

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Homes for Pets Wanted

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.

Hospice Training Available

Kaiser Permanente provides free hospice training to volunteers willing to give physical and emotional support for terminally ill patients in the Portland area and provide respite for their caregivers. The training is in Portland on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Feb. 27, with one Saturday session on Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Kaiser hospice volunteer coordinator Juanita Oliver at 503-499-5285.

Slavery Reparations Discussed

Randall Robison, author of several books on African American issues, will lead a lecture at the Kaul Auditorium at Reed College on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. on what America owes to blacks. Robison is widely recognized for his leadership of the Free South Africa Movement to end apartheid in South Africa. He has worked to highlight the effect of globalization on Africa and the Caribbean; to win support for reparations for African Americans; and alert Americans to the causes and implication of America's burgeoning prison industrial complex.

AIDS Awareness Day

The Urban League Senior Center will host an AIDS Awareness Day group meeting at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7 followed by a march. There will be AIDS testing available.

Asian American New Year

Come celebrate the New Year with Hmong, Laotian, Vietnamese and Chinese cultural traditions during an Asian American New Years festival on Saturday, Feb. 8 from noon to 4 p.m. at the University Park Community Center, 9009 N Foss St. The afternoon of culture and entertainment will feature food, music, dancing, vendors, speakers and more. For more information, call 503-823-3631.

Art Supply Swap and Sale

Art on the Peninsula will host an art supply swap and sale on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kenton Firehouse, located at 2209 N. Schofield. The swap and sale is a free event offering spaces and tables for people to sell or swap artist supplies, tools or craft items. For more information, call 503-823-4099 or show up with your batch of supplies and swap away.

The Mystery of Black Holes

Come learn about disappearing stars at the Mt. Hood Community College Planetarium on Saturday, Feb. 8 and Sunday, Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. "Black Holes" will feature images of the effect massive collapsing stars have on their surrounding celestial environments. The 45-minute presentation will take place at the MHCC Sky Theater at the school's Gresham location. Admission is \$1 on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact Doug McCarty at 503-491-7297.

Latin Inspiration

The explosive group of Hispanic dancers who took Portland by storm during sold out performances in February 2000 is back to give the rainy city some warm Latin inspiration. Ballet Hispanico will do a single show at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Widely considered the foremost dance interpreter of Hispanic culture, Ballet Hispanico boasts an innovative repertory that unites ballet, modern and Latin dance forms into a spirited image of the contemporary Hispanic-American world.

Founded in 1970 by Venezuelan-born Artistic Director Tina Ramirez, the daughter of a Mexican bullfighter and Puerto Rican mother, Ballet Hispanico Company has performed for two million people in three continents and the Ballet Hispanico School of Dance in New York City offers year-round professional training in ballet, Spanish and modern dance for more than 600 students. Jennifer Lopez is one of the school's alumni.

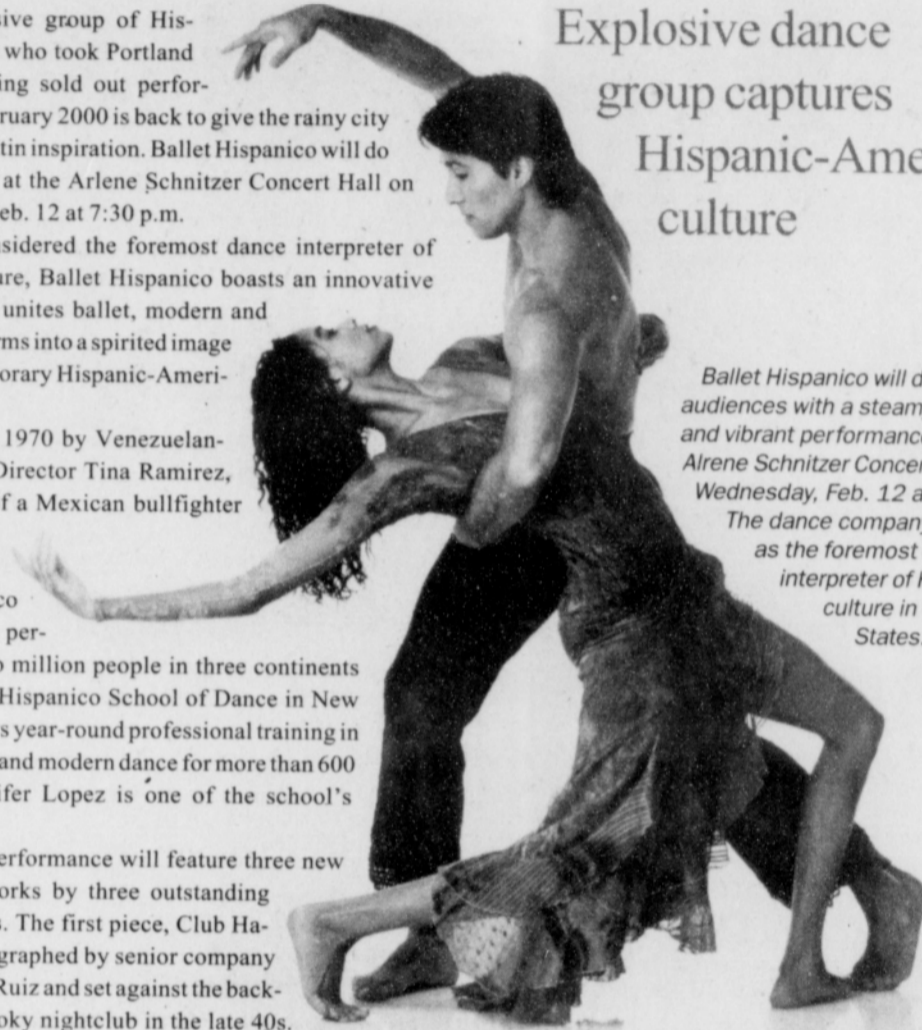
Portland's performance will feature three new high-energy works by three outstanding choreographers. The first piece, Club Havana, is choreographed by senior company member Pedro Ruiz and set against the background of a smoky nightclub in the late 40s. The ensemble piece features the intoxicating rhythms of the Cuban mambo, cha-cha-cha and rumba.

