

METRO

The Portland Observer



Maggie Gibson Retires

See inside, page B5



Student Ambassador

For People to People

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SECTION B

Community Calendar

Healthy Kids Fair

Join the Emanuel Children's Hospital Healthy Kids Fair and Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 501 N. Graham.

PFLAG Celebrates

A weekend devoted to celebrating diverse cultures at the Northwest regional conference hosted by Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Participants from five states will gather at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree, April 21-23 for an workshops and entertainment, and an address from Mayor Tom Potter and keynote address from PFLAG National president Sam Thoron. For more information call Patricia Keeney at 503-233-5683 or visit <http://nwplagconf.tripod.com/>.

State of the Zoo Address: Director's Luncheon

Director Tony Vecchio will deliver his annual "State of the Zoo" address on Thursday, April 13 at 11:30 a.m., at the Oregon Zoo. For general information call 503-226-1561 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Candidates Forum

Meet candidates for Multnomah County Commissioner District 2 on Tuesday, April 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. at University Park United Methodist Church, 4775 N. Lombard at Fiske.

Brown Bag Lunch Series

Attend the Parkinson's Disease lunch series, "How to Get the Most Out of Medicare: purchasing the appropriate durable medical goods" on Friday, April 21 from noon to 1 p.m. at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, 9205 SW Barnes Rd, in Conference Room 12 in the lower level. For more information and to RSVP call 1-800-426-6806 or visit www.providence.org/brain.

Nursing Mothers Classes

Nursing Mothers Counsel of Oregon actively seeks volunteers to help advocate a woman's right to breastfeed her child. If you have had at least six months breastfeeding experience, attend the free training on Saturday, April 22 at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Women of diverse ethnic backgrounds and bilingual women are in high demand. For more information, contact Rachel at 503-380-2308 or Rachel@nursingmotherscounsel.org.

Reach the Beach

Register now for the May 20 cycle through wine country to Cape Kiwanda, in a ride benefiting the American Lung Association of Oregon. The event provides full support, food, hot showers, etc. To register, visit www.reachthebeach.org or call 503-459-4508.

Write Around Portland Seeks Volunteers

Are you interested in becoming a facilitator for Write Around Portland's volunteer-run ten-week workshop? The workshop is for low-income adults, homeless or mentally disabled people or others who face barriers to writing workshops. Contact Jill Tuleya at 503-796-9224.

Jefferson Alumni Basketball

On April 14 at 6 p.m. Jeffalums will play a total of three games: late 80s versus early 90s; late 90s versus 2000s; winners' championship. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. For more information, call 503-916-5180 (ext) 1352.

36

years of
community service

Youth Make U-Turns at Project Hope

The school-to-work program provides schooling and skills

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A 21-year-old with a criminal history and no high school degree faces many barriers to employment and homeownership. Project Hope, a non-profit school-to-work program, helps young people overcome those obstacles. Youth advocate Reba Strickland runs the project, located at 223 NE Russell St, with Scott Espedel and Pastor Richard Porbasco. Through its partnership with Portland Community College's Cascade Campus Skills Center, the project helps at-risk young men and women between the ages of 15 and 21 to build a better future by getting their GED, college degree or trade certificates