

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

African History and Unification Presentations

Portland State University's Black Cultural Affairs Board, the Department of Black Studies, the Association of African Students and the Women's Resource Center will present a lecture by Darrell Millner and Ridwan Nytagodien from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in PSU's Smith Memorial Student Union rooms 228 and 229 on Wednesday, Feb. 12. On Thursday, Feb. 13 there will be a presentation on African History from noon to 2 p.m. in room 228.

Va-va-voom Valentines

Share and savor the sentiments of Valentine's Day and celebrate your creativity and individuality at the St. Johns Community Center on Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. to noon during the Portland Parks and Recreation sponsored craft activity called Va-va-voom Valentines. Come to 8424 N. Central with \$5 and make something special to show all the cupids in your life that you care.

Free Tax Assistance

The Internal Revenue Service in partnership with the Oregon Department of Revenue, AARP Tax-Aide and other members of the Oregon Tax Credit Coalition will provide courtesy tax assistance at the Lloyd Center Mall in the lower level Nordstrom Court Feb. 12 through Feb. 14 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Feb. 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to basic return preparation, E-File will be offered. Bring W-2 and 1099 statements, social security cards and last year's tax returns. For more information, call 503-326-3769.

The Progressions of Black Music

In celebration of Black History Month, Lewis and Clark College will host a discussion on the Progressions of Black Music on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in room 104 of the Miller Center for the Humanities. Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first historically black sorority, will talk about the impact black music has had on social change in the United States and how social change has affected black music. For more information, call 503-768-8166.

Lecture on Slavery Consequences

On Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kaul Auditorium at Reed College, Orlando Patterson, a professor of sociology at Harvard University, will lead a lecture on 'The Consequences of Slavery for the Afro-American Present.' Patterson's research into historical and contemporary America, with special emphasis on the intersecting problems of race, immigration and multiculturalism, has distinguished him as one of the nation's leading authorities on slavery and its legacies.

Ladybug Nature Walks

Parents can discover the natural world with their pre-schoolers every Friday morning beginning Friday, Feb. 14. A naturalist will hand out magnifying glasses, bug boxes and other tools to explore the soil, water, bark, flowers and animals in Portland's parks. Join the group each Friday at 10 a.m. in Hoyt Arboretum. There is a \$2 charge for each child, but adults are free.

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Black Churches Thrived in Early Portland

Religious groups gave African Americans a place to ground their faith

BY RON WEBBER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The first black church in Oregon was established in Portland in 1862 and for a short time met in the home of Mrs. Mary Carr.

Carr owned a boarding house on First Avenue in downtown. The People's Church, as it was called at the time, later rotated its location to the different homes of its members.

Portland's second African American church, the African American Episcopal Zion Church, was established in January of 1869. After its incorporation, a property for the church was purchased on northwest Third Street, between what is

now Burnside and Couch. Reverend J.O. Lodge was the first pastor.

The church moved in 1883 to a newly erected building on thirteenth and Southwest Main. After 33 years the membership decided to move to a new location on Northeast Williams Avenue where it is still located today.

Twenty-six years after the founding of the AME Episcopal Zion Church, an African Methodist Episcopal church was established on thirteenth and Northwest Everett with the Rev. S.S. Freeman as its head pastor.

After opening up a successful boarding house for railroad workers between Third and Fourth streets on Everett, the congregation, now called the Bethel A.M.E. Church,

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A church congregation is pictured outside one of Portland's first African American houses of worship in this undated photo.

