

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

## Community Calendar

### National Pancake Day

The International House of Pancakes is flipping for National Pancake Day. The family-friendly restaurant chain will offer a free short stack of pancakes for all guests visiting any Oregon IHOP location between 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12. All of the IHOP restaurants are participating.

### Old Town History Project

The Old Town History Project presents a series of 45-minute walking tours of Old Town led by former residents, business owners and workers. All tours begin at 12:15 p.m. at the Old Town History Project's storefront gallery at 612 NW. Davis St. and end in a local restaurant for an informal group discussion and no-host lunch. On Feb. 8, JoAnne Hong will give a presentation called "Chinese New Years Remembered." Call 225-0198.

### OMSI's Brain Exhibit

OMSI is having an exhibit entitled "Brain: The World Inside Your Head" until May 5. Designed to appeal to all ages, "Brain" will employ innovative special effects, 3-D reproductions, virtual reality, hands-on learning activities, and interactive technology to help demystify the inner working of the brain. The exhibit will be at 1945 SE. Water Ave. Call 797-4000.

### Beat Arthritis Campaign

Boston Celtics legend and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Russell is coming to Portland as part of the B.E.A.T. Arthritis campaign, an ongoing national effort to educate the public about the signs and symptoms of arthritis. The event will be at the Greenwood Inn's Pine Room, 10700 SW. Allen Blvd. in Beaverton. Call 800-860-5519.

### Volunteer With Friends of Trees

Th Friends of Trees planting this year is on Sunday, Feb. 24. Volunteer tasks include working on a planting team, driving your pickup truck to help deliver trees and mulch around the neighborhood or helping to set-up in the morning or at lunch time. To volunteer, call Paul Garrahan at 493-8022.

### St. Johns Community Pride

In recognition of St. John's long history of community pride, the neighborhood will be having a dinner party for all to enjoy on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. at James John School. Reservations can be made by calling Bill Smith at 283-9652.

### Civil War History Buffs Unite

Civil War history buffs unite: the Friends of History are launching a new Civil War round table program open to anyone in the Portland metropolitan area with an interest in Civil War. The first organizational meeting will be held at Portland State University on Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Smith Memorial Center room 328, 1825 SW. Broadway. Call 774-6911 or 725-3994.

### Bear Fair at Oregon Zoo

The Oregon Zoo will soon show that bears don't really hibernate. All are invited to bring their teddy bears or stuffed buddies to this entertaining and educational event. Lots of activities for kids. A Teddy Bear Picnic will be available for purchase. Free with regular zoo admission on March 23, from 10 p.m. - 3 p.m. Call 220-3687.

## Grant Civics Team is Best in State

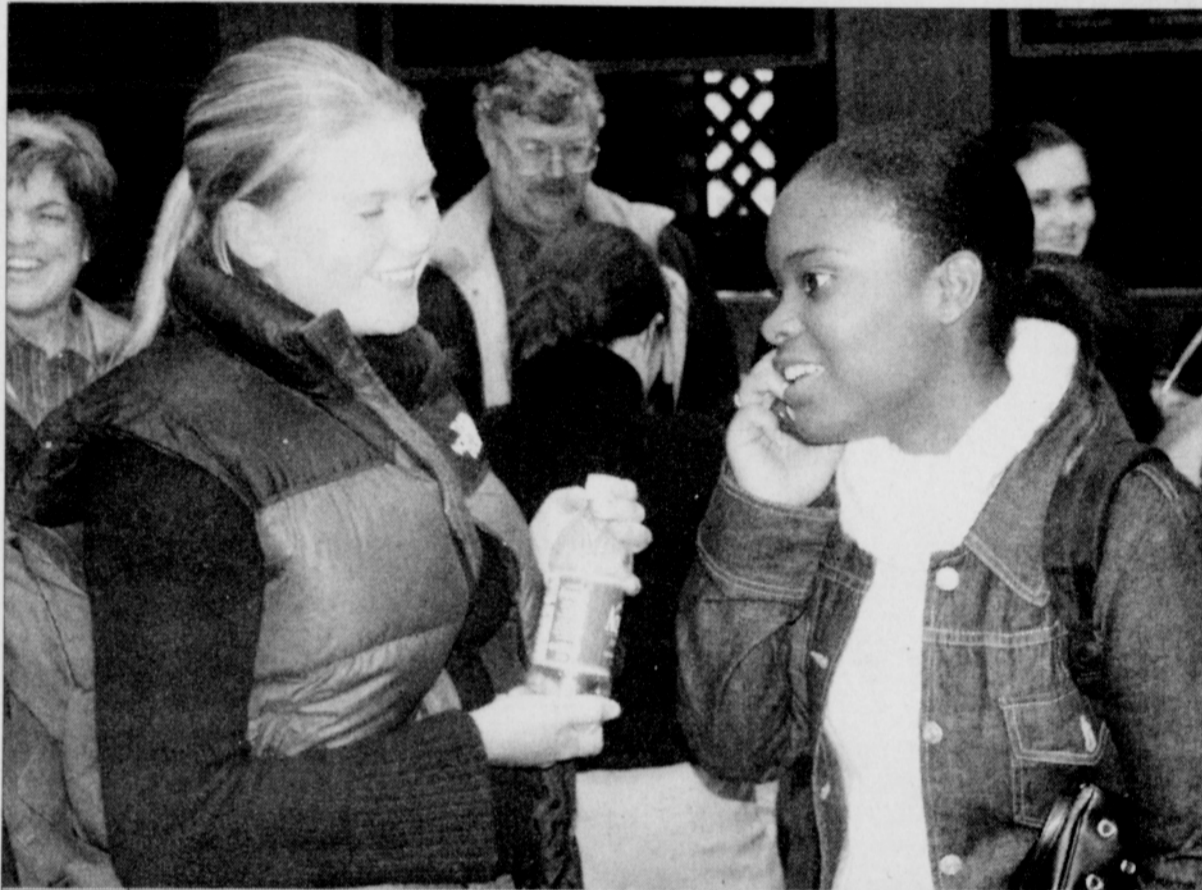
Students prepare for national finals in Washington, DC

