

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Food and Toys Drive

The NAACP at Portland State University is holding its first annual Food and Toys Drive. We need the community's help to make it a success. You can help by giving non-perishable foods; give toys or clothing for homeless and needy children; and give monetary donation. For further questions or information, please call our Vice President, Cynthia Sartin at 503/287-2833.

Seniors Wrap It Up!

Portland Parks & Recreation's Senior Recreation program is offering a special craft class for seniors (age 55 & up) just in time for the holidays - Greeting Cards, Gift Tags & Bags. Discover simple and inexpensive ways to use fabric, paper, and your imagination to add a special touch to gift bags and tags. Instructor Marie Haydon will lead the class at the YWCA-North Branch, 8010 N. Charleston, on Thursday, Dec. 7, 1-2:30 p.m. Call 503/823-4328.

Fashions Benefit School

New York, New York, the Fashion Capital of the World, is the theme of the 2nd Annual Fashion Show at King School, a fundraiser to benefit students. Area residents are invited to attend the event, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the King School cafeteria. Donations of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children will be accepted at the door.

The New Overcomers

Break the chains of addictions and join the New Overcomers on Wednesday Evenings, 7 p.m. at Rivers of Life Church in the Melody Ballroom on 6th and Alder. Receive personal prayer for healing and a loving family environment. Come as you are. No judgement and confidentiality is assured. Call 503/230-1288.

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 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.

Web Weaving

Create a Web page with Microsoft Front Page. Just bring your ideas for a basic business or family Web site - include pictures or graphics on disk if you have some available. No prior experience required. The class will be held at Avalon Technologies, 607 SW Idaho on Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 6-9 p.m. Call 503/224-5959.

Teaching Self-Defense

Are you interested in becoming a self-defense teacher? Open Hand, a self-defense and conflict resolution center, is offering a free class to train instructors. We would like the class to consist of women of color, women over 50 years old, women with disabilities, teen women, etc. Application deadline is Dec. 15. Class begins in January. Call 503/493-1000.

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.

Artful Designs

Microsoft Publisher and Adobe PageMaker are two of the most popular programs available today for desktop-publishing winning proposals, flyers, brochures, newsletters and other visual invitations into your business or event. Join us for two thoroughly enjoyable sessions on each of these software packages. As an added bonus, each class will include professional layout design tips. Publisher 1 is offered on Monday, Dec. 4 at Avalon Technologies, located at 607 SW Idaho. Call 503/224-5959.

Lawmakers Break Silence on Mental Health

Cultural, economic, and medical barriers still exist for minorities seeking timely, effective treatment

Sen. Avel Gordly, D-Portland and Rep. Jo Ann Bowman, D-Portland, recently attended the 7th Annual Health Care Conference in Indianapolis sponsored by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus and Eli Lilly Co.

"Every year in our community, thousands of our residents suffer from mental illness, personally, or as a family member. It's time that we give mental illness as much or more attention as other diseases and deal with directly through our churches, community based organizations, and government entities," said Gordly. "The cost to our society and the impact to families can no longer be ignored."

Ideas and proposals from around the country were reviewed, including the creation of mental health courts designed to deal with crimes committed by the mentally ill, out of the criminal justice system and in a program run by professionals with knowledge of mental health issues.