Vital Programs Cut

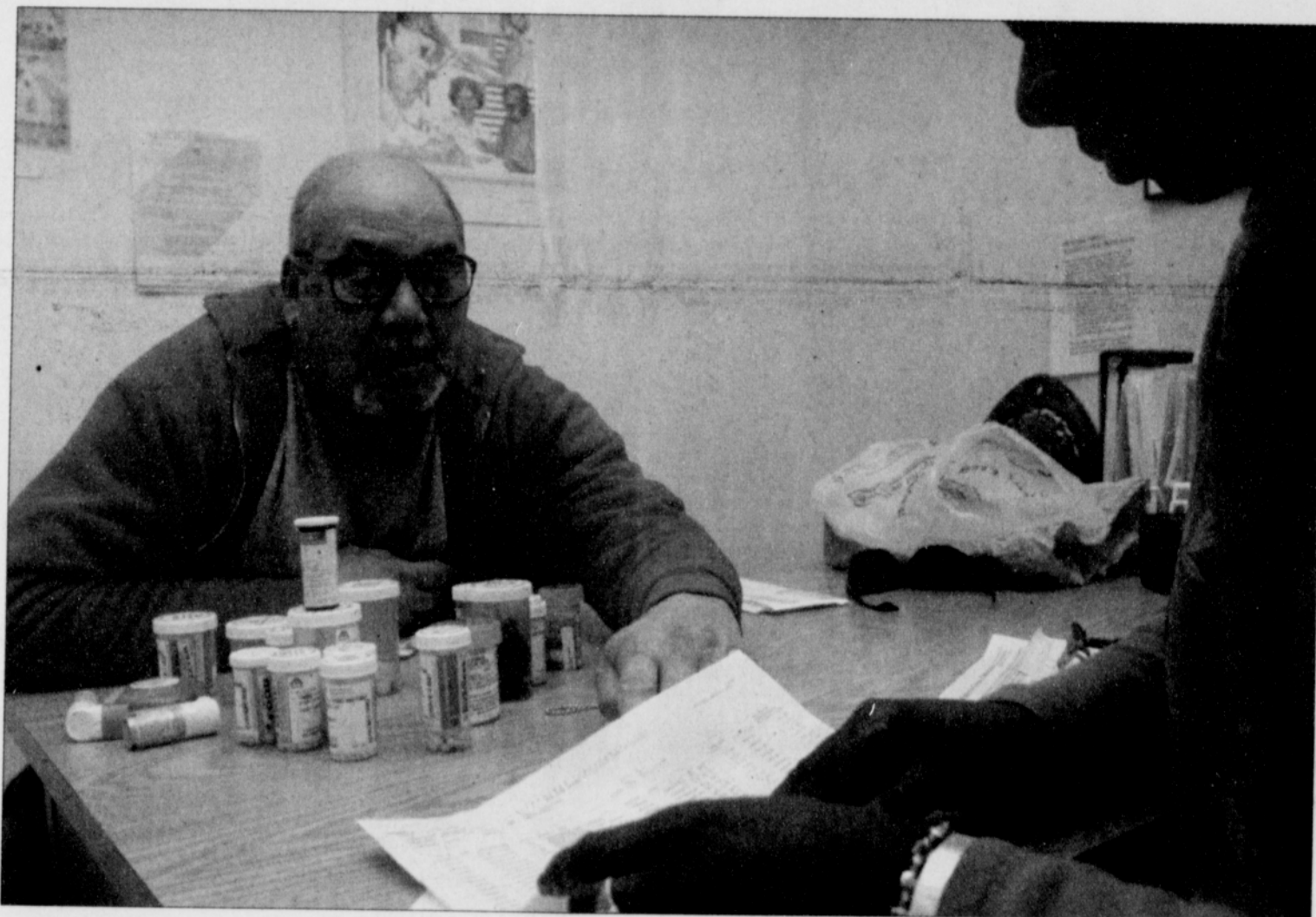


PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nazry Hasbun's prescription bottles become empty as financial support to refill the medicines dry up. The north Portland man has monthly pharmacy bill of \$1,281 - well beyond the \$756 he receives a month from Social Security.

If I don't get my medication I'm going to die.

— Nazry Hasbun, one of 20,000 Oregonians who lost prescription coverage when Measure 28 failed

Elderly, disabled clients fend for themselves

BY DAVID PLECHL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nazry Hasbun was counting on Oregon's Medically Needy Program.

He needs \$1,281 a month to pay for medicines that treat his diabetes, arthritis and other ailments - well beyond the \$756 he receives a month from Social Security.

But like 20,000 other Oregonians, support for prescription drugs van-

ished Jan. 28 when voters defeated Ballot Measure 28, the temporary income tax increase.

"I don't know what I'm going to do," Hasbun told his case manager at the county's north and northeast Portland Aging and Disability Ser-

vices office.

"If I don't get my medication," he said, "I'm going to die."

The failure of Measure 28 marked the death of the county's Medically

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Kulongoski Meets Northeast Seniors

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski meets seniors at the Hollywood Senior Center in northeast Portland to talk about state senior services cuts. Health care advocates are applauding Kulongoski for his desire to work with the governors of Idaho and Washington to bring down the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs by buying drugs in bulk and re-selling them at discount prices.

Plans for Mt. Hood Jazz

Organizers securing national talent for August festival

The 2003 Mt. Hood Jazz Festival will take place Aug. 2nd and 3rd at the Gresham Main City Park in historic downtown Gresham.

The festival moved to the park last year from Mt. Hood Community College during a reorganization that saved the long-time community celebration.

The Mt. Hood Jazz Association has purchased the "Mt. Hood Jazz Festival" name and plans another two-day, single stage festival similar to the successful 2002 show.

Negotiations and contracting are currently taking place to secure national

talent for this year's event.

As a prelude to the music celebration, the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival will present a benefit concert featuring the Dave Holland Quintet, Sunday, May 4, starting at 7 p.m. at northeast Portland's McMenamins Kennedy School.

Tickets are available at all Safeway Fastixx ticket centers, or by calling 1-800-992-TIXX or 503-224-8499.

Returning Mt. Hood Jazz Festival sponsors include American Airlines, Borders Books and Music, Digital Realm Designworks, Merchants Bank, Pepsi, Rogue Ales, Smart Choice Wireless and Terra Access.