

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Adopt a Pet

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

### Body Symptom Clinic

The Northeast Multicultural Senior Center is presenting a free clinic with doctors Army and Amy Mindell that will discuss issues of illness, pain and varying physical abilities. The doctors will encourage participants to share their own experiences to find insight and create community wellness. The event will be held Friday, Jan. 17 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### Weatherization Workshop

Come and learn how to save energy through material installation, behavioral changes and simple maintenance around your home. Both homeowners and renters are welcome to a workshop at the Community Energy Project, 422 N.E. Alberta St., on Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Qualified participants receive free kit of materials worth \$150. To register, call 503-284-6827.

### Silver Jubilee

Come celebrate 25 years of Neighborhood Mediation services and give special recognition to Office of Neighborhood Involvement employee Eddie Collins for his 25 years of service. There will be refreshments, a celebration program, music and special guests. Visitors can also check out the new and improved King Facility during this event, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the Community Court Room at 4815 N.E. 7th Ave.

### Asian Health Fair

On Saturday, Jan. 23 come from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to the Asian Family Center, located at 4424 N.E. Glisan St., for free health screening services by professionals. A chiropractor, massage therapist, podiatrist and acupuncturist amongst other health care professionals will be on hand to give diabetes screening, blood pressure, heart rate and cholesterol checks, feet checks, and information on drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention, domestic violence prevention, breast and cervical cancer awareness. Someone will also check for head lice.

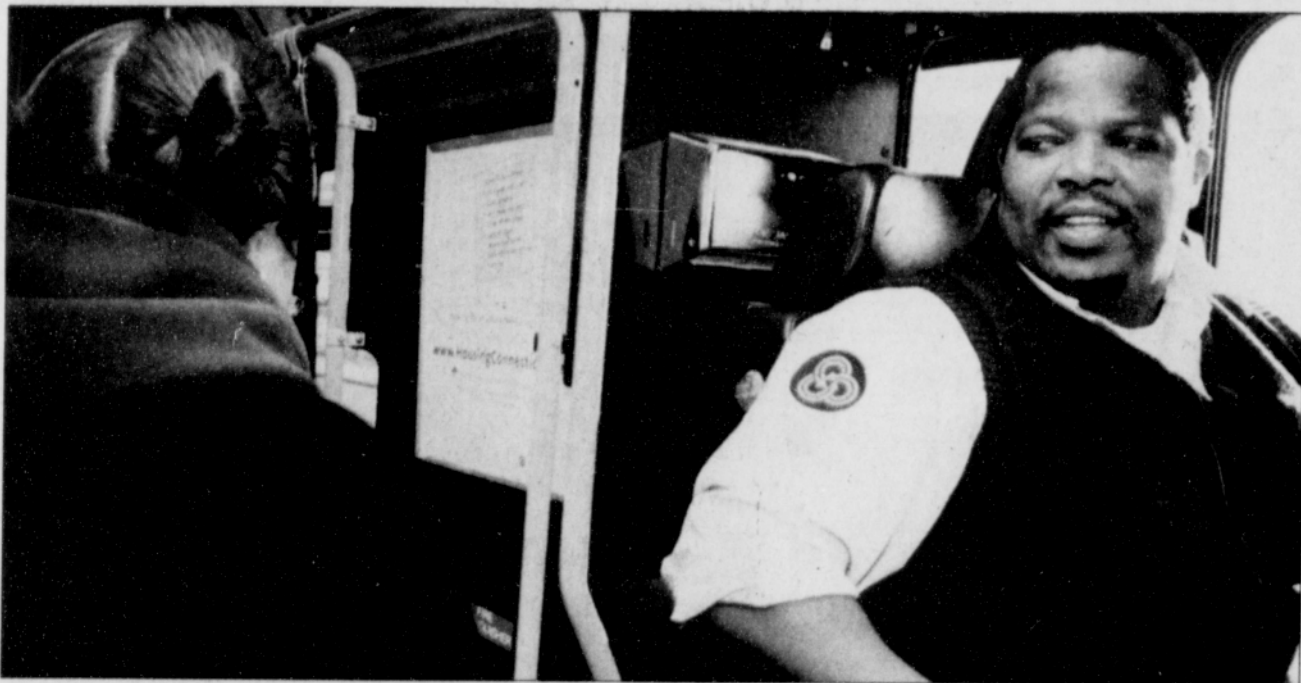
### Conference on Black Affairs

Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs will host the 2003 Call-To-Action Leadership Conference to discuss legislative and executive priorities of Oregon's African American community and the State of Oregon. Organizers hope to prepare a 2003 legislative agenda with strategies for implementation. The conference will be held Saturday, January 25 at the Red Lion Hotel, in Salem from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration is \$50. The student fee is \$25.

