

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

Community Calendar

Colors of Fall

Learn about trees and shrubs with the best autumn colors from 9:30 a.m. through noon Oct. 18 at the Hoyt Arboretum. \$10. To register, call 503-823-3601.

Chimps Gone Wild

Jane Goodall brings enthusiasts closer to nature with "Wild Chimpanzees," from Oct. 17 through May at the Omnimax Theater, 1945 Se Water Ave. Tickets are \$8.50. For more information, visit www.wildchimpanzees.org.

Doors of Creativity

Northwest Medical Teams sponsors the multi-media exhibit "Windows of Need, Doors of Hope" from Nov. 12 through 18 at the Doubletree Inn, Lloyd Center. For information, call 503-624-1000 or visit www.nwmedicalteams.org.

Former Ambassador Speaks

Andrew Young, a U.S. ambassador on the forefront of social activism, will speak at Lewis & Clark College at 7 p.m. Oct. 21 at Agnes Flanagan Chapel, 615 SW Palatine Hill Road. Tickets are \$5 in advance. For more information, call 503-768-7082.

Planting Neighborhoods

Friends of Trees announces neighborhood tree plantings beginning with the Rose City Park/Roseway neighborhood on Nov. 15. Those interested in leading volunteers should attend training at 8 a.m. Nov. 15 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 2727 NE 54th Ave. For more information, visit www.friendsoftrees.org.

Beyond the Ribbons

The Breast Cancer Radio Arts Project presents a townhall discussion and performance "Beyond the Pink Ribbon" from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 23. For more information, visit www.breastcancerproject.org.

Cultural Giggles

Naomi Morena will present her first public reading from "Let's Talk about Mexicans," drawing attention to Hispanic Heritage Month. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14 at the PCC Cascade Campus cafeteria, 705 N. Killingsworth. For more information, call 503-238-1672.

Spindoctors Unspun

Radical Women hosts a workshop discussing the Bush administration's latest call for funding in the war on terrorism, and the strain it will put on working women, at 7 p.m. Oct. 8, 819 N. Killingsworth. For more information, call 503-240-4462.

High Energy

The Community Energy Project holds a series of free workshops to help make consumers energy conscious. The project also includes weatherizing workshops throughout October. For more information, call 503-284-6827.

Green Walks

Discover Portland's green space from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturdays with guided tours by park volunteers. On Oct. 11, meet at Peninsula Park, next to sunken rose garden. On Nov. 1, meet at Whitaker Ponds visitor center.

Moving Moments

The IFCC offers Life Movement dance classes and workshops. Our Breathing Body is on Oct. 11 and Touch Stones is on Nov. 1 and 8. All workshops are between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the dance studio, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Workshops prices range between \$45 and \$60. To register, call 503-284-1908.

A Tool in Wellness

Senior day care services expanded

Volunteers of America has received a distinction, allowing it to expand adult day care services to seniors and clients with disabilities.

The social service agency has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation Rehabilitation Facilities to offer Adult Day Services programs at three of its facilities, including the Marie Smith Center, serving north and northeast Portland.

"We are extremely proud to be the first agency in the state to receive CARF accreditation," said Kay Toran, Volunteers of America Oregon president and chief executive officer. "This action positions our Adult Day Services programs as role models for the industry. It also provides assurance to families and individuals that our programs and services have met national standards of performance."

The certification also means that people with long-term health care insurance may now have an easier time utilizing this insurance.

Adult Day Services is a largely underutilized tool in long-term care, often because without accreditation, many insurance companies have been reluctant to cover its cost.

At VOA, adult day care participants come for a variety



Seniors work their mind and body by participating in a variety of activities at the adult day care program at the Marie Smith Center on North Albina Avenue.

of reasons ranging from socialization and reduction of isolation to respite for working caregivers in need of a safe place for their loved one during the day.

All the participants receive loving care, comprehensive care planning to meet their individual needs,

a wide range of activities, daily exercise, socialization, nutritious lunch and snacks, nursing services, personal care assistance and opportunities to contribute to their community.

For more information, visit www.VOAO.org.

Book Renews Interest in Oregon Racism

Author examines deadly attacks and skinhead movement

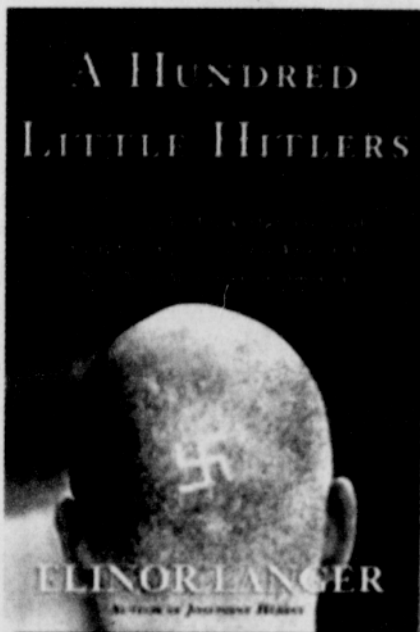
BY ROGER EISS

One night in November 1988, a group of neo-Nazi "skinheads" attacked three young Ethiopians on a southeast Portland street. One of the Ethiopians, Mulugeta Seraw, was bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat. In a plea bargain, the assailant admitted guilt to a racially-motivated attack, falling under an anti-hate statute.

