

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

Lecture by Dick Gregory

For Black History Month, famous comedian, actor, nutritionist and civil rights activist Dick Gregory will be speaking on several controversial topics. The premiere event will be at Marantha Church, 4222 NE 12th on Saturday, Feb. 16. Tickets are on a first come first serve basis and must be purchased in advance. Call 288-5331 or 288-2118 or 289-3490 or email to Millennium2000Group@yahoo.com.

History of the Columbia Slough

Interested in learning about the Columbia Slough? An overview that covers the watershed history, hydrology, land use, fish and more will be given at the Pacific Power Metro Operations Center, 7544 NE 33rd Drive on Saturday, March 2, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 281-1132 to pre-register.

Portland Home and Garden Show

The GMC Portland Home & Garden Show is one of the largest shows in the country and the top show in the Northwest. Featuring the number one state flower show in the nation, 22 Showcase Gardens, hundreds of home and garden booths and a new feature Decorating with Antiques. The show will be at the Portland Expo Center, from Feb. 20-24. For more information, call 246-8291 or go online to www.ologhlintradeshows.com.

Noon Time Bicycle Rides

The Multnomah Bar Association will be offering noon time bicycle rides that are short, fast rides over hills. Interested participants must meet at the SW corner of Pioneer Courthouse Square, between noon and 12:10 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays. Call Ray Thomas at 228-5222.

Learn About Juvenile Rights

A training will be held for parents and guardians of school-age children by an attorney with the Juvenile Rights Project. This talk is to educate people about their own and their children's rights in Suspension and Expulsion procedures and in Special Education issues on Tuesday, Feb. 19, from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Woodstock Library, 6008 SE 49th. Call 988-5399.

Area Skiers Lured by Adventure

The Ebony Rose Ski Club recruits new members with open house



Members of Portland's Ebony Rose Ski Club enjoy a day on the slopes.

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Has the Salt Lake Winter Games put you into a thrill seeking mood?

A local ski club has just the right event to put your dreams into reality.

Portland's Ebony Rose Ski Club is planning an open house for anyone who has always wanted to try skiing or snowboarding, but never knew how or where to get started.

The event will be held Thursday, Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. at Billy Reed's Restaurant at 2808 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Ebony Rose is a member of the Brotherhood of Skiers, a national organization whose members are predominately African-American, but membership

is open to all.

"If you're a good natured, fun and adventure seeking individual, you'll want to attend this event and see what you've been missing," organizers said.

Club representatives will have the latest information about winter clothing fabrics that have almost eliminated being cold while skiing. The open house will also present information about tension sensing boot bindings that have led to a dramatic reduction in ski injuries.

The Ebony Rose Club also sponsors fun, non-ski activities for families as well as single adults.

For information about the open house or other questions, call 503-335-8723.



Bridget Brooks, Debra Carter, Ed Joseph and Barnie Mack take in the beauty and tranquility of a snow covered terrain with the use of snowmobiles.

Graduates Bring Diversity To Contracting



The first class to graduate from a new program aimed at bringing diversity to the awarding of contracts for goods and services in the city celebrate with Mayor Vera Katz (center). The Sheltered Market Program is for minority, women and emerging small businesses.

Portland city leaders and representatives of small and minority-owned companies are celebrating a milestone in the awarding of goods and services contracts to minority, women and emerging small businesses.

A Feb. 4 graduation ceremony at City Hall honored the first class of 27 graduates from the Sheltered Market Program.

The program was developed to address the lack of diversity in government contracts. Participants are provided prime bidding opportunities under \$200,000 and project-specific technical assistance.

"Some of our citizens still suffer eco-

nomnic exclusion based on gender race, ethnic background and sexual orientation," said Mayor Katz. "We have important work to do and the Sheltered Market Program is an important tool in addressing this issue."

Erick McKinney, president of Platinum Construction, said the technical assistance he obtained provided an "environment to grow as a business."

Collectively, the 27 graduates were awarded 254 contracts, valued at over \$14 million dollars from the city of Portland.

"I have been able to expand my knowledge of general contracting through the program and I have been

afforded the opportunity to grow and expand my business," said James Cason, president and owner of JEC Mechanical.

"We found this program to be very helpful, because it didn't just provide us with the opportunity to bid on work, but it also provided us with technical assistance. Anyone that is a smaller contractor should consider entering this wonderful program," said Manuel Castenada, owner of Pro Landscape Co.

For more information about the program and contracting opportunities with the city, call Teresa Bliven at 503-823-5701.

Racial Profiling Views Shared

(AP) - Most Oregonians believe police sometimes make traffic stops based on a motorist's race, a new state study said.

In the telephone poll of 800 adults, 17 percent said they believe Oregon police often or always make traffic stops on the basis of a motorist's race, and another 39 percent said that police sometimes do.

The survey, also suggests that some Oregonians find that racial profiling is OK, at least sometimes.

Twenty-one percent of those asked said they felt that, following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, it was more appropriate for police to use race as a reason to stop people suspected of breaking the law.

The survey's release coincided with the first meeting of a new 11-member state panel responsible for helping law enforcement agencies evaluate racial-profiling data collected during traffic stops.

The panel is led by University of Oregon President Dave Frohnmayer, who was Oregon's attorney general for 11 years.

Gov. John Kitzhaber, who appointed the committee, said police agencies in Oregon have taken a national lead in adopting policies and training officers to avoid racial profiling.

"Law enforcement can't protect the public if the public doesn't believe law

enforcement is treating everyone fairly," he told the committee last week in Salem.

The panel was created by legislation approved last year that urges police departments to voluntarily collect racial-profiling data. The law, Senate Bill 415, was passed in response to a 1997 state law that expanded police officers' authority to stop and question motorists.

Portland and six other law enforcement agencies across the state have begun voluntarily collecting pieces of information during traffic stops to help gauge whether officers commit racial profiling.

Most police agencies in Oregon have publicly stated that they don't engage in racial profiling, but the perception persists, as the new survey makes clear.

Among Oregon agencies, Hillsboro city police have collected the most data, based on 23,532 traffic stops between May 2, 2000, and last Thursday.

The data show that 26 percent of all stops have involved Hispanics, who make up 19 percent of Hillsboro's population. Searches were conducted in 7 percent of stops involving Hispanics, compared to 4 percent of stops involving whites. However, officers found contraband in only 7 percent of searches involving Hispanics compared with 10 percent of searches involving whites.