

Mentors Give Minority Students Hope

The kids feel valued. That's something you can't tell them — you have to show them.

— Lewis and Clark College of Law mentor Roberta Phillips

continued ▲ from Metro

Kong, a first-year law student at Lewis and Clark University, is "someone you can talk to about life and school."

Kong had already enjoyed volunteer opportunities, so mentoring seemed like something she wanted to try.

"There's a personal satisfaction from helping someone out," Kong said. She noted she's always had a good support system from family and friends.

Portland OIC teachers said that it's important that the mentors are people of color and come from various racial and ethnic groups because a child learning with someone from a similar background might find it easier to relate to that person, an important component when forming a relationship.

Mentor Antonio J. Gonzalez is a second-year law student who got into the program because he wanted to set an example for the next child.

"The Latino community has a



PHOTO BY KATHERINE KOVACICH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Sophomore Juanita McGull (left) with her mentor, first year law student Connie Kong.

high dropout rate," he said. "You can do it if you stick with it. We don't have to be relegated to service industry jobs."

Gonzalez also said mentoring allows a little break from graduate studies.

"The nature of grad school is isolating," he said. "You have to make an effort to keep tight ties with people. Otherwise it will quickly become an abstraction and not reality. I want to be out and working with people, to make sure I have an impact on the lay person."

Non-profit Portland OIC is part of an international collective of more than 66 community-based centers to provide education, training and job placement services to educationally and economically disadvantaged youth and adults.

For more information on the Portland OIC Mentoring Program, e-mail Kim Filla at kfilla@portlandoic.org.

Students Lose as College Textbook Prices On the Rise

continued ▲ from Metro

"One of my books that had a CD Rom was used twice and that was only for extra credit," Connolly said. "A lot of the books are wrapped in cellophane, you can't return it because it has to come with the whole package. They can't sell it back unbundled."

OSPIRG's 2003 study asked faculty whether new editions were justified and 76 percent said only "half the time" or less. It was found that 65 percent of faculty included terms like "rarely" or "never." This shows that the claim made by publishers that faculty are demanding new editions is false.

American students are also paying more for their books. Surveys



PHOTO BY KATHERINE KOVACICH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
New editions of textbooks sit on shelves at Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus.

on www.amazon.co.uk showed that books were twice as expensive in the United States than in the United Kingdom. On the Thomson Learning's website, all of the books found cost an average of 72 percent more in the United States than in the United Kingdom, Africa and the Middle East.

"It's so ridiculous," Connolly said. "It obviously shows that they don't care about us receiving an affordable education. In addition to that, our bookstore actually tried one year to bring in books from overseas. Once the publisher found out we were buying books from other countries they stopped letting us buy them online."

Connolly hopes that through the national campaign and media pres-

sure, publishers will stop putting out new editions every few years. "When things do change, you don't need to put out a whole new book if it's just a paragraph. If it's one chapter, add a packet. Students can then purchase an inexpensive supplement. With our economy, the prices are just skyrocketing with new editions," she said.

At Campusbookswap.com, a site set up by OSPIRG, students can buy, trade and sell their books online, similar to an E-bay format. "Many other schools work on their own book drives," Connolly said. "We're trying to spearhead a valuable used market on campus."

More information on the full report can be viewed at www.make-textbooksaffordable.org.



"YORK AND THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY"

A Lecture and Slide Show
with Dr. Darrell Millner

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

A Black Heritage Month Program
at the Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Avenue in downtown Portland

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Galleries open for viewing
6:30 - 7:45 p.m. Lecture and Slide Show

In this engaging presentation and slide show, Dr. Darrell Millner discusses the contributions of York to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and challenges long-standing ideas regarding the status of York as a slave after the expedition ended in 1806. Dr. Millner is Professor of Black Studies at Portland State University and author of the book *York of The Corps of Discovery*.

Free with Museum Admission.
(No charge to OHS Members)

For more information please call
503-222-1741 or go to www.ohs.org



Share Your Black History



Remembering the Vanport Flood: After a deadly flood on the Columbia River in 1948 when a dike broke, almost 20,000 residents of the now defunct city of Vanport were displaced, with 15 people confirmed dead. Vanport, the largest public housing project ever built in the United States, was a revolutionary community, crossing color lines and ridding its area of segregation. Mrs. Lizzie Phillips (above) and her children were one family left without a home.

*Photo memories
from past wanted*

Black History Month is here and the Portland Observer would like to share your personal photo memories from the past in our special coverage all month long.

Please stop by our offices at 4747 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. or email images to news@portlandobserver.com with information about the photo along with your name and telephone number. Photos will be returned.

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