

Youth Speakout Against Police Abuse

One hundred mostly low-income youth came together Aug. 15 at a Youth Speakout Against Police to share experiences about police misconduct.

They were joined by Merrick Bonneau, Dora McCrae, Norman Wicks Jr., and Dr. and Mrs. Kendra Rosser - all of whom have outstanding claims against the city for damages or civil rights violations at the hands of the police.

The youth spoke of having experienced police abuse or having witnessed their parents being abused by police. A speaker told of police using excessive force, sexual harassment and racial profiling of him as a car theft suspect, even though he was riding a bicycle in his work uniform.

Merrick Bonneau, who was badly beaten by police two years ago, and whose difficulties seeking legal redress was the focus of newspaper reports, articulated the importance of the speakout.

"What do you do when you can no longer trust the police to act reasonably? And when you can no longer trust attorneys to represent you in good faith? And when the City Council is apt to silence your grievances? You turn to the community. And that's what we're doing here," Bonneau said.



McCrae, an honorary guest, was identified as an elder who "was young once" and who has experienced police abuse as young people have.

"Police abuse affects us at any

age," McCrae said. She stressed that "it is important for us to come together at events like this, but to stop police abuse, we need to reshape our institutions and create authoritative civilian over-



Kendra Rosser takes to the microphone, along with two other young women to describe their concerns with police abuse.

PHOTOS BY SHERENA SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

sight. That is why it is important to get behind the Police Accountability Campaign 2002."

The speakout was the fourth such event, the first in outer southeast Portland, organized by the

campaign and other organizations, including the Southeast Works Youth Advisory Board, with support from Sisters in Action for Power, Latin America/Asia Pacific Youth Program of the American

Friends Service Committee and Love Makes a Family.

The campaign reports that it now has more than 20,000 signatures on a proposed initiative for the May 2002 ballot.

Campaign for Parental Involvement

With back-to-school preparation under way across the country, the NAACP with the help of corporate sponsors, are launching a grass-roots media campaign urging African American and Latino parents to become actively involved in their children's education - which will improve the success of these students.

The three-year campaign, "Success in School Equals Success in Life," is sponsored by The People for the American Way Foundation, Eastman Kodak, and the New

York-based Advertising Council. It will feature public-service announcements on television, radio, newspapers, billboards and mass transit.

"We want to empower more parents by showing the importance of parental involvement at all levels of their children's education," said Kwesi Mfume, president of the NAACP. "By getting parents more deeply involved in their children's education, this new ad campaign shows that success is attainable both in school

and in life."

The broadcast and ad displays are expected to reach 25,000 media outlets across the country, the largest outreach to African-American and Latino parents, according to the NAACP.

The ads will also feature a toll-free telephone number and a Web site for parents to obtain more information. For more information parents can call 1-800-281-1313 or log on to the website at www.schoolsuccessinfo.com.

School Superintendent Sued for Delinquent Back Taxes

(AP) - Marion County has sued State School Superintendent Stan Bunn to collect \$5,481 for four years of delinquent property taxes, including interest, on a Salem rental home he owns.

Bunn said he arranged last Wednesday to pay the bill, which he said went to an outdated address.

Bunn said he wasn't aware of the tax bill or the lawsuit until he saw the county's action listed in a newspaper's legal notices.

The lawsuit brought in circuit court said Bunn owes property taxes for fiscal years 1997-98 through 2000-01.

Such foreclosure notices provide a period of time for owners to keep their property by paying back taxes and interest; other-

wise, the county acquires the property.

"That's the first I knew of it," Bunn said when contacted at a state Board of Education retreat in Newport.

He said the tax statements apparently went to the address of his former Newberg law office, which he said hasn't been used for several years.

The county's notice listed a downtown Newberg address for Bunn.

Bunn is already the target of a possible ethics investigation involving his official conduct.

A complaint pending with the state Government Standards and Practices Commission asks that it look into whether Bunn violated ethics laws in his use of

state-owned phones and state-paid vehicles.

The Oregonian reported in June that Bunn had made hundreds of personal long-distance telephone calls using state phones, used a state-paid rental car for personal business and didn't account for his use of a car assigned to him.

