

# African Dance Troupe Raises AIDS Awareness

Orphaned children of Uganda perform at Nike campus



The Children of Uganda perform at the Nike campus in Beaverton. Acting as goodwill ambassadors to increase global awareness of HIV/AIDS, they play a variety of handmade instruments and perform dances from a number of African countries.

Children of Uganda, the award-winning dance troupe comprised of 20 Ugandan children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, performed at the Nike campus in Beaverton last Wednesday. The performance was part of a 17 city U.S. tour projected to raise \$1 million to support orphans in Uganda while increasing global awareness of AIDS and its devastating impact on children.

The dual crises of civil war and AIDS in Uganda combined with a high illiteracy rate and the absence of free education have posed a serious threat to the complex fabric of family and village life

that previously nurtured and depended on a rich and varied oral culture.

In the 20 years since the epidemic began, AIDS has killed a total of 21.8 million people around the world, and currently an estimated 36.1 million people are living with HIV. The disease has created some 12.1 million orphans in Africa, out of a global total of 13.2 million AIDS orphans.

Children of Uganda was originally founded to teach orphaned children the songs, dances and stories that were in danger of being lost. In Uganda, the ensemble includes approximately 30 young

people who live and study in one of several orphanages in and around Kampala. The Tour of Light gives 20 of the most talented of these performers an opportunity to share their stories in the United States.

"Traveling with Children of Uganda has allowed me to see the United States and tell American children about my country and culture," says Emmy Anguyo, 17, a veteran of the "Tour of Light" in 1996, 1998 and 2000 who is in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and lost both his parents to AIDS. "I want to tell America that no matter what happens to you in life, there is always hope."

## Lawsuits Seek Slavery Reparations

Companies accused of profiting from slavery for two centuries

(AP) — A woman whose ancestors were slaves sued three companies for allegedly profiting from slavery for nearly two centuries — a long-simmering concept that could pick up steam if more blacks are allowed to join the lawsuits.

Plaintiffs' lawyers said the lawsuits were the first to seek slavery reparations from private companies. They were filed against the Aetna insurance company, the FleetBoston financial services group and railroad giant CSX on behalf of the 35 million African American descendants of African slaves.

At a news conference announcing the lawsuits last week, Deadria Farmer-Paellmann said she spent five years researching the topic after writing on her law school application that her dream was to build the case that would win slavery reparations.

The three suits, which seek unspecified damages, claimed that as many as 1,000 unidentified corporations may have benefited from slavery between 1619 and

1865. The lawsuits seek class-action status and could be expanded to include more companies.

Any damages won from the lawsuit would be put into a fund to improve health, education and housing opportunities for blacks, said attorney Roger Wareham, one

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—Deadria Farmer-Paellmann

of a group of lawyers who prepared the lawsuits.

"This is not about individuals receiving checks in their mailbox," Wareham said.

In a statement, Aetna said: "We do not believe a court would permit a lawsuit over events which — however regrettable — occurred hundreds of years ago. These is-

sues in no way reflect Aetna today."

CSX said the lawsuits had no merit and should be dismissed.

Fleet spokesman James Mahoney said the company had not seen the lawsuits and had no comment.

CSX said it was named as a defendant because slave labor was used to construct portions of some U.S. rail lines "under the political and legal system in place more than a century before CSX was formed in 1980."

Farmer-Paellmann said Aetna, in particular, was cooperative in her research, but that changed when she started speaking publicly about planned litigation. Company documents showed one-third of Aetna's first 1,000 policies were written on the lives of slaves, she said.

Farmer-Paellmann said the filing was victory enough for one day.

"I feel confident that something good will come of all of this," she said.

## Portland Meadows Settles Waste Lawsuit

(AP)—Portland Meadows, the city's thoroughbred racetrack in north Portland, and two environmental groups settled a Clean Water Act lawsuit last Thursday over manure runoff from the track into the Columbia River.