Grant High School in northeast Portland is celebrating a state championship in civics.

The team of 34 students won Oregon's 'We the People... The Citizen and the Constitution' civics competition and is now preparing for the national finals to be held in Washington, D.C., in May.

The state competition was the culmination of students' research on the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Placing second was Grant's cross-town rival Lincoln High School. Held at the state capitol in Salem, the tournament drew the best teams from the state's five



Dana Pfaffle (left) and Kimmi Kent of Grant High School enjoy a brief moment away from the competition at the state "We the People... The Citizen and the Constitution" civics competition at the capitol in Salem.



Grant High School's winning civics team along with some of their adult advisors.

PHOTOS BY PETER WAGNER

congressional districts.

Modeled after a congressional hearing, groups of students appeared as expert witnesses before a panel of judges who acted as congressional committee members. Teams were judged on their understanding of issues, application of constitutional principles,

reasoning, supporting evidence, responsiveness to questions and participation.

Team coach Diane Thelen-Sager credited volunteer attorneys from the downtown Portland law firm of Davis, Wright and Tremaine with helping the kids get ready for the competition.

A big goal now is to raise the money to pay for the team's travel to Washington, D.C.

Thelen-Sager said support for the team would be greatly appreciated by sending donations to Grant High School in care of the Constitution Team.

For more information, call the school at 503-916-5160.

## King's Life-Giving Spirit Honored



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Friends of Trees volunteers Beth Belcher (left) and Jenny Holmes honor the life-giving spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. by preparing the soil for planting at the Patton Community Garden, 4619 N. Michigan. The American civil rights leader once said "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant an apple tree." The group Friends of Trees sponsored the Martin Luther King Day event.

## Crime Rate Drops for Minority Youth

A new study finds that Portland has reduced racial disparity in juvenile detention and lowered juvenile crime.

The Washington-based Justice Policy Institute has found that detention rates for minority and white youth in Multnomah County are identical. That compares to 1994, when local minority youth were 31 percent more likely to be detained than white youth.

"This analysis shows that we've made our detention system more effective in getting kids the services and programs they need, without compromising public safety," says Amy Holmes Hehn, a Multnomah County deputy district attorney assigned to juveniles.

Hehn said Portland can show the nation how to help ensure that white youth and youth of color have the same potential for rehabilitation in the community, rather than being unnecessarily locked in detention.

Nationwide, minority youth make up 34 percent of the youth population, but 63 percent of the youth in custody are African American youth. Just 15 percent of America's youth population make up 44 percent of the youth in detention.

Multnomah County credits a series of juvenile detention reforms to promote better outcomes for African-American, Hispanic and Asian and Native-American youth who get in trouble with the law.

The reforms include reducing the time youth have to wait to have their cases processed, more objective risk assessment instruments, hiring a more diverse workforce, developing alternatives to detention programs in communities of color; racial and cultural sensitivity training for staff, and resources for monitoring over-representation in the juvenile justice system.

## Crack Down on Loitering Proposed by Retailers

Law would prohibit homeless from taking up space on benches, sidewalks

(AP) - Portland is considering an anti-loitering law that would make it illegal to sit on a public bench if police think it interferes with "the public use or enjoyment" of the seat.

Another proposed law would make it illegal for people to sit, stand or lie on a sidewalk if it forces pedestrians to move around them.

Retail leaders have been lobbying the city to crack down on street people who take up space on side-

walks. But civil rights advocates are attacking the proposals, saying they violate constitutional rights.

"If Portland wants to make it illegal to sit on the sidewalk, that's something that needs to be debated, and many views need to be heard on it," said Paul Levy, chief attorney in the Metropolitan Public Defender's misdemeanor section.

Levy joined attorneys Marc Jolin of the Oregon Law Center and Andrea R. Meyer of the American

Civil Liberties Union in a letter sent last week to City Commissioner Erik Sten raising questions about the rewrite of the city's police code. Sten said he shared their concerns.

Tim Greve of Carl Greve Jewelers in downtown Portland, said he didn't know the specifics of the proposed changes. But Greve, a member of the Association for Portland Progress, a downtown business group, said he thinks changes are needed.