

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Cycling Alliance BBQ

The Bicycle Transportation Alliance is holding a fundraising barbeque at New Seasons Market-Concordia, to support a healthy community by making biking safer and more convenient. Ride over between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for a gourmet twist on barbeque. \$5. 5320 N.E. 33 Ave. For more information, call 503-288-2323.

Good in the 'Hood

Celebrate your neighborhood and all that's good this weekend with "Good in the 'Hood" festival with multicultural music, food and entertainment all weekend long. The open house kickoff party is from 6:30 to 10:15 p.m. Thursday at the Kennedy School, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave., featuring Grooveyard, Molly Malone Irish Dancers, McMenamins Marching Band and more. The parade is at 11 a.m. Saturday on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard with live music to follow from noon through 7:45 p.m. at King Park, 4800 block of Northeast 6th Avenue and Humboldt.

Rite of Passage Sunday

Les Femmes Annual Debutante Ball will present 13 young ladies to the community at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Marriott Hotel, 1400 S.W. Naito Pkwy. For more information, call 503-281-6635.

Air Museum Cruz-In

The Pearson Air Museum welcomes you to its Cruz-in, each Wednesday from 4 to 9 p.m. through Aug. 20. Come by to see hundreds of vintage cars, hot rods and hogs, not to mention a barbeque, bar and music. 1115 E. Fifth St., Vancouver. For more information, call 360-694-7026.

Artists Work on Peace Dove

The Oregon Peaceworks and Columbia River Fellowship for Peace is creating a living, breathing painting of a dove from noon through 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 17 at Waterfront Park. Artists can volunteer by registering a week before the event. For more information, visit <http://www.dovein.com>.

Stallions Horse Around

The World Famous Lipizzaner Stallions ride through the Rose Garden at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 19 for "Dancing White Stallions." Tickets are \$19.50. For more information, call 503-224-4400.

Art Therapy at Reflections

Reflections coffee shop, 448 N.E. Killingsworth St., is helping to destigmatize mental illness by hosting an art therapy exhibit from the women of Project Network. Work will be displayed through Saturday. Free.

Homowo Summer Camp

Immerse your child in African Arts for a fun-filled week of Homowo African Arts and Cultures 10th Annual Summer Camp at the Friendly House Community Center, 1737 N.W. 26th Ave. The camp is from July 14 through 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for children aged three to five and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for children aged six to 11. Camp is \$125 for three to five-year-olds and \$200 for six to 11-year olds. For more information, call 503-288-3025.

Jefferson High Reunion

Feel good at the Thomas Jefferson High School Class of 1987 reunion on Aug. 22 and 23. For more information, e-mail Thegrjva6@cs.com or call 503-283-4901.

