

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Adopt a Pet

The Oregon Humane Society is extending its outreach efforts to several area pet stores this month. Help the Humane Society bring homeless pets into the community, call 503-285-7722, extension 204 for more information.

### Computer Help for Seniors

Multnomah County Library will expand its Cyber Seniors classes to six libraries throughout the Portland area in November and December. The classes are designed for senior citizens with little or no computer experience and are offered free of charge.

### Veterans Day Parade

One of largest Veteran's Day parades on the West Coast will be held at the Historic Reserve in Vancouver on Saturday, Nov. 9. The parade will include more than 100 military, veteran and civic organizations with more than 2,500 participants. It begins at 11 a.m., departing from Evergreen Boulevard, proceeding to Main and then west on Eighth Street to Esther Short Park.

### Columbia Villa Plans Shared

Members of the public are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the preliminary relocation survey findings on Columbia Villa residents and the new design plans for the site. A meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12 will begin at 5:45 p.m. at the Columbia Villa Community Room, 8920 N. Woolsey Ave. Call 503-802-8522 for more information.

### Killingsworth Street Plans Addressed

Over 500 community members have identified areas of North Killingsworth between Interstate and Williams in need of street lights, better road crossings, curb ramps, trees, traffic signs, bike parking, trash containers and bus service. A public open house for the project will be held Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the North Portland Branch Library, 512 N. Killingsworth. For more information, call 503-823-7238.

### Thanksgiving at Kennedy School

McMenamins welcomes friends and families for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner buffet from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Kennedy School at 5736 N.E. 33<sup>rd</sup>. The menu features chipotle pepper, pesto and traditional deviled eggs, maple baked ham with honey-beer mustard, herb-roasted turkey breast, baked yams with Jonathan apples and brown sugar glaze, traditional sage stuffing and fresh baked pumpkin pie with whipped cream. For reservations, call 503-249-3983.

### Buy Green at Holiday Gift Fair

The ReDirect Guide Business Association and the Students of the Environmental Middle School will host an event where the public can purchase gifts that are ecologically wise, socially responsible and health oriented. The event will be held at the Environmental Middle School, 2421 SE Orange St. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16. For information on hosting a booth or sponsoring a low-income child, call 503-231-4848.



## Bike Drive

gets a community service boost

Nike employees Ken Reed (left) and Dexter Reed adjust a bicycle needing repairs at the Community Cycling Center on Northeast Alberta. The bicycle is one of a thousand bikes that will be given away to needy kids during the cycling center's holiday bike drive. The Nike workers were among 800 Nike employees who got involved in community service projects last Wednesday at 34 different sites.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Students Petition School Board to Encourage Racial Sensitivity

Students say reading Huck Finn creates racial tension and discomfort in white classrooms

(AP) — Students who want teachers to take sensitivity training before teaching "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" have presented Oregon's largest school district with a petition on the issue.

The students, led by Charles McGee and Johnnie Williams Jr., gave the Portland School Board the 260-signature petition last Monday night. They say they are angry that the board dismissed the issue earlier this month when board member Derry Jackson asked that the book be removed from reading lists.

Mark Twain's 19th-century novel about the adventures of a white boy and a runaway slave uses racial slurs more than 200 times.

Williams, a Lincoln High junior who is black, objected to the slurs and refused to read the book in class. He said it made him uncomfortable as a student in a predominantly white school, and Jackson took that

concern to the school board.

The students do not want to ban the book, but say teachers would handle the racist passages better if they had sensitivity training.

Williams' objections to the novel prompted McGee, who is also black, to poll students about their experiences discussing racial issues in classrooms. McGee sent petitions to Benson, Franklin, Grant, Jefferson and Lincoln high schools asking the school board to review how certain materials create racial tensions in classrooms.

*You have to be African American to understand what we've been through*  
-- Johnnie Williams Jr., Lincoln High Junior.

"You all clearly stated that you felt that this issue was about one student," said McGee, a junior at Franklin High in Southeast Portland. "Now I hope you have realized it's about every student in this district."

Monday night, Williams choked up while telling the board why he felt uncomfortable discussing material in "Huckleberry Finn" in class. Williams read an alternate book on baseball legend Jackie Robinson in the library while his classmates studied "Huckleberry Finn."

"You have to be African American to understand what we've been through," he

told the school board.

McGee asked the board to revive the African American Baseline Essays, a series of training guides developed by Portland educators during desegregation efforts in the 1980s. The essays cover the contributions of blacks in science, language arts and other disciplines, said Carolyn Leonard, compliance officer for Portland Public Schools.

The essays have been challenged for their authenticity, but have been used by teachers around the world. In Portland, they have sat mostly dormant for years, she said.

Lorenzo Poe, the board's vice chairman, pledged that the students' concerns would not get lost in school district bureaucracy.

"I think it's OK to have us feel uncomfortable," Poe said. "I will push us not to let this die."



## Following Dreams to the Top

Hometown hero A.C. Green makes his introduction on stage to hundreds of fans at New Beginnings Christian Center Thursday evening. "It's great to be back in Portland," Green said. The former Benson High School graduate, Oregon State University standout and NBA superstar encouraged parishioners to keep their faith in Christ as they follow their dreams to the top.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Muslim Advisory Council

Council formed to improve police relations

(AP) — Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker met with Muslim leaders Monday to create an advisory board aimed at improving relations between police and Muslims.

The council formation comes at a time when the Portland Police Bureau is being criticized by Muslims and civil rights activists of leading a witch hunt for al-Qaida members. Since the Sept. 11 attacks, seven Muslims with Portland links have been arrested by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, in which Portland police officers participate.

"We are going to get criticism no matter what," Kroeker said. "But the council will provide a chance for dialogue."

The Muslim/Arab Police Advisory Council will be similar to other advisory councils for sexual minorities, Hispanics, and blacks. Kroeker said Muslim council members will decide the content of the meetings, how often they meet with police

and whether to open meetings to the public.

Muslim leaders say they are anxious to have direct access to police.

"We want to educate our community about the role of law enforcement, and educate law enforcement about Muslims," said Wajdi Saaid, executive director of the Muslim Educational Trust.

One of the first topics will be Ramadan, which begins Wednesday, said Alaa Abunijem, president of the Islamic Center of Portland.

Muslims believe Ramadan was the month in which God began to reveal the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad. For a month, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset to stimulate reflection on God and their own spiritual values.

Abunijem says when police officers deal with Muslims this month they should remember that fasting can make them irri-

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—Wajdi Saaid, executive director of the Muslim Educational Trust

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