK Blvd. Call 503/247-8298.

### A Benefit for Disabled Students

PHAME Academy's third annual Winter Gala is set for Friday, Dec. 1 at the World Trade Center, 121 SW Salmon St. on Portland's beautiful riverfront. A silent auction and light buffet run will run from 6-7 p.m., with performances from 7:30-9 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and can be ordered by calling 503/973-5815.

### Calling All Kids

Kids Call, a ministry of New Beginnings Christian Center, is a Bible Story Hotline packed full of fun for kids of all ages! Each week Kids Call features an exciting Bible Story and a Scripture Memory Verse. Over 5,000 kids have called Kids Call since its inception in June 1998! Kids Call is available 24/7 at 503/261-9803. If you would like to distribute Kids Call cards, please call 503/256-6050, ext. 223.

### No More Homeless Pets

Southwest Washington's Animal Welfare Groups are joining together on Nov. 18, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the East Ridge Industrial Park for a day dedicated to finding homes for the orphaned animals of our area. A twelve hour Adoptathon where homeless pets from many different organizations will be in one place. Families that are interested can come and adopt a new best friend. The event is being held in the East Ridge Business Park, 9808 NE. 126<sup>th</sup>, Suite B. Call 360/571-0494 or 360/750-0847.

### Addictions and Corrections

Bruce Broussard, president of the local chapter of NAACP will be interviewing Savon Lindsey, local author of "The Soul of an Addict" on Channel 11 of Cable Access on Sunday, Nov. 11 from 4-5 p.m. This will be a panel discussion on the topic of the Corrections Institution.

### Oregon Peace Institute

The Oregon Peace Institute (OPI) will present "Paint and Play: An Introduction to Experimental Models for Conflict Resolution in Multicultural Settings" with Joanne Oleksiak and Jill Townley on Monday, Nov. 27 from 6:30-9 p.m. at OPI, 1950 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Room 121 in Portland. The workshop will introduce the Second Step curriculum and the Help Increase the Peace program. A donation of \$10 would be appreciated. Call 503/725-8192.

### Power Wheelchairs Available

Miracle on Wheels makes available Power (Electric) Wheelchairs to non-ambulatory Senior Citizens (65 years old & up) usually at no out-of-pocket expense if they qualify. No deposit required. This service may also be available to the permanently disabled of any age. Please call 1-800-749-8778 or visit our web site at [www.durablemedical.com](http://www.durablemedical.com) for more information on the details of this program.

## City Planner 'Roasted' for 30-Year Career

Michael Harrison was author of Albina Community Plan and most other neighborhood planning efforts

By Lee Perlman

Michael Harrison, the "father" of the Albina Community Plan and most other neighborhood planning efforts, has traded in his trademark Birkenstocks for slippers. The senior city planner retired last month after 27 years of service - "longer than a ballot measure 11 sentence," as land use lawyer Stephen Janik said at a City Hall roast.

"There's no one who has had the influence he's had on city planning over the last 30 years," former Planning Bureau director David Knowles says. "During this time, Harrison has had a role in virtually every community planning effort in Portland. In particular, he had charge of the Central City Plan, Albina Community Plan and Outer Southeast Community Plan, major efforts that set zoning for all land and policies to guide public and private action in these areas.

Local neighborhood plans, in these and other areas, provided more local policy direction and set the community's own goals for itself. In the case of the Albina Plan, covering 20 square miles of inner north and northeast Portland, the process went further still. It dealt with all aspects of community life, including job and employment creation, historic preservation, social services and recreation. It created seven new historic design zones that to some extent control how new development will look. It set as goals the creation of a new police precinct at the former Walnut Park Fred Meyer and the renovation of Kennedy School for public use, both of which later came to be.

Ironically, the plan concluded that the hated Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard center median should be left as it is. However,

it generated discussion that, ultimately, led to its redesign in several places.

Harrison says the Albina Plan and Eliot Neighborhood Plan were two of the accomplishments he is most proud of. Of the Albina Plan he says, "It was a complete comprehensive plan - so far as I know, the only one of its kind in the country. We planned for all aspects of life - and it was successful."

