

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Alberta Art Hop Participants Wanted

The Alberta Art Hop is a one-day festival to celebrate the arts and culture scene in the vibrant Alberta Street Community. On Saturday, May 10 the street will open up for music, dancing, theater, art and great food. There will be art exhibitions, a shrine contest, live music, a parade and hands-on art projects for adults and children. Volunteers, artists and performers are still needed. For more information, call 503-493-7246.

Online Adopt-a-Pet

The Oregon Humane Society has put a new twist on on-line personals. With just two clicks, those looking for a loving pet can find it with the dog, cat, rabbit or rodent of their choice by logging on to www.oregonhumane.org. Those interested in pet adoption can scroll through photos of all the pets available for adoption at the northeast Portland shelter and read pet profiles that are expanded daily.

Alternative Medicine Classes

Portland Community College will feature a non-credit lecture series that explains how natural medicine can help you rely on wholesome cures to prevent illnesses as well as heal them. Naturopathic physician Dr. Suzanne Lawton will lead a series of six lectures during which students can discover practical, safe and natural approaches that can be incorporated into the home. Each lecture will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through May 7 at Tigard High School, 9000 S.W. Durham Rd. Cost is \$14 for individual lectures or \$66 for the series. For more information, call 503-538-9774.

Ladybug Nature Walks

Parents can discover the natural world with their pre-schoolers every Friday at 10 a.m. at Hoyt Arboretum. 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. There is a \$2 charge for each child, but adults are free.

Kate Spade Visit

Kate Spade, one of America's leading accessories designer and style-makers, will celebrate the latest addition to the Kate Spade Beauty collection 'Classic Pearls' at Nordstrom's at Washington Square from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 17. Shoppers will be able to have a bottle of the new perfume autographed by its originator.

Earth Day Bike Blast

On Tuesday, April 22 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Kaiser Permanente's Interstate South Medical Office, 3500 N Interstate Ave., there will be a Community Bike Blast in celebration of Earth Day. The event will feature free bike checkups and minor repairs, discount prices on Bell bicycle helmets, demonstrations on helmet fittings, live entertainment and free refreshments.

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.

School Board Candidates to Speak at Forum

Public invited to Tuesday session with 23 candidates

Future policies governing local schools are at stake in an upcoming election to four open seats on the seven-member Portland School Board.

Area residents will have an opportunity to discuss the issues facing the district dur-

ing a public forum with all 23 candidates running for the board on Tuesday, April 22 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Board Room at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N Dixon St.

The evening's format will encourage candidates to express their ideas on financial matters, educational goals, community responsibility and establishing community cooperation and partnerships. Event sponsors have drafted four questions for each theme.

Candidates will have one minute to answer each question. After the questioning rounds are complete, candidates will then have an opportunity for a one-minute closing statement.

Candidates have been asked to include their position on Ballot Measure 26-48, the proposed Multnomah County income tax for schools and social services, in their closing remarks.

The forum will be videotaped for replay on Cable Channel 28. For a broadcast

schedule, go to www.pps.k12.or.us/depts/tvservices/index.shtml and click on "Broadcast Schedule."

Ballots for the election will be mailed to voters on or about April 30 and must be received by election officials by 8 p.m. on May 20.

The forum is co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., Community and Parents for Public Schools and the Portland Schools Foundation.

'These are the kinds of kids teachers and principals love to have. They are role models to other kids, showing that you can overcome any amount of adversity.' —Roosevelt High School Principal Andy Kelly

