

METRO

The Portland Observer



New England Patriots Win Superbowl

Deion Branch Given MVP

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SECTION B

Community Calendar

Get Fit, Stay Healthy!

Sankofaa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 6707 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

Riding the Waves of Change Lecture

Portland Community College will present a free lecture by Karen Howells on how to transition the psychological process of adjusting to change at the Multnomah County Central Library on Thursday, Feb. 10 from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, call 503-614-7308.

Love the Pooch

Problem pooch classes are a must take for anyone who may be new to the world of pet parenthood or is interested in considering adopting a new friend. Come to the Oregon Humane Society to find out why your dog does those silly little things. Meetings are every first and third Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. For more information, call 503-285-7722.

Women in NAACP

Women in NAACP meets from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month at the American Red Cross Building, 3131 N. Vancouver. For questions, call 503-249-6263.

Business Meeting

Join North/Northeast Business Association meetings on the first Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Albina Community Bank, 2002 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Morning networking meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club, 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. For more information, call 503-249-0487 or visit www.nneba.org.

AIDS Awareness

Albina Ministerial Alliance sponsors a bi-monthly Support and Education group for African Americans living with HIV/AIDS at Maranatha Church at 4222 NE 12th Street. The first group will meet Thursday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. and will continue every second and fourth Thursday of the month. For more information, call Elnathan Hudson at 503-285-0493 ext. 217.

Asian New Year

Portland Community College will celebrate the Asian New Year with music, entertainment, food, vendors and door prizes at the Southeast Center on Monday, Feb. 21 in the Great Hall. This is a free event open to the public. For more information, call 503-788-6262.

Sustainable Food

A workshop to explore ways to make foods affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 at St. Andrew Community Center, 4940 N.E. 8th Ave. Cost is a \$10 donation and lunch will be provided. Call 503-221-1054 ext. 203 to register.

Preschool Open House

Tillamook Cooperative Preschools holds its open house on Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 935 N.E. 33 Ave. Financial aid is available. For more information, call 503-234-1691.

Used Bookstore Sale

The Multnomah County Library's Title Wave Used Bookstore at 216 N.E. Knott Street will hold its 17th anniversary sale during the month of March. Sales will change daily. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 503-988-5021.

Giving Minority Students Hope

Life and law profession explored with role models

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Without a role model, it can often be difficult to mold oneself into the individual they want to be. A few Portland students are getting the chance to meet these heroes as local teens are paired with adults to offer the support and guidance they need to pursue their dreams.

The Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, a middle and high school program at 717 N. Killingsworth Ct., is exploring the law profession by working with mentors from the Minority and Black Student Law Association at Lewis and Clark College of Law.

The law students became involved when Roberta Phillips, president of the association, met with a teacher to see how she could get herself and other students involved in the mentoring program.

Phillips used to teach high school before she entered law school.

"I felt there was more with the community I could be doing. I felt there were kids that could benefit from meeting law students of color," she said.

Portland OIC students come from diverse backgrounds. Many of the students were referred to the school because of low academic achievement, behavioral issues or poor attendance, which makes the need for someone to look up to even greater.

"There's not much difference between us," Phillips said. "Everybody has something to give. Just spending time with someone builds your character. The kids feel valued. That's something you can't tell them - you have to show them."

Phillips said her goal was to get kids to think about higher education.

"Maybe if it doesn't feel so alien to them they won't be intimidated,"



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE KOVACICH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Roberta Phillips (right), president of the Black Student Law Association at Lewis and Clark College of Law, takes a group of students from north Portland's OIC school on a tour of the campus library.

"It's important that we don't let children fall through the cracks. Once we label kids high risk, if they're at risk for anything it's being ignored."

