

# OPINION

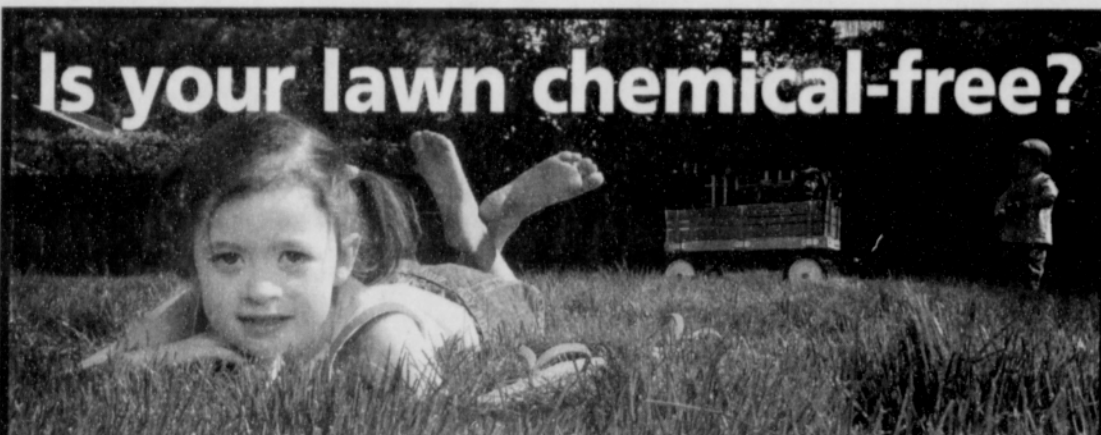
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## Is your lawn chemical-free?

**Maybe it should be.** Before you reach for that weed and feed, please consider this: insecticides and herbicides can harm people and pets. Rain can wash chemicals off your lawn and into stormdrains and streams. This pollutes the water that people and fish depend on.

The good news—it's easy to have a beautiful lawn without weed and feed.

- Build healthy soil
- Use organic fertilizers or compost on your lawn
- Water deeply but infrequently
- Aerate, thatch, and reseed with a Northwest grass



**Buy organic this year! Bring in this ad for 20% off organic lawn product or native plant.**

Gresham Flat Creek Garden Center 503-663-4101	Portland Portland Nursery 503-788-9000	Ridgefield, WA Bird's English Garden & Nursery 360-887-3270	Tigard The Gardener's Choice, Inc. 503-684-2727	West Linn Bosky Dell Natives 503-638-5945
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For information about a chemical-free lawn, visit [www.cleanriversandstreams.org](http://www.cleanriversandstreams.org) or call 503-234-3000 Portland Metro or 360-397-6118 ext. 4345 in Washington.

The Regional Coalition for Clean Rivers and Streams: Cities of Gresham, Portland and Vancouver, Clean River Partners of Clackamas County, Clean Water Services, Clark County, Multnomah County and Metro.

Disclaimer: The RCCRS does not make any warranty, expressed or implied, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for products purchased with this offer. 1 offer per customer. Offer expires June 30, 2004 OD 0410

### African American Health Coalition, Inc.

Presents for your health,

## Wellness Within REACH Activity Calendar

<b>Aerobics</b> Mallory Ave. Christian Church Mon, Wed, Fri, 6-7am, Pierce • 5:30-6:20pm, Granville • 6:30-7:30pm, Nickerson <b>Humboldt Elementary</b> Tue, Thu, 6-7pm, Keller	<b>Pilates</b> Matt Dishman Mon, 12:15-1:15pm, Jenkins
<b>Low Impact Aerobics</b> Daniel's Memorial Church Tue, 7:15-8:15pm, Granville	<b>Stretching/Body Sculpting</b> (Class courtesy of Matt Dishman) Matt Dishman Tue, Thu, 7-8am, Lois
<b>Water Aerobics</b> (Contact AAHC) Salvation Army Matt Dishman	<b>Walking Group</b> Peninsula Park Sat, 12:30pm, Woods
<b>African Dance</b> Matt Dishman Sat, 10-11am, Addo	<b>Weight Mgmt./Conditioning</b> U. of Portland Indoor Track Tue, Thu, 9-10am, Hasan
<b>Body Conditioning</b> Wild Oats Market Sat, 9:30-10:30am, Nickerson	<b>Yoga</b> Wild Oats Market Tue, Thu, 7:30-8:30pm, O'Rourke

Daniel's Memorial Church, 1234 NE Killingsworth (12th & Killingsworth) Humboldt Elementary, 4915 N Gantenbein Mallory Avenue Christian Church (Gym), 126 NE Alberta	Matt Dishman, 77 NE Knott Peninsula Park, 700 N Portland Salvation Army, 5325 N Williams U. of Portland Indoor Track, 500 N Willamette Wild Oats Market, 3535 NE 15th
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\*\*Must be 21 or older to participate. Please contact AAHC before showing up to the first class and for more information at 503-413-1850 or [kdempsey@aahc-portland.org](mailto:kdempsey@aahc-portland.org). Please receive approval from your doctor before beginning exercise class.