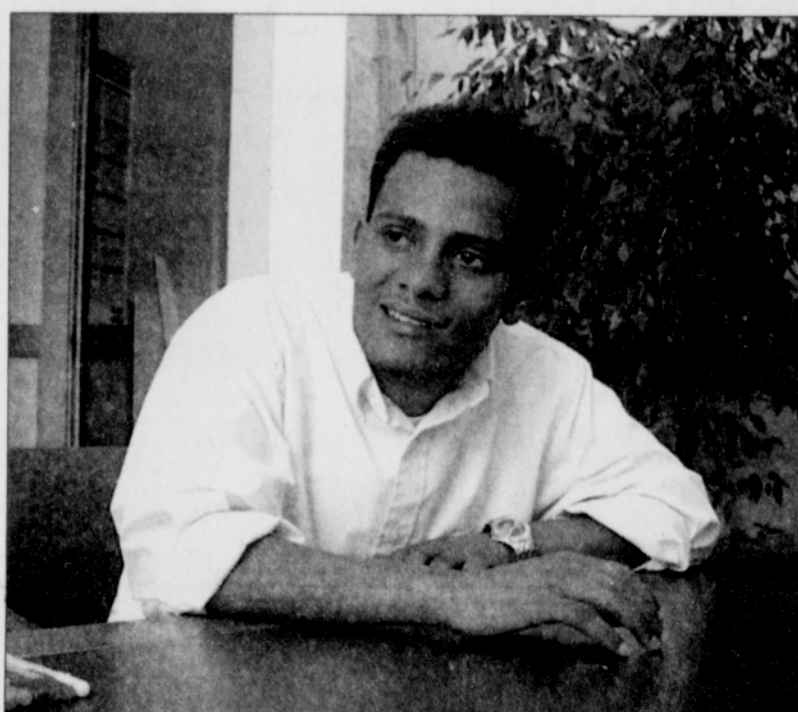


PHOTO BY RON WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After leaving war-torn Ethiopia four years ago, brothers Abdulhamid (left) and Omar Abdullah have found success at Roosevelt High School in north Portland. Despite their school being graded a low performing school, Omar will attend Stanford University next year and Abdulhamid received a full-ride scholarship to Willamette University.

A Dynamic Duo

Brothers overcome obstacles for acceptance to prestigious universities

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When it came time for Roosevelt High School seniors Omar and Abdulhamid Abdullah to choose their career paths, both of them sharply avoided politics — an arena that almost destroyed their family in Africa.

Just four years ago, the young men escaped civil war of their native Ethiopia and fled to a Kenyan

refugee camp with their mother and four siblings. The family started their lives over in Portland after receiving sponsorship from friends in the city, and all six children enrolled in Portland Public Schools. They regret leaving their ill father behind, who died of a heart condition, before joining his family in Portland.

If someone had told the brothers that they would have the opportunity to enjoy the bliss as permanent United States residency, both said they would never have believed it.

But today, thrilling futures await them after graduation. Omar was accepted to Stanford University and Abdulhamid was awarded a full-ride academic scholarship to Willamette University. Both plan to study biochemistry and eventually attend medical school.

Neither said they have concerns about encountering prejudice as practicing Muslims in today's heated political climate.

"I feel like I am where I belong," Omar said. "America is a country of great opportunity."

His brother Abdulhamid agrees.

"We don't have to worry about the government," he said. "This is the best country in the world."

Both brothers regret the media's portrayal of Roosevelt as a low-achieving school and the negative image of the Portland Public Schools as a district failing to educate its students during a budgetary crisis.

continued ▼ on page B5

Planners Push Growth in St. Johns

Residents say they want the village's atmosphere protected

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The future of St. Johns could see more room for people, businesses and industry.

But so far, local residents have found anything but a consensus in a St. Johns and Lombard Plan that intends to regulate development and unite the north Portland community.

So far, some residents have complained about the plan's call for multi-story apartments, multi-family properties and low-income housing.

Jane Bogus of the St. Johns Neighborhood Association said there's reluctant

continued ▼ on page B5



Nancy Morgan shares her work at a Write Around Portland reading last week at Broadway Books. Write Around Portland is a group that encourages traditionally suppressed groups to find their voice through writing.

Local Residents Find Voice Through Writing

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A young single parent from Columbia Villa reads lines from her novel in progress.

A local man reads his poem about his

wizard of Oz, a psychiatrist who helps him return from the land of schizophrenia to his normal state of Kansas.

continued ▼ on page B5

OAME Trade Show Coming Soon

Native American businesses will be highlighted this year

The 15th annual Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs Luncheon and Trade Show is scheduled for May 8 at the Oregon Convention Center.

The OAME event will feature more than 140 booths and nearly 3,000 visitors. It is designed to provide networking opportunities, information and business opportunities with and for minority-owned companies, while allowing an opportunity to sample their diverse products and services.

Each year, OAME gives special focus to a different local ethnic business group. This year's ethnic focus is Native American businesses. The year's keynote luncheon speaker will be H. Mara Cohen.