—Roberta Phillips, President of Black Law Association, Lewis and Clark College of Law

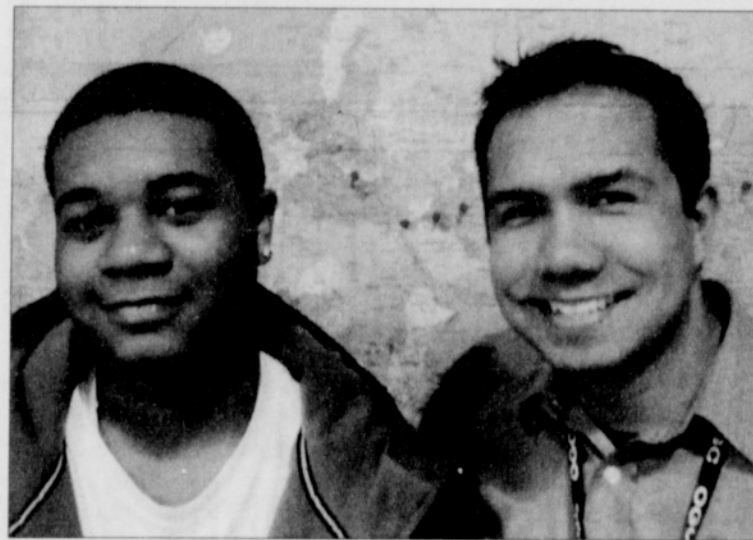
she said. "It's important that we don't let children fall through the cracks. Once we label kids high risk, if they're at risk for anything it's being ignored."

Marcus Chong Tim, a second year law student, works with Joshua Britton, a junior at Portland OIC.

"I like to share my experiences. Josh wants to go to college and I help him see where he wants to go," Chong Tim said. "Community involvement is very important. These kids are the next generation - we need to encourage them to go on to higher education. It's possible."

Britton said it's cool having a mentor to learn about different things.

"I never thought about law school," he said. "We'll be friends. He's a good person."



Junior Joshua Britton (left) with his mentor Marcus Chong Tim, a second year student at Lewis and Clark College of Law.

During an introduction between the mentors and students at Lewis and Clark College of Law, they were

asked to describe each other. Words like "ambitious," "creative" and "considerate" were used, and

it was found that many young students hoped to attend college to be doctors, lawyers or computer technicians.

Currently there are 15 Portland OIC students paired with mentors. Once a week, the pairs meet after school to work on homework, talk about life and its opportunities, play board games and create art.

Juanita McGull, a sophomore at the school, said that while taking a law class in high school, she learned of the mentoring program. She thought it would be a good way to meet someone involved in law.

"I thought we'd have things in common," she said. "We learn new stuff about each other every week." McGull said her mentor Connie

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College Textbook Prices On the Rise

Local study finds unnecessary price increases

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Imagine a classroom without textbooks. It's like a car without gas, and publishers are taking advantage of supply and demand in a way that burns holes in the pockets of starving college students across the nation.

A recent OSPIRG study showed that nearly a fifth of a student's yearly college costs are buying the textbooks required for study in class. An average of \$900 a year is spent on textbooks at a public four-year university.

Amy Connolly, OSPIRG's statewide affordable textbooks coordinator and sophomore at Portland State University, became interested in the campaign when she had to buy a book for \$160 with supplements that were never used in class.

"I really had no money to buy books," she said. "So it was the mere fact that I could not purchase my books in time. Students were being ripped off by a publishing company that claimed to want to help in the collegiate experience. They're in it for themselves."

Connolly said that OSPIRG, a statewide student run organization, helped put out a report last year as well, primarily for the West Coast. This year's report is more extensive and reaches to a national level.

Textbook prices are increasing at four



PHOTO BY KATHERINE KOVACICH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Book prices like those on the shelves at the Portland Community College bookstore bring sticker shock and make the cost of an education difficult to obtain.

times the rate for all finished goods, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Index.

Publishers will often make new editions of a book that are often unnecessary with only a few cosmetic changes. The fundamental information is often still there in a used book. A new edition will cost, on average, 45 percent more than a used copy of a previous edition.

"It's really unfortunate, given the rise of tuition. Textbook costs are the main other component of receiving a quality education."

—Amy Connolly, OSPIRG's statewide affordable textbooks coordinator

"It's really unfortunate, given the rise of tuition," Connolly said. "Textbook costs are the main other component of receiving a quality education."

Features like CD-ROMs and workbooks allow the publisher to bundle a book, which is 10 percent more than one that's unbundled. Half of all bundled books surveyed did not have an unbundled option on the shelf.

The publishers' reasoning for new, bundled books is because of new technology, Connolly said.

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