

Advertise with diversity in
The Portland Observer

Portland General Electric presents



**NEW FRONTIERS IN
DIVERSITY
DIVERSITY SUMMIT 2004**

Learn how to build a stronger, more competitive organization ready to face the challenges of the 21st century at PGE's Diversity Summit 2004. It's an opportunity for anyone interested in diversity issues in today's workplace. Register online to attend classes with worldwide leaders in diversity issues, network with the region's top organizations, and learn from outstanding keynote speakers.

**Wednesday
April 28
Oregon
Convention Center
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

For more details and to register, visit
PortlandGeneral.com/DiversitySummit

Keynote Speakers



Madame Jehan Sadat, world-renowned peace and civil-rights activist and widow of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat



Judy Shepard, champion of hate-crime legislation in memory of her slain son Matthew Shepard

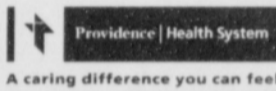


Mark Williams, author of the highly acclaimed book *10 Lenses: Your Guide to Living and Working in a Multicultural World*



Portland General Electric

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



A caring difference you can feel

PACIFIC POWER TRI MET

Fred Meyer

NW Natural

Standard Insurance Company Port of Portland
Hewlett-Packard Company Legacy Health System
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon

PortlandGeneral.com/DiversitySummit

Stephens Sentenced to Life

(AP)—A man convicted of raping, sodomizing and murdering a 14-year-old girl who was abducted while walking to school from her home in northeast Portland, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The 12-member jury reached their verdict Monday, just over two hours after they began their deliberation. The decision was announced to the court on Tuesday. Prosecutors had urged the jury

to sentence Ladon A. Stephens to death, calling him a "homicidal serial rapist."

"Nothing works with Ladon Stephens," said Multnomah County Senior Deputy District Attorney Rod Underhill. "Our greatest fear is: Who is going to be the next victim of Ladon Stephens?"

But Tom and Mary Bittler, the parents of 14-year-old Melissa, whom Stephens killed in 2001, had stated publicly they preferred he



Melissa Bittler was murdered after leaving home for school.

not be sentenced to death. It was an opinion that they were not allowed to share in front of the jury, however.

Melissa Bittler was Stephens' last victim. Prosecutors identified 19 other girls and women he had threatened, or assaulted.

Last month, the same jury convicted Stephens, 35, of three 1997 rapes of 14- and 15-year-old girls and the 2002 rape of his girlfriend's cousin.



Convicted sniper John Allen Muhammad (left) during sentencing Tuesday in Manassas, Va. (AP photo)

DC Sniper Gets Death Sentence

(AP)—John Allen Muhammad was sentenced to death Tuesday for his role in the sniper shootings that terrorized the Washington area.

Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. turned aside a plea from Muhammad's lawyers to spare their client's life. He ordered Muhammad executed on Oct. 14, but that date likely will be postponed to allow appeals.

Muhammad, 43, was convicted of capital murder on Nov. 17 and a jury recommended he be sentenced to death for the murder of Dean Harold Meyers at a gas station near Manassas.

Muhammad denied any involvement in the killings Tuesday, telling the judge, "Don't make a fool of the

Constitution of the United States of America."

"Just like I said at the beginning, I had nothing to do with this, and I'll say again, I had nothing to do with this," Muhammad said.

Defense lawyers had filed a motion Monday arguing that life in prison was the more appropriate sentence to eliminate the disparity between Muhammad's punishment and that of his 18-year-old partner in the killings, Lee Boyd Malvo.

Malvo, who will be formally sentenced Wednesday in Chesapeake, was given life in prison by the jury in that case.

Chamber Honors Black Women

African-American women will be honored at the African American Chamber of Commerce's annual event titled "Never Underestimate the Power of a Black Woman" at the Oregon Convention Center on Friday, March 19.

This gala honors African-American women in Oregon and southwest Washington for their accomplishments and dedication to improving individual and community lives and personal achievements.

"African-American women seldom get this recognition for building communities and families. This is long overdue," said Roy Jay, president of the chamber.

Highlights of the event include keynote speaker Patricia Russell McCloud, nationally-noted orator, educator and motivational speaker, recognized by Oprah Winfrey and many publications from coast-to-



Patricia Russell McCloud

coast. Renowned evangelist TD Jakes will also make a special presentation.

Tickets are limited. Those interested in attending should call 503-244-5794, extension 48 for reservations and more information.



Real People, Real Advice
An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

During March Madness my husband loses his mind over the basketball crap. It's so bad we've almost divorced because he chooses the games over me. When these college games begin, he goes on vacation, won't bathe or do nothing except sit and romance the television. We've had too many sports arguments and enough is enough! --Melissa; Little Rock, Ark.

Dear Melissa:

How about some cheese with your whine!! Sports obsession is a man thing and they go bananas during March Madness. You knew of his sports obsession before marriage so stop tripping. Be glad your man isn't obsessed with strippers and he has a job that he can take vacation from. Take advantage of the quiet time while he's buried in basketball and do something for yourself. Oh yeah—quit nagging.

Dear Deanna!

Help me fast! My mother's having an affair on my father and I'm in the middle. I've lied for my mother and covered for her but I think she's about to get busted. My dad's real suspicious and he's going to question me soon. I'm loyal to both my

parents and I don't want to hurt neither one. My dad's a good man and if he asks me, I can't look him in the eye and lie about it. Help! --Anonymous; Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Anonymous:

Let your mother know she's wrong and shouldn't be doing this to your dad. Your mother is unfit because she's teaching you adultery, fornication and lying. If your dad asks, don't lie—tell everything you know. Pray for your mother because when that drama harvest comes in that she's sowing it ain't going to be pretty. She's going to reap what she sowed in such a way that only the Lord can save her.

Dear Deanna!

I love being naked and having sex in public. I've paid a few tickets for indecent exposure but the thrill turns me on. Now I'm pregnant and I don't want to go through the pregnancy because I won't be able to show my body anymore. I dread the weight gain, the stretch marks and I'll have to keep covered. How do I cope? --Victoria; Inglewood, Calif.

Dear Victoria:

You cope by going back into the rubber room you came out of. Cope by keeping your legs closed or having safe sex so you don't get pregnant. Cope by growing up and realize you're bringing a child into this world and the freaky behavior must go. Last but not least, cope by exercising after birth, put make-up on your scars, walk your crazy behind outside nude and social services will take the child and you'll have exactly what you wanted. Seek family counseling immediately.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or write: Deanna M, P.O. Box 88847, Los Angeles, CA 90009. Website: www.askdeanna.com

It's Not Whether
You
Win or Lose,
But How You Play The Game.

The game is just a game, it's how you play that makes the difference. If someone you know is gambling for more than fun, they may have a problem. Warning signs include:

- Preoccupation with gambling
- Gambling to escape
- Lying to cover up gambling

Treatment can help problem gamblers put the game back in perspective and get their lives back on track. Treatment is free, confidential and it works.

**If playing isn't fun anymore, call for help:
1-877-2-STOP-NOW**

Licensed treatment providers are there to listen, help and make referrals to local treatment centers 24 hours a day.

Or visit www.oregonlotteryhelp.org

Advertise with diversity in
The Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033
or email: ads@portlandobserver.com