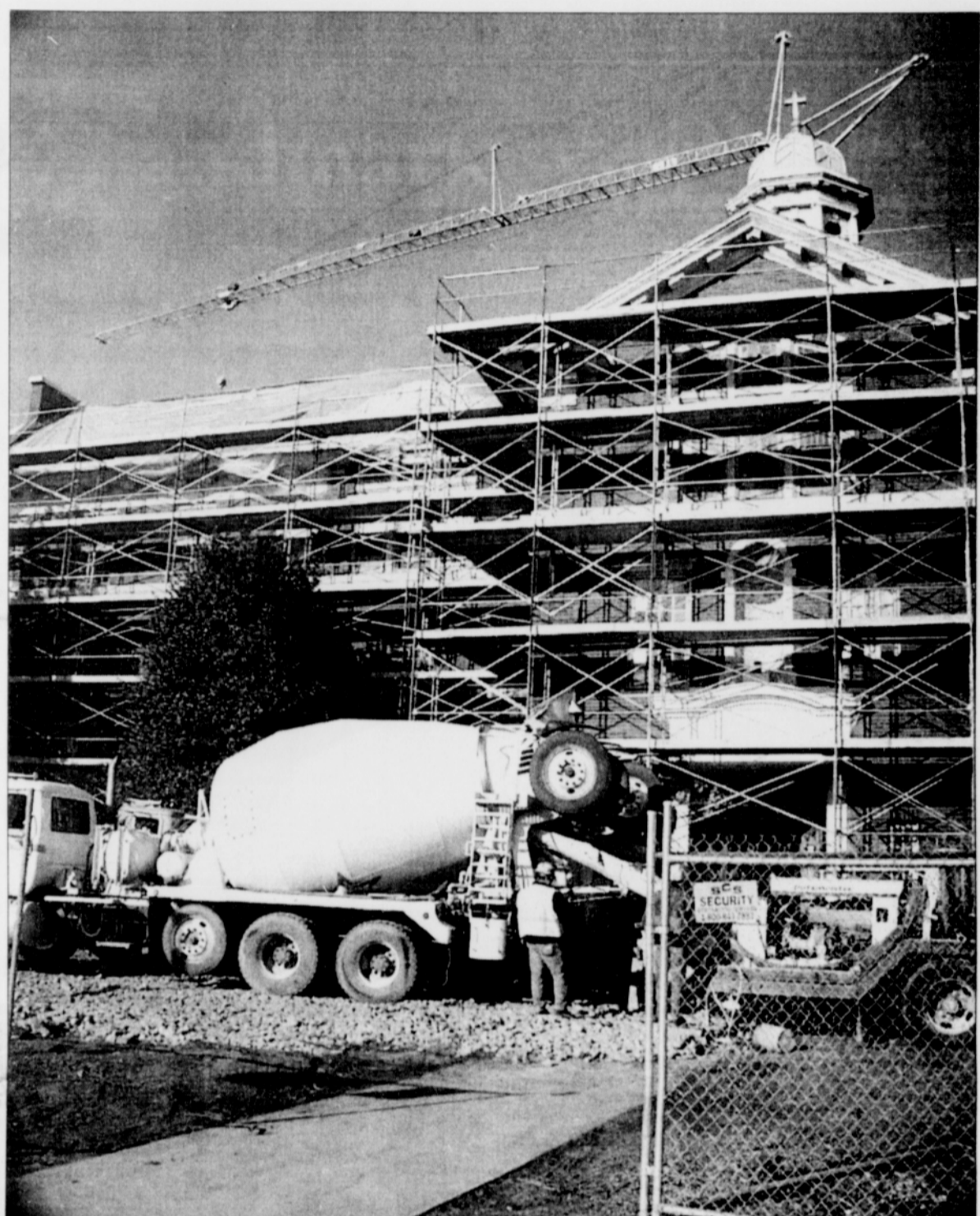
Others topics included financing the cost of medication for the mentally ill without public assistance or private insurance.

Bowman, Gordly and Senator-elect Margaret Carter plan to co-convene a community mental health summit next year focused on the mental health issues affecting African Americans. The Planned summit will replicate a model summit held in Philadelphia last year.

"It is my hope that through community discussions we will be able to remove some of the stigma associated with mental illness and help people understand that treatments are available that make a quality of life possible. We must also work to make treatment available on demand in our communities," said Bowman.

In October, Gov. John Kitzhaber, D-Ore., in proclaiming Mental Health Awareness Week, noted that "a new perception of mental illness is emerging - one that focuses on early intervention, effective treatment, rehabilitation and recovery. Advances are prompted by better science and more research, the information revolution, the important role consumers plays in advocating for themselves, and family members who speak out for their loved ones."

Each year, the health care conference brings together state legislators, health care advocates, and top level health care professionals from around the nation to discuss pressing issues in the health care arena. The 2000 conference focused on mental health disparity issues for the African American community.



Crews Begin Work on Local Landmark

A construction crane with scaffolding now surrounds the former Rosemont and Villa St. Rose School in the Piedmont neighborhood of north and northeast Portland. The landmark and long-time vacant structure is being refurbished into senior housing as part of a Portland Development Corporation sponsored venture.

(PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

Fire Destroys NE Landmark



A Northeast Portland landmark is destroyed by fire.

(PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

Burger Island, a restaurant that has served generations of northeast Portland residents, was destroyed by fire last week.

Portland firefighters were called to the restaurant at 6921 N.E. Killingsworth at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday when a hit-and-run driver crashed into the side of the building and sheared off a natural gas pipeline.

The impact triggered a fire that swept through the building, causing a total loss estimated at \$125,000 to the building and \$60,000 in contents.

Two people inside the restaurant at the time of the impact were lucky to get out alive, narrowly escaping injury, a spokesman for the Portland Fire Bureau said.

Tri-Met's Ticket Office Moves

The Galleria is now home to Tri-Met's downtown ticket office while construction is underway at the agency's former Pioneer Courthouse Square office.

The Galleria office is located at Southwest 10th and Morrison and will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Galleria location will offer all the services formally available at the courthouse square, including, transit ticket sales, bicycle permit sales and training videos and special needs information and assistance.

When the Pioneer Square office reopens next summer, the square will become the center for tourist information in the region.

It will feature a full-service visitor's center with a Tri-Met ticket office, Portland Visitors Association Information Center and a multi-media presentation about regional attractions.

Japanese Visit Portland To Learn About Hospice Care

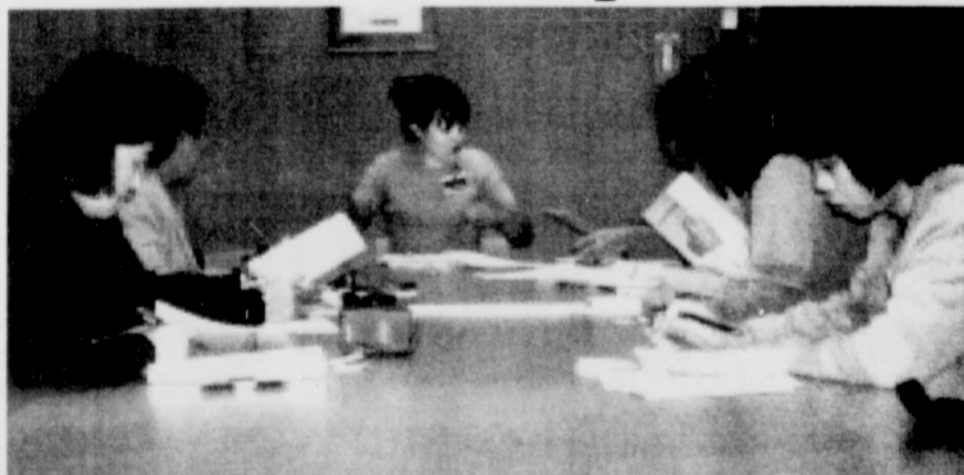
Health care workers from Japan are taking a special interest in Providence Portland Medical Center's Supportive Care Team, a unique group of health care professionals that offer medical and moral support to dying patients and their families. Japanese nurses recently met with Alina Egerman, the Providence team's nurse coordinator and counselor. With the help of a translator, she addressed questions about cancer pain management, hospice care, comfort measures for end-of-life care and how to autonomously advocate for patients. There are vast differences between the American and Japanese cultures in end-of-life care. For example, in Japan, poor prognosis is often withheld from a loved one's health care. These decisions may not always reflect the patient's wishes. "In American culture," Egerman told the

nurses, "we try to honor a patient's wishes and help the family understand and support it." Dealing with dying more openly is new in Japanese culture, but the situation is slowly changing.

Egerman also stressed the need for healthcare workers to come together to discuss their feelings about caring for the dying and to let others know when they need help.

She said this improves care for the dying and let others know when they need help. She said this improves care for themselves and the patients.

Steven Toussaint, a clinical development specialist for Providence Portland Medical Center, helped arrange the cross-cultural meetings. "The Japanese nurses feel more comfortable and were encouraged to talk with chronically ill patients after their learning experience at the hospital," he said.



Alina Egerman of Providence Portland Medical Center, leads a discussion about end of life care with healthcare workers from Japan.