Not long after, the Montgomery, Ala.-based Southern Poverty Law Center sued Tom Metzger, head of the California-based White Aryan Resistance, contending that Metzger contributed to the violent radicalization of skinheads and created the atmosphere that led to Seraw's death. Metzger was found liable for Seraw's death and lost his home as partial payment of the settlement.

Oregonians breathed a collective sigh of relief. "It's not us—it's them!" Out-of-state agitators were responsible for this abnormal and atypical crime on our progressive state. Elinor Langer's book, "100 Little Hitlers," depicts the prominent role racism has had in Oregon's history from the state's earliest days, and suggests that Metzger's organization probably had little influence on Seraw's death.

Admittedly not an expert on racism or law, Langer learned by living the events, being at the hearings and trials, and experiencing the interface between races. Inspired to further research, she concluded that a



Elinor Langer's *A Hundred Little Hitlers* takes a look at the skinhead movement and the larger history of racism in Oregon.

myth had to be punctured and the truth be told.

Oregon has a history of racism which has long simmered underground and Langer wanted to bring it to the surface. In 1850, only 50 blacks lived in the Oregon territory. When admitted to the union, the state of Oregon had a black exclusion law in its constitution; blacks who stayed in the state beyond a specified period of time were subject to lashing. At the same time, Oregon joined the free states by excluding slavery. No sign of progressive spirit, this action was taken to assure that blacks would not be

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brought into Oregon.

Despite these laws and social exclusion, a few hundred blacks lived in Oregon, sharing a section of downtown Portland with the equally despised Chinese. Their jobs were manual and unwanted by whites—boot-blackening, stable cleaning, house-boying and other dead-end occupations. In the early 1920's the Ku Klux Klan (against "Koons, Kikes and Catholics") was active throughout the state. In the decade of the '20s the states black population stayed unchanged while white population grew by 14,000.

Work in the Kaiser shipyards briefly made a difference during World War II, raising Portland's black population to 25,000 for a brief time. The war's end and the Vanport flood, which cost many blacks their homes, reduced the city's black population to 10,000.

Blacks were later displaced three times by urban renewal projects (Memorial Coliseum, I-5 and Emmanuel Hospital).

City Club Reports in 1945, 1957, 1968 and 1991 documented the plight of Portland blacks and brought limited change. The '57 report cited the fact that 90 percent of Portland real estate agents would not rent or sell homes outside the Albina neighborhood to blacks. Blacks remained concentrated in Albina, with a population density six times higher than the city average.

A state fair employment act brought little change. Portland's police force was 94 percent white and engaged in a series of incidents (a possum thrown from a police car onto the porch of a black family; responding to a choking incident with the motto, "Don't choke 'em, smoke 'em") that left blacks convinced that police officers were their enemies. Portland was one of the whitest metropolitan areas in the United States.

Conditions improved significantly as a result of the national civil rights movement and laws, but this also generated the neo-Nazi "skinhead" movement between 1985 and 1988 in reaction to black gains. A segment of Portland youth embraced this doctrine.

On the night in question, a group of Portland skinheads, drunk, returned to their car to find that another car blocked theirs. Three Ethiopian youth, including Seraw, were in the other car. An argument ensued, and Seraw was killed. The story was simple and straightforward in initial hearings—an altercation between two groups of intoxicated young males.

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Zoo Will Raise Rare Turtles

The Oregon Zoo has collected threatened western pond turtles from the Columbia River Gorge and will be rearing them until they grow large enough to fend for themselves. Once grown, they will be released back into the wild.

Working collaboratively with state and federal wildlife officials, the zoo "head-starts" newly hatched turtles gathered from wild sites. The turtles are nurtured for about 10 months until they grow large enough to avoid being eaten by non-native bullfrogs and large mouth bass.

"Giving young turtles a head-start during the first months of their lives, gives them a real edge," explains Dr. David Shepherdson, Oregon Zoo con-

servation program scientist.

The turtles are in trouble due to habitat degradation and disease. The biggest threat, however, is bullfrogs. Found east of the Rockies, this non-indigenous frog has thrived throughout the west, driving pond turtles and a host of other small, vulnerable aquatic species to the brink of extinction.

The newest releases bring the total number of head-started turtles to more than 700. Scientists tracking the released turtles estimate that 95 percent of the turtles released back to the Columbia Gorge have survived.

Oregon Zoo is a service of Metro. The Zoo is committed to conservation with a number of projects aiding local species.



A threatened western pond turtle from the Columbia River Gorge.