Bunn acknowledged making many personal calls at state expense and paid the state \$676. He said he would return a state car and remove the state phone in his Newberg home.

State law prohibits public officials from using their offices for personal gain.

Bunn, a former state legislator, was elected to a four-year term as state school chief in 1998.

Oregon's Hunger Rate Higher Than Nation's Average

(AP) - A study by the Oregon Center for Public Policy says the hunger rate in Oregon is nearly double the national average. It says 5.9 percent of Oregon households contain members who go hungry at times compared to an average of 3.3

percent in the other 49 states.

The report notes that one child in four in Oregon live in homes where parents struggle to put food on the table. It says that in nearly half of those homes at least one person, usually an adult, some-

times goes hungry. Rural families are more likely to face hunger, the report notes, because jobs are more scarce in rural counties.

Rising housing costs are blamed by the report for putting the squeeze on many families.

Providence Opens New Advanced Breast Center

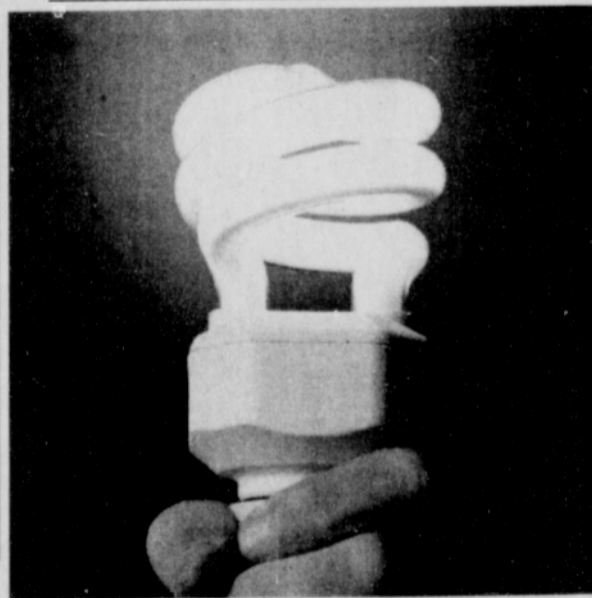
Providence Health System recently celebrated a new way to care for women with the opening of the Ruth J. Spear Breast Center at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center. The center unites diagnostic, treatment, counseling and patient education services in one location to provide complete and convenient care for mammography patients and women with breast cancer.

"The Breast Center offers patients a unique, coordinated system of care and is a renewal of Providence's ongoing commitment to screen and treat women for breast disease," says Bruce Webber, MD, plastic and reconstructive surgeon and one of the coordinators of the program.

The new center offers state-of-the-art technology in its Women's Imaging Department. Six mammography units will allow for easy appointment availability. Mammogram results are viewed not only by a radiologist, but also sent through the ImageChecker system for a computerized "second opinion" reading. Ultrasound services on site will determine if a mass is fluid or solid-filled, and stereotactic biopsies will remove microcalcifications from the breast with a needle rather than an incision.

"We combine the best diagnostic equipment available with a warm, inviting area and caring staff," says Lorri Jacobs, clinical imaging manager.

Change is good.



And it's not as hard as you may think.

A lot of things, from the growth in high-tech industries to increased population, tell us the energy crunch our region is facing right now will continue for awhile. Dealing with it means that each of us has to change the way we use energy. And we have to start now.

Here are some changes and tips that will make a difference now and in the future:

- Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs in lights that remain on three or more hours per day. They use only one quarter the energy of regular bulbs.
- Clean lightbulbs and fixtures. Dust can reduce light output by as much as 10 percent!
- Turn off one 60-watt light that would normally be on during the peak summer hours of 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. If every one of our 1.5 million customers did, the energy saved could power about 45,000 homes.
- Install dimmers. The amount you dim equals your energy saved. For example, lights dimmed 15 percent reduces energy consumption up to 15 percent.
- Install motion sensors or timers to automatically turn lights on and off. Motion sensor lighting is great for outdoors and in your workshop or laundry room. Timers are the right choice if you'd like an indoor light switched on and off at specific times.
- Make saving energy a habit.

Do the bright thing. Call us at 1-800-222-4335, and ask for a copy of our Bright Ideas booklet.



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