

## University Students Unite Against Hate

Documentary seeks solutions to horrible crimes in our culture

Local student leaders want the community to join them by taking a stand and uniting against hate during an anti-hate rally and screening of a powerful film on hate crimes.

The Wednesday, April 3 events are scheduled to begin with the rally at 6 p.m. at Pioneer Courthouse Square, and continue with a 7 p.m. screening of the award-winning documentary, "Journey to a Hate Free Millennium" at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

Sen. Margaret Carter, D-Portland, and president of the Urban League of Portland, along with Holocaust survivor Alice Kern will provide welcoming and closing remarks.

Portland Community College and the Oregon Community Colleges Association are hosting the events.

The documentary is a stirring and powerful film that seeks solutions to the horrible hate crimes in our culture: the vicious murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming; the dragging death of African American James Byrd, Jr. in Texas and the Columbine High School shootings.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear film producer Brent Scarpo explain how he used multimedia to make an impact on the world and celebrate the human spirit.

Judy Shepard, Matthew's mother, will tell her story in person and describe her mission to embrace the just causes her son championed.

For more information contact Mandy Ellertson at 503-614-7261 or melletso@pcc.edu.

## Ex-offender Program Hires Job Specialist

Demian Lucas lends her expertise to northeast Portland's Better People

Demian Lucas has made it her business to know people.

As a former human resources executive at both KVO Public Relations and the Portland Fire Bureau, she learned how to match people and jobs.

Now Lucas has taken on a new challenge: matching the skills of former offenders with the needs of Portland area businesses at Better People at 4310 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

"I wanted to use the skills and contacts I've attained in the business world to make a difference in the lives of people who are motivated to improve themselves," Lucas said. "Better people has done that better than any program of its kind in the country."

The organization has received national recognition for its work in placing and keeping former offenders in living-



Demian Lucas

wage jobs.

Better People combines morally grounded therapy with living-wage job placement and a one-year follow-up after starting the employment to significantly lower the recidivism rates of offenders who pass through the program.

Since 1996, the agency has placed nearly 200 former offenders in full time jobs paying an average of \$9.05 an hour plus benefits. Most important to employers is that 76 percent of those workers were still employed six months later.

Lucas attended the University of Washington in Seattle and North Seattle Community College. She is a Girl Scout troop leader who previously served on the Columbia River Girl Scout Council's diversity action plan committee.

For more information about Better People, call director Chip Shields at 503-281-2663.

## Diabetes and Heart Disease Risks Studied at Kaiser

(AP) — Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research said it will collaborate with Massachusetts-based Interleukin Genetics to study genetic differences among people who have type two

diabetes.

The goal is to determine who is most at risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

Jonathan Brown, the principal investigator of the study, said

cardiovascular disease is the most serious and costly complication of the diabetes.

Results of the study will enable Interleukin Genetics to develop new diagnostic tools for assess-

ing diabetic patients' genetic risks for heart disease.

The idea is to determine which patients with diabetes would benefit most from early and aggressive preventive treatment.

## Beaumont School Celebrates 75 Years

Beaumont Middle School in northeast Portland is planning a reunion this spring for students, staff and community members to celebrate its 75th year as a neighborhood school.

The celebration will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on May 3 at the school. Classrooms will be adorned with photos, memorabilia, music and artwork dedicated to each decade that Beaumont has been open.

Area residents are encouraged to reunite with your Beaumont classmates and teachers for a trip down memory lane.

Organizers say volunteers are especially needed to research and set up the room displays as well as taking them down after the reunion.

For more information, contact Janis Lindholm or Jill Randall at Beaumont School at 503-916-5610.

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