

NEWS / METRO

SUNLAN & The Light Bulb Lady
 BEMYVALENTINEANDGIVEMESUNSHINE
 I walk in to my house, turn on all the lights and still cannot make it bright enough to chase a way the winter blues. How come?
THE RIGHT LIGHT TO CHASE THE WINTER BLUES
 Is a light that is very close to the light nature created Early man lived by light, sun up - go to work, Sundown-go to sleep. Today, we are expected to work before sunrise and after sunset we are home doing the family thing. We go from one dark cave to another. Our lights let us see what we are doing but do not provide Sunlight Sunlan has several sun like like lights in the play room to help Light up your life. **More next month...**
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PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
 Ibrahim Mubarak, the duke of Dignity Village, came out to protest a war on Iraq with other residents of Portland's homeless encampment. Thousands of peaceful protestors gathered in the south park blocks and marched in a circle around downtown chanting slogans like, "No blood for oil," — "While you're shopping, bombs are dropping," and, "Your SUV is killing me."


Peace Rally Draws Thousands

continued from Front
 Richard Armentrout came with daughter Anne-Marie. Armentrout has labored as a relief worker in developing countries and thinks American foreign policy is far too aggressive.
 "It is important we make a statement to the world as well as our own government," he said. "I believe in the power of the rally."
 Marchers gathered in the south park blocks around noon. The crowd became so large that as the first marchers returned from the loop through downtown, others were just beginning.
 A simple chant of "Peace, not war," could be heard among drumming, supportive cheering and anti-war singing. Sidewalks became thick with supporters that choose to watch rather than walk.
 Alex Ilica was among a handful of protestors who came out in defense of the President's aggressive stance on Iraq.
 "We're here basically for the people of Iraq and North Korea," he said. "Their people suffer everyday because of our inaction."
 He cited those countries own leaders as the real instigators of war.
 "With guys like this, war is the right thing to do," he said.
 The rally was timed with other peace demonstrations nationwide.
 30,000 marched in Washington D.C. Nicholas Post was among many parents who brought their children to the demonstration. He and son David together held a sign that simply read - Never War.
 "It's his future that is open to change," Post said of his son, now 5. "It's all about the America that we leave for our children."

Making a Difference for Children and Families

continued from Front
 Is a child in danger? What evidence is at hand? Can the child be left in the home? Or should the State of Oregon intervene?
 "It is a volatile, high pressure, controversial position to be in," she said.
 Toran stepped down from the post in 1999, after a five-year run - the longest in state history. Like many before her, her tenure was racked by controversy and near constant media attention.
 Toran's position demanded she walk a fine line. Decisions had to be made deliberately and delicately. The wrong decision could cause an uproar, something she discovered early in her tenure, when five children were removed from the home of a couple who immediately contacted the press.
 It was reported that the children were taken after one child was spanked. Toran caught flak from many directions. She was criticized by the state legislature and in the press.
 But she weathered the storm. She credits the steady support of Gov. Kitzhaber and a steady flow of positive letters from the community.
 "You can survive controversy," she said.
 Toran not only maintained her composure, but she successfully lobbied the state body for additional resources.
 In 1997, the legislature approved a 21 percent increase in the agency's budget. Two years later a 19 percent increase was approved.
 "I felt the five years I was there were successful for the agency," she said. "I felt like I had done what I was supposed to do and it was time to move on."
 In addition to her role as President of VOA, Toran has continued to stay active in the political process. She campaigned tirelessly for the Children's Initiative, which will provide funding for an expansion of prevention-based services.
 "This is one of the best things that has happened for kids in a long time," she said. "We'll be able to intervene early enough to help the parents, and keep these kids safe."

Adventist Churches Health, Disaster & Community Service
BETTER LIVING SERIES' OUTREACH STRATEGIES
 Sharon SDA Church, 5209 NE 22nd Ave., Portland, OR 97211
 Wednesday Jan 22, 2003: 6-7pm Bible Study; 7-8 pm Prayer Mtg.; 8-9 pm Relationships
 Thursday Jan 23rd, 2003: 6-7pm Cooking Demo; 7-8 pm Women Study; 8-9 pm Parenting
 Friday Jan 24th, 2003: 6-7 pm Happy Hour; 7-8 pm Youth Choirs; 8-9 pm Stress
 Saturday Jan. 25th, 2003: 9:15 am Bible Study; 11:00 am Worship Service; 1:00 pm Luncheon; 2:30 pm I-C Rally; 4:00 pm Healthy Eating
 * Healthy snacks will be served before each session *
 * Sat 9:15am Bible Study, 11am Worship Service *


 Happy Birthday
 To the late
 Joyce Washington
 Your dream
 is still alive!
 We love you!
 THE WASHINGTON FAMILY
 & PORTLAND OBSERVER