"While the Albina Plan and Central City Plan were citizen-driven, they required someone with technical expertise and ability to build consensus," Knowles says. The project was originally conceived by the North-Northeast Economic Development Alliance. "Michael was very open to our ideas," the Alliance's Sheila Holden says. "We agreed the plan had to be different from other plans, that it had to be dynamic, that it couldn't just sit on a shelf." She adds, "He was one of the best examples of what a planner should be. When you think of land use and zoning being rigid, he was very innovative." In the case of the Albina Plan, he had to be. "I put together the most complex budget proposal ever," he says. "Then I was told to do it on two-thirds the budget and one-third the time, and to include neighborhood plans.

"He did so by employing interns new to the planning process. Many went on to become Portland city planners. One, Paul Scarlet, decided to come to Portland from Toronto based on a phone call from Harrison. "He was very knowledgeable about Portland and very sincere," Scarlet says. When he came here, "He was very fair. He gave you constructive criticism and advice." He also allowed flexible working hours that permitted Scarlet to study for his masters degree.



Michael Harrison, a giant in the city's achievements in land use planning, with Mayor Vera Katz.

PHOTO BY PAUL SCARLET

Another future planner was Susan Hartnett, volunteer leader of the Eliot neighborhood planning effort. Harrison has "provided mentoring and guidance to many people," she says. He also shepherded the rezoning of the Kennedy School property, a key step in its conversion to a McMenamins brew pub, theater and bed and breakfast, through the planning process. Harrison later said the rezoning

violated many rules about how such processes should be carried out - and was the right thing to do in this case. Melissa Darby, a volunteer leader in the Kennedy School preservation effort, says, "No one else could have done what Michael did for us." However, he also has had his share of critics. He

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

## Humane Society Opens New Shelter

Representatives of the Oregon Humane Society celebrate during the grand opening to their new \$8.3 million shelter at 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd. The state-of-the-art building is the result of seven years of planning and the generosity of over 7,000 contributors.



(PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)



## 'Gotta Get a Head Band' Nets Support for Boys and Girls Club

Area kids wore Blazers headbands and performed a shot bit of the song 'Can I get a Headband' Friday before judges Damon Stoudamire of the Portland Trail Blazers (from left) and Virginia Henson of the Blazers Boys and Girls Club. The special event commemorated the \$10,000 donation to the club received from sales of the song, produced during last season's playoffs by the Blazers and radio station Z100.

## Oregon Vote Good News for Portland Schools

Canada praises voters for passing Measure 1, and defeating Measures 8, 9, 92, 95, & 98

Portland Public Schools received good news this week with the outcomes of ballot measures affecting schools.

"I am particularly pleased with the strong public support for Ballot Measure 1, stated PPS Superintendent Benjamin O. Canada, Ph.D.

The measure requires the legislature to appropriate funds for schools to meet the quality education goals of Oregon's Educational Act for the 21st Century.

"I am heartened by the message voters have given us," said Canada.

Voters defeated Ballot Measures 8 and 91, which could have had potentially devastating effects on funding for

schools. "It is clear to me that Oregonians are strong supporters of their schools and I look forward to the challenge of meeting the achievement goals that the State, our Board, our parents and our public have set for us," Canada said.

Portland Public Schools has spent the past 18 months working with parents and community representatives to develop a Strategic Plan. Its objectives are to ensure that by 2005, 100 percent of students will show significant growth every year in academic learning, set ambitious learning goals and contribute to the community.

Canada said the outcome of the election will allow Portland Public Schools to continue moving forward on developing strategies to meet the district's student achievement objectives.

"We are pleased to see that Oregonians support these and similar efforts," said Canada. "The dollars the public entrusts with us will be well spent. We are working our hardest - and we will continue to work our hardest - to make the best use of public dollars for the benefit of children."

The School District also expressed pleasure with the defeat of Ballot Measures 9, 92, 95, and 98, all measures affecting schools.

"I am pleased that as a district we can continue to support all children," stated

the superintendent.

"The rejection of Ballot Measure 9 will enable the district to continue to make progress in this initiative. I am also pleased with the defeat of Ballot Measure 95," he continued. "While the District will explore opportunities to compensate employees based on performance, this measure was not the solution."

Canada also supports the rights for employees to use payroll deductions to contribute to organizations.

"I am very encouraged with the voters support for schools and welcome the opportunity to continue developing and implementing the strategies necessary to take our education system to a higher level of excellence," concluded Canada.