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health  
 A Program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.  
 Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Contact AAHC at 503-413-1850 or visit our web site at [www.aahc-portland.org](http://www.aahc-portland.org)

## Shields for Northeast Portland

### Missed opportunity for minority candidates

The following is a Portland Observer editorial:

Two candidates are running for election in the May Democratic Primary to represent north and northeast Portland in House District 43.

Our endorsement goes go Chip Shields who has worked in northeast Portland for the past five years as executive director of Better People, an organization dedicated to job training and living wage jobs for former inmates.

Shields has a record of working with local residents, including African Americans, to make

our communities stronger and improve the lives of people facing poverty and discrimination.

He has a record of success in sponsoring a ballot measure to increase the minimum wage and supported Multnomah County's temporary income tax to stop the drastic budget cuts to our schools and social services. He has won the endorsement of many local minority leaders.

Still, we see this race as a missed opportunity for north and northeast Portland because Shields and his opponent Tina Kotek are so new to the district.

Both have resided in northeast Portland for less than three years.

Missing is the candidate who has lived here for a significant amount of time, working on behalf of the minority populations that make House District 43 the most diverse in the state. Where was the recruitment of candidates by African-American leaders and the Democratic Party?

We like Shields and think both candidates have the potential to do a great job of representing minority interests, but they need seasoning to really get to know us.

## Fog of Deception and Secrecy

By REP. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I listened with great interest to the testimony of National Security Advisor Dr. Condoleezza Rice before the 9/11 Commission. Her testimony cast a fog of deception over the search for truth.

An obvious example of this deception took place on Aug. 6, 2001. Dr. Rice testified that a memo stating that Osama bin Laden was "determined to attack within the United States" was discounted by Bush Administration officials because it was not a warning.

President Bush, Dr. Rice and others in the Administration knew that bin Laden posed a threat to our homeland, but did not act in the best interest of national security. Clearly, the



Rep. Bennie G. Thompson

Bush Administration failed to take serious the threat of terrorism.

Dr. Rice testified that prior to 9/11, al-Qaeda cells inside the United States were not cause for the Administration to be concerned. Tragically, 3,000 lives

were lost before the Administration took the al-Qaeda threat seriously.

The families who lost loved ones on 9/11 are now learning what went wrong, how it went wrong and how 9/11 could have been prevented.

However, I fear that Dr. Rice's testimony is just another example of the "smoke and mirrors" leadership that is the Bush Administration. I hope and pray that the 9/11 Commission is able to break through the inconsistencies put forward by Dr. Rice and the Bush Administration. I hope and pray that the 9/11 Commission is able to break through the fog of deception and secrecy and to bring transparency and truth to the American people.

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson is from Mississippi.

## Letters to the Editor:

### Take Back our Children

Our community was in turmoil with senseless acts of gun violence even before Kendra James and James Jahad Perez's lives were taken.

I hear the phrase, take back our streets. Well take back and reclaim our children. The streets are fine; it's the blood of our children upon them that pollutes them.

What pollutes us is our mentality, caused by the oppression of inequality, hopelessness and happiness. Stress and anger festers within us like an open sore that has no time to heal before it's opened again. For nearly two decades there's been one death after another. Now adding insult to injury we are pained by police officers killing our young black men and women.

I have heard the cries of many mothers. I have cried with them; and one day I cried at the plight of losing my own son. During the rally and calls for justice, no one spoke about our greatest asset and investment—our children. No parent should outlive their child, yet many

are facing this devastation as they try to cope with the ever-present and resounding "why?"

Whether the gunfire comes from a police officer or from one of our own race, speak out! Life is sacred and once taken cannot be given back. The taking of life is irreversible. Yet for the loved ones left behind, the pain continues until we ourselves have departed.

I say no more blood of our children. It is the responsibility of all of us to stop the gang wars and to pray for the removal of corruption within the police department.

At this crucial time, let us give Chief Foxworth a chance to do all that is within his means to insure justice.

Justice has always come at a price and has been ever so slow. Yet we did not get this far without difficulty, patience, and endurance. Change must and will come, hopefully without more bloodshed.

I will never forget the mother's words of the first gang killing when she said "It is my child today, it'll be yours tomorrow." Let us press on that this shall not be. Save the children!

Thelma Stone

### African-American Candidates

Regarding last week's coverage by the Portland Observer on the city commissioner debate sponsored by the African American Chamber:

As you may know, there are seven candidates running for the Portland City Commissioner #1 position. Two of these candidates, including myself, happen to be African Americans. It is really disappointing, depressing and disheartening when the African American Chamber sponsors a city commissioner debate and snubs all the black city commissioner candidates!

As a longtime community activist, I'm really disappointed in the chamber's lack of support. If I were a white city commissioner candidate, I would seriously question the credibility of that organization in the black community!

White people don't have to kill off black people if they can get a "black organization" to do it for them! Wake up brothas and smell the racism!

Jerry Watson