The groups had sued after Portland Meadows and the Environmental Protection Agency were already in talks about solving the surface water runoff problem created by about 900 horses typically stabled at the site.

Heavy rains had leached manure into the Columbia Slough, an area already heavily polluted from the Port of Portland and other sources.

Wastewater typically escaped the track grounds and flowed into the river several times a year.

In a consent agreement with the EPA, the track agreed to divert its storm drains to the city of Portland's sewage

system at a cost of \$750,000, said Arthur McFadden, president of Magna Entertainment Corp., the company that owns Portland Meadows.

The company also agreed to pay a \$100,000 fine to the U.S. Treasury in a civil penalty.

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# NFBPA Forum 2002

National Forum for Black Public Administrators

Presents a Public Policy Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, April 7, 2002  
Oregon Convention Center

777 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For the first time since the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy, a group of the nation's most distinguished mayors will convene to discuss the impacts this event has had on security and disaster preparedness in their cities and states.

Join this distinguished panel as they consider the challenges and strategies for protecting citizens during times of tighter budgets. The panel will also discuss the controversy over racial profiling versus protecting civil rights.

**Panel Members:**

- Vera Katz ~ Mayor of Portland, Oregon
- Jerry Brown ~ Mayor, Oakland, California
- Michael Brown, ~ Mayor of Riviera Beach, Florida
- Randy Daniels ~ former Secretary of State, New York
- Shirley Franklin ~ Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia
- Kwame Kilpatrick ~ Mayor of Detroit, Michigan



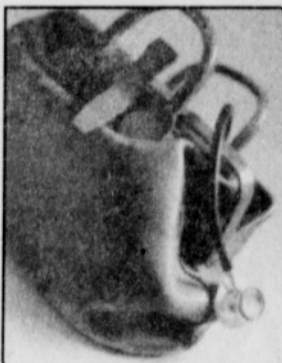
Moderator: Robert Bobb  
NFBPA Board President

**Admission is free.**

No registration or reservations are necessary.

For more information, call Tim Hall at (503) 823-6926

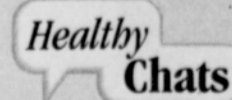
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# HealthyChats

A series of informal sessions with Oregon Health & Science University faculty and staff that address health care issues of interest to the neighborhood. OHSU. Where Healing, Teaching and Discovery Come Together.

**Healthy Aging for 40+**

William Gaynor, M.P.A., OHSU Center for Healthy Aging, shares current information about "aging well." A baby boomer turns 50 about every eight seconds in the United States. We cannot stop the passage of time, but we can determine to a great extent how we age.

Wednesday, April 10, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Westmoreland's Union Manor — 6404 S.E. 23rd Ave., Portland

**An Overview of Pediatric Scoliosis**

Ronald Turker, M.D., assistant professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, OHSU School of Medicine, presents a concise tour of the curved spine, who gets it, and what can and cannot be done about it.

Wednesday, April 10, 7 - 8 p.m.  
OHSU Health Center-Beaverton — 2935 S.W. Cedar Hills Blvd., Beaverton (north end of Beaverton Mall)

**Developing Hormone-Based Therapies for Multiple Sclerosis**

Bruce Bebo Jr., Ph.D., assistant scientist, Neurological Sciences Institute at OHSU, discusses how the severity of MS attacks fluctuates with changes in sex hormone levels. Bebo is studying the potential of sex hormones as a treatment for MS.

Wednesday, April 17, 7 - 8 p.m.  
OHSU Family Health Center-Richmond — 3930 S.E. Division St., Portland

**Low Back Pain Treatment: Exercise as an Alternative**

Nels Carlson, M.D., assistant professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation (health promotion and sports medicine), OHSU School of Medicine, offers a valuable overview of the causes of low back pain, evaluation measures and treatment options.

Thursday, April 18, 7 - 8 p.m.  
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church — 2201 S.W. Vermont St., Portland, Grafe Hall (Old Parish Hall)