### Chinese New Year Banquet

The Chinese New Year Cultural Fair is a community event to welcome the Year of the Sheep with a banquet and a traditional dragon dance. The annual celebration will be held at the Legin Restaurant, 8001 S.E. Division on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Driving Kids To Success



BY DAVID PLECHL

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A.K. Rucker came from a large family, so large in fact that his father employed an unlikely brand of discipline.

"Anyone that was two years older than you was responsible for your behavior," he said. "If you got in trouble, they were punished too."

What Rucker and his siblings found out was that when you have to take care of someone else you become more responsible for yourself.

It's a formula he has used as a coach and a counselor to kids.

As a bus driver for TriMet, he found an employer and partner in the business of turning kids around. His No. 75 bus has become something of a base of operations.

As Rucker comes to a stop at Interstate and Lombard, he opens the door to find a young man standing alone. He's looking for another bus, but Rucker recognizes him.

"You gone back to school yet?" Rucker asks the young man.

"Yes sir I have," he answers.

"You've got to invest in kids," Rucker says. "You have to stay with them for the long term."

With the help of TriMet, Rucker established the First Step program during his time off. It gives high school age kids a helping hand as they made the transition into 'the real world.' TriMet has hired the kids to clean up bus stops and shelters. They earn minimum wage and manage each other in a workplace environment.

Tri Met loaned him a bus so he could drive the kids to Friday night high school



TriMet bus driver A.K. Rucker takes time to invest in kids while making his stops. "You have to stay with them for the long term," he says.

PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND

football games. The added support was a relief to parents trying to keep tabs on the lives of their children.

"We figured the only way to keep them off the streets was to get them on the bus," Rucker said.

Rucker said First Step has curbed vandalism and graffiti in and around the buses because kids see themselves as a part of a community they can care about.

"We don't save them all," he said. "But the ones we do have an impact on, makes a big difference."



PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Othella Govan holds on aboard the No. 5-Interstate Avenue bus as she and her friend Donzaille Streeter (left), make their way home. The bus line will go away when MAX light rail on Interstate opens in 2004.

## TriMet asks for feedback on N/NE bus service options

BY WYNDE DYER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Transit riders are bracing for change in north and northeast Portland.

TriMet plans to redesign several bus routes in the area as the transit agency prepares for next year's opening of a new light-rail line on Interstate Avenue.

Despite rumors that bus service may decrease in north and northeast Portland as a result of light rail, only the No. 5-Interstate bus from downtown to Vancouver will go away, according to TriMet Communications Director Mary Fetsch.

"We will take the service hours from the No.

5 and redistribute them to other frequent service buses in the area," Fetsch said. "If anything, service will get better."

Plans call for starting service earlier in the morning and later at night on four buses that currently serve north and northeast Portland every 15 minutes, the No. 4, 6, 8 and 72 lines. Those buses may be able to make even more frequent stops during peak hours.

The No. 75 line, which serves Lombard Street to Milwaukie, could also be upgraded into a frequent service route.

"Right now we're just looking at all the options," Fetsch said.



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—Mary Fetsch, Director of Communications for TriMet

Middlefield Road and Marine Drive, and then west to the Rivergate industrial area. A second option is a short hop No. 5 bus that would run between the MAX line at Delta Park and Vancouver.

TriMet is also looking at new options to serve North Russell Street and Swan Island. There's the possibility of running the No. 33-Fremont bus via Russell Street, crossing Williams, Vancouver and Interstate avenues, and then continuing service downtown. The No. 85-Swan Island bus would connect with the MAX Station on North Prescott.

TriMet officials want transit riders to make their views known. Open houses are planned for Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the St. John's Community Center and Thursday, Feb. 6 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Kaiser Town Hall.

Members of the community can also record their opinions by calling TriMet at 503-962-5806.

## MLK Peace March Gains Momentum

Organizers of a rally and march for peace scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 18 have added 40 organizations to the list of co-sponsors and endorsers supporting a mobilization against a war on Iraq.

"We're well on our way to doubling the number of community organizations that have joined local efforts to stop this war," said Chris Roehm, a volunteer working on the peace march.

The Portland chapter of the NAACP, the Northwest Tree Planters and Farm Workers Union, and the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon are among the organizations that have added their voice to the call for peace.

"The January 18th peace march will be sending a strong and clear message of opposition to the Bush Administration's war plans," Roehm said.

Saturday's march was planned to fall

during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Organizers say they will begin around 12:30 p.m. in the downtown south park blocks for music and community networking.

"We are urging people to come early," Roehm said.

"King believed in a vision of The Beloved Community, where all sisters and brothers, together with all creatures, share one common planet in a spirit of mutual respect," he said.