Working Vacation

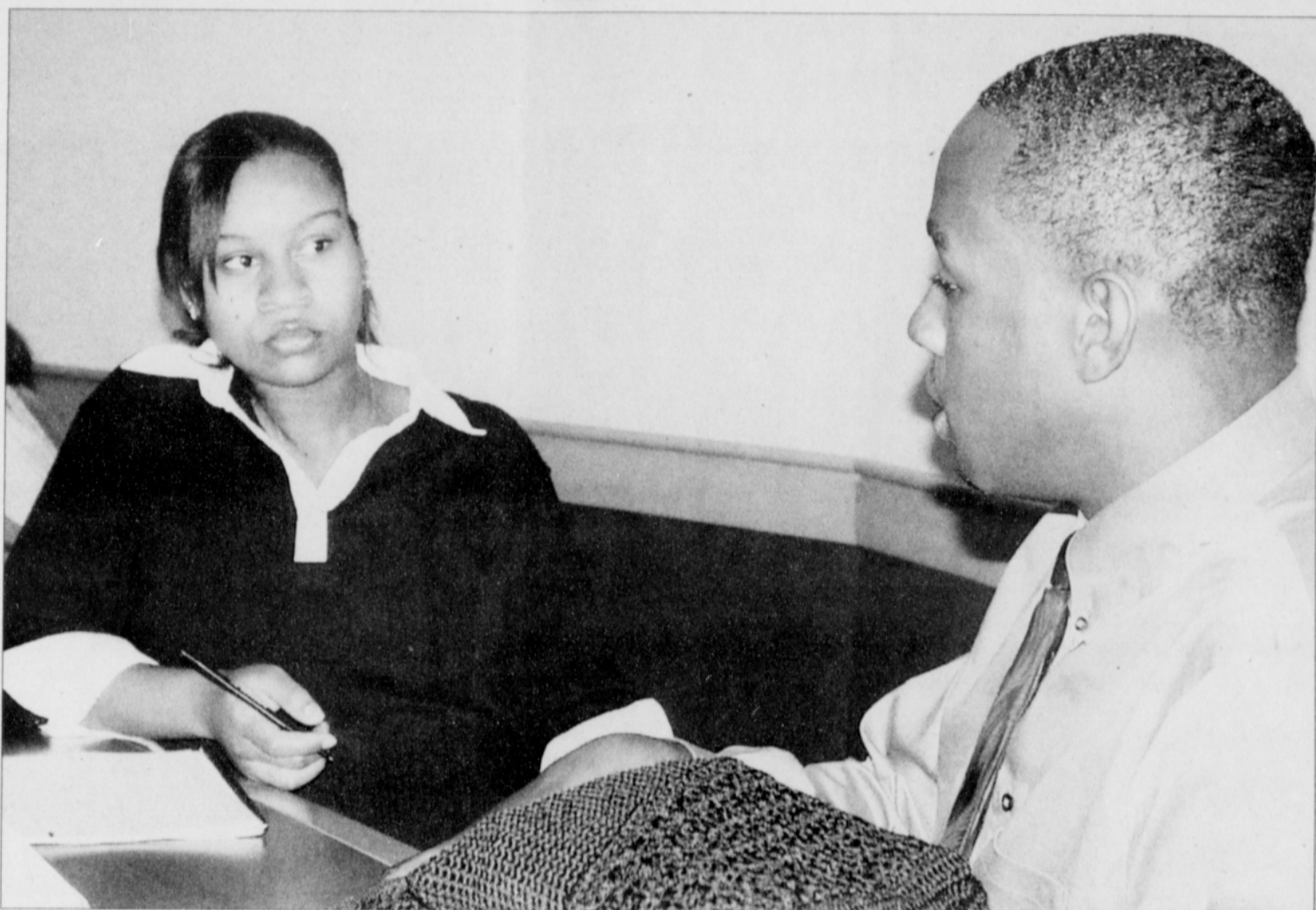


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nicole Wilkes of Benson High School works with mentor Fred Jones at the mini-MBA summer camp at the University of Portland.

Area high school students study business in their spare time

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Power suits, power lunches, power point presentations and hard negotiations are tools mastered by most entrepreneurs before making their first million. For 40 students taking the Mini-MBA Summer Camp at the University of Portland campus, grad school is way too late to learn how to knot a tie and plan a business strategy.

While so many students are sleeping late and resting the mind during summer vacation, the group of high schoolers is attending an intensive two-week long camp designed to leave them with confidence, networking skills and the experience of writing a real business plan.

Those connections have proven prosperous for

Fred Jones, a University of Oregon student who scored a free trip to Washington, D.C., not to mention an outstanding resume builder when he was named the national 2003 Mentor of the Year because of his work with Mini-MBA Summer Camp.

Jones attended the program in 2001, and returned as a mentor the following summer.

"I believe the high schoolers feel more connected to people closer to their age," Jones said.

He plans to own a business someday, for the "freedom to have your own creative ideas."

Program leaders say the curriculum students are studying prepares them to do just that, down to the nitty-gritties of market research, employee insurance and the paperwork that comes with owning a business.

This graduate level program came free of charge to students this summer, thanks to a grant from Rewarding Youth Achievement and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Besides learning which fork to use at the power lunch, students dove headfirst in an interactive

negotiations seminar, taught by Dave Ellis, associate dean of Lewis and Clark College law school.

The group also expects guest speakers from various successful businesses such as J.P. Moss, president of Portland Swimwear, Roy Jay, president of the African American Chamber of Commerce, Michael Holton, head coach of the Portland University's men's basketball team and Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

Business professionals often dread proposing their dream to financial backers, and this program is no different. The final project will be to present a business idea to city officials, with hopes of opening a completely student-run convenience store in the University Park Community Center.

Camille Kent, a 15-year-old Grant High School student, is taking the program because she would like to start a non-profit organization directed toward young people and political issues.

She said, "This is a great opportunity. The best part for me has been the negotiations because I'm not a talkative person."

St. Johns Bridge to Close for 49-Days

The St. Johns Bridge in north Portland will close completely for up to 49 days to replace the deck at the west end of the bridge beginning at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 10.

After the full closure, bridge work will continue with daytime bridge traffic restricted to one lane in each direction with bridge closures nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

The two-and-a-half-year, \$33-million bridge rehabilitation project includes complete removal and replacement of the concrete bridge deck and sidewalks, upgrades of the bridge drainage and lighting systems.

The project should be completed in late 2005.

Battle on to Save Head Start

Local activist lobbies Congress on reauthorization

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland community activist Ron Herndon has taken to the halls of Congress to save Head Start.

The federal program for economically disadvantaged pre-school age kids is up for reauthorization this year. Herndon fears a Bush administration proposal to give control of Head Start to the states will adversely affect minority children by diverting money to other uses.

Almost 70 percent of children enrolled are minorities, with the majority being Hispanic and about a third who are black.

"Head Start makes a mockery of the myth that poor people don't care about their kids, won't get involved in their child's education and can't make decisions about programs that help their children," said Herndon.

As of last week, parents and Head Start supporters have sent 55,000 letters to Congress, urging them to oppose the president's plan.

"We've got to keep pushing and pushing, over and over again, because our future is literally depending on it," said Elijah Cummings, D-Md., the chairman of the Black Congress-



Ron Herndon

sional Caucus.

Head Start, born during the civil rights era, provides academic, social and nutritional help to roughly a million children a year.

Cummings and other black caucus members contend the Republican-led plan to shift control to some states will weaken standards, cut parental involvement and divert money from the program.

A proposed House bill aims to increase learning standards for pre-kindergartners, require more teachers to have college training and improve performance monitoring of centers. It also

offers an experiment by giving up to eight states the freedom to manage their federal Head Start money so they could better coordinate the program with other preschool efforts.

Democratic and other House members, parents and program leaders oppose any reduction in the federal role. They also balk at a provision that would allow religiously oriented groups to refuse to hire Head Start workers of different faiths if it would interfere with the organization's work.

For more information about the Head Start struggle, visit www.saveheadstart.org.