

# OPINION

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## No Excuse for Abuse

continued ▲ from Front

abuser of women and children? Here are some traits and signs to follow:

A batterer is a person who uses force or forms of abuse to gain and maintain control of another person. The medium of control may be either physical or mental. The force may be physical or coercive, meaning threats of violence towards you and toward someone whom you hold dear are used to gain control of you.

I do not seek revenge for the victims, nor for myself, I seek reform.

Reform in our judicial process in prosecuting the abuser and assaulter; reform in our civil policies regarding assault; reform in our congressional and legislative process enacting laws which govern these violations; and reform within our churches and within the consciousness of our spiritual leaders to teach their congregations to resist abuse and to tena-

ciously prosecute abusers.

Reform must also take place in our schools in the early stages of education. Programs such as conflict resolution must be taught in an effort to show the young how to diffuse their anger.

Young and old females alike must be taught how to recognize persons with the traits of an abuser and assaulter. We must become actively involved in our legislative process to enact change.

Our involvement can begin within our own state by contacting and joining forces with the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 503-365-9644, www.ocadv.com and the Washington Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 101 N. Capital Way, Suite 302, Olympia, WA 98501, 360-586-1022, wscadv@wscadv.org.

Martha Raye lives in Vancouver and is available for speaking engagements. You can reach her by calling 360-693-1976 or by writing to her at P.O. Box 561, Lake Oswego, OR 97034.

## Don't Pass the Wounded By

BY MARTHA RAYE

*With emotions torn and tattered, and hurting within, a life of sorrow, when did it begin? Women and Children, living on the street, what is their address, what do they eat?*

*Multiple cuts and bruises they try to conceal... beatings... done year after year... the wounds won't heal.*

*Their pain is constant, the battering never ends, today, tomorrow, it starts over again!*

*Broken-hearted, disillusioned... they don't know where to go... who hears their cries, who cares to know?*

*While living with a broken spirit and broken bones too... silent cries and screams of terror, what are they to do?*

*Sometimes it's undetectable, beatings done "oh so discreet," but here and there... women and children... are being 'slaughtered like sheep!'*

*"They cry help us, please save our lives, we plead save them, or they will die!" Domestic violence kills.*

## Letter to Nonprofits Have Much to Lose the Editor

PGE is committed to supporting minority, women and emerging small business enterprises by utilizing their services and products. PGE provides financial support to a large number of minority non-profits and local community foundations. However, a measure on the November ballot would throw

that away — by condemning PGE and Pacific Power's Multnomah County systems and converting them to a people's utility district (PUD). Take a look at Oregon Uniting, a grassroots organization whose mission is to "advance the unfinished agenda of racial justice through public education and

honest dialogue."

As an advisory board member of Oregon Uniting, I know personally how supportive PGE has been to our organization and what we have to lose. We are in the midst of a struggling economy and cannot afford to lose this established generosity.

Linda Banks

## Suitors Romance Meek

continued ▲ from Front

have a buyer. Madison South Banfield Pet Clinics placed a bid and a proposal to build their world headquarters and an off-leash dog park on the 5.4-acre property.

"It suits our needs fairly well because of the proximity to mass transit and the airport," said Kelly Orfield, senior director of operations for the pet clinic, who noted how the school is across the street from where the company established its first pet hospital in 1955.

The district and the pet clinic are in negotiations and Orfield said he expects an answer from Portland Public Schools within weeks. He

said the decision is contingent upon securing a spot for Vocational Village.

Some Meek neighbors, however, have expressed uneasiness with bringing a high school into their neighborhood. At a recent meeting with the Concordia Neighborhood Association, Chairwoman Nancy Marie Hendricks said she wanted more information about what affect the high school would have on her neighborhood.

After touring Vocational Village, she said she was very impressed with the level of commitment from both students and staff, but that it would take an open dialogue between the district, the neighbor-

hood and the school to make the transition successful.

"I think if Vocational Village does move into the Meek site, it's going to be imperative that the students and the teachers and the community get together and say, 'this is what our expectations are of the school and each other,'" Hendricks said.

Meanwhile, Rob Kremer, executive director of Mastery Learning Institute, said Meek would be the perfect place to open Arthur Academy, a charter elementary school with plans to expand to Portland, Woodburn and Reynolds.

Kremer presented a proposal to open the academy at Meek last month, but says the location is just a detail in a string of challenges the school will face.

The charter school with 75 students in the David Douglas School District is not yet approved in Portland.

If accredited, representatives at the Learning Institute also plan to challenge the district's policy of charging rent to charter schools on district property.

Arthur Academy has received accolades from parents by teaching kindergartners to read and do math and for incorporating a core knowledge curriculum in geography, history and science. Kremer says academy students have advanced more than 30 percentage points on national achievement tests.

The Concordia Neighborhood Association is planning a meeting with Vocational Village faculty, students, the school board, an architect and the public at Meek Elementary School on Monday, Oct. 20, tentatively at 7 p.m. To confirm the meeting time, call 503-381-5587.

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