The second piece, Eyes of the Soul, is choreographed by acclaimed Spanish choreographer Ramon Oller as a tribute to Joaquin Rodrigo, one of Spain's greatest composers. Created the 100-year celebration of the blind composer's birth, the dance reflects the arduous path of his creative spirit.

Tony Award-winning choreographer Ann Reinking cre-

Explosive dance group captures Hispanic-American culture

Ballet Hispanico will dazzle audiences with a steamy, theatrical and vibrant performance at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. The dance company is known as the foremost dance interpreter of Hispanic culture in the United States.



ated the final piece, Ritmo y Ruido. It is a hip-swiveling, red-hot dance set to the irresistible pulse of Afro-Cuban rhythms by percussionists and vocalists Philip Hamilton and Tobias Ralph.

Tickets for the show range in price from \$18 to \$40 plus service charges. They can be purchased at the PCPA Box Office at SW Broadway and Main, Ticket Central in Pioneer Square and at all Ticketmaster outlets. Fortickets, call 503-224-4400 and for information or group discounts, call 503-245-1600.

State Cuts Result in Lawsuit

Oregonians who lost medical assistance when Measure 28 failed have filed suit

(AP) — An advocacy group for the disabled and elderly filed a lawsuit Thursday demanding the restoration of state funds for thousands of Oregonians who lost medical assistance with the failure of Measure 28.

The lawsuit, which names Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Director of the Oregon Department of Human Services Jean Thorne and the Department of Human Services, claims that lawmakers violated federal law by eliminating the state's Medically Needy program.

The Oregon Health Plan receives funding from the federal government and, as such, the state must have a medically needy program, said Bob Joondeph, executive director of the Oregon Advocacy Center.

"The process by which this program was eliminated was not authorized by law," he said. "When Oregon decided to accept a whole bunch of federal money to run its Medicaid program, it agreed to have a medically needy program."

Jim Neely, deputy director of the Department of Human Services, said the cuts were unavoidable.

"I certainly understand their concerns about this; these are very difficult cuts to make to these programs," Neely said. "On the other hand, we don't really have any alternatives."

The suit's plaintiffs are six Oregonians who received state money for the treatment of various life-threatening health problems and mental disorders.

Minority Groups Counter Hate

Saturday's march will trace route of the shooters

BY WYNDE DYER

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

NAACP leaders are applauding the prosecution of four shooting suspects accused of driving through northeast Portland on what police say was a racially motivated shooting spree.

The three white teenagers and an adult white male were indicted by a Multnomah County Grand Jury on state hate crime charges last week.

"This shows that this behavior will not be tolerated in this city, state or nation," said NAACP Vice President Robin Wisner at a press conference on Thursday.

The case has prompted the Portland chapter of the NAACP, the Albina

Ministerial Alliance, the Coalition Against Hate Crimes, the Metropolitan Human Rights Center and other community organizations to join together against hate crimes with a March and Rally Against Hate on Saturday, Feb. 8.

The local leaders are concerned that the shooting spree and a sticker found early in January on the doors of Roosevelt High School that read, "Earth's Most Endangered Species, The White Race," may signal the beginning of a coordinated effort by white supremacist groups to target area minorities.

"It's a reminder that hate never went anywhere," said Charles Ford of the Albina Ministerial Alliance. "Hate just went under the blanket for a while."

Chad Debnam, who lost his older brother in a racially motivated shooting 30 years ago and had two of his car windows shot out during the Jan. 19 shooting spree, said he had devel-

oped a certain callousness towards differential treatment because of his race. But the shooting in front of the home he has owned and lived in for more than 18 years acted as a wakeup call.

"As the hours turned into days, the feeling I had became progressively worse," he said.

Debnam's worst fear is that the alleged acts of the suspects, aged 18 to 21, may have been an initiation procedure for a hate group. He said that while he is grateful to the Portland Police for apprehending the suspects before anyone was hurt, he hopes they will look into whether or not the shooting spree was an isolated incident or the first of a pattern.

"I want to see every rock turned," Debnam said. "We have a gang task force — maybe we need a hate task force, too."

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PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
NAACP President Robert Larry (left) and Charles Ford of the Albina Ministerial Alliance make statements during a news conference Thursday about the upcoming Community Actions Against Hate March and Rally on Saturday, Feb. 8.



PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Ryan Norquist stops onto the entrance to a renovated My Father's Place shelter four months after escaping the home in a fire. Norquist was awakened by the smell of smoke during the catastrophe and woke up sleeping tenants, ushering them to safety.

Family Homeless Shelter Reopens

Shelter destroyed by fire offers refuge for whole families, not just women and small children

BY DAVID PLECHL

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ryan Norquist was working an overnight shift at My Father's Place, a homeless shelter for families when he was awakened by the smell of smoke that came drifting through his bedroom window.

"It started right over there," he said, pointing to the front porch of the single story building on Southeast Division.

The fire started when a cigarette was accidentally dropped between a space in the porch and smoldered for eight hours before erupting in flames,

investigators concluded.

Much of the building was destroyed. What wasn't destroyed was severely damaged by smoke.

Insurance covered some of the \$150,000 rebuilding costs. Private donors and churches fund raisers provided the rest.

Now four months after the fire, five grateful families are moving back in.

Cathe Wiese, one of the shelter's founders, has worked long hours to make all the necessary preparations.

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