

# Gaston on State Education Board

Urban League chief to advocate for children

Vanessa Gaston, president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Portland has been appointed to the State Board of Education.

The panel establishes state standards for public kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools and governs courses of study.

"I am honored and excited about being appointed to this board," said Gaston. "Our children's education is extremely important and we must identify solutions now that address the academic achievement gap and funding issues. I look forward to being part of this process." Gaston also is a member of the Portland Schools Foundation Board and participates in Leaders Roundtable, a coalition of business, civic, and educational leaders and elected officials in Multnomah County that



Vanessa Gaston

focuses on developing joint strategies to promote student success.

The Urban League of Portland is a nonprofit, community-based organization headquartered in north and northeast Portland that serves the greater Portland metropolitan area. The league helps empower African Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment and economic security through a combination of direct services, outreach and advocacy.



## Boys and Girls Club Gives Thanks

Representatives of Boys and Girls Club and Police Activity League sign a thank you banner related to last year's Safeway Classic Golf Tournament that recently donated \$775,000 to local charities including the Boys and Girls Club of Portland, Trillium Family Services, Police Activities League, the Children's Course and Oregon Junior Golf. This year's tournament will be held from Aug. 15 to 21 at the Columbia-Edgewater Country Club.

PHOTO BY JESSICA POUNDSTONE

### Ask Deanna!



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

Dear Deanna!

I'm a female that has a problem with the girly stuff. I'm not gay or anything like that, I just prefer to wear men's clothing and sports gear. People judge me, call me a lesbian and hurt my feelings because I want to be comfortable and just be myself. I can't take it anymore and want it to stop. -- Andrea W.; Leesville, La.

Dear Andrea:

Just like wearing hoochie clothes, you set yourself up for unwanted attention through your wardrobe. If your feelings are hurt then obviously this mistreatment both-

ers you. You're not as comfortable being in boys underwear as you pretend to be. Stop trying to be a Jack and go back to being Jill. If you want the harassment to stop, toss out the boxers, buy a thong and be the female you were born to be.

Dear Deanna!

My friend and I go to the club every weekend. Because I ride with her, she expects me to buy gas. When we get to the club, she wants me to pay her entry fee and buy drinks. I barely have enough left to pay my cover charge so I sit at a table all night

and can't have a good time because I don't have any money left. --Drained Dry; Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Drained:

If you can buy alcohol, you can fill up your gas tank and take yourself to the club. Ask your friend to ride with you and make her spend some money for a change. If she gets angry or develops an attitude, she's not a true friend. You are being used as a one-way ticket to a good time. Leave her dry on the curb and turn up the volume as you head to the dance floor.

Dear Deanna!

Help me with this dilemma. I'm starting a new friendship and want to know if you kiss on the first date, does that make you seem easy? I'm going out for the first time with a guy I really like and I don't want the smooch rules to mess things up. --Janice; Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Janice:

Forget easy, if you've never dated him before, you shouldn't be thinking about putting your lips on his body. You don't know if he's infected, has tart breath, diseases or what. The time when

kissing should occur is when it feels right for both people and after you've gotten to know each other. Don't get yourself embarrassed by trying to plan the kiss. If it's meant to be it'll happen.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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Contact: Dr. LeRoy Haynes, (503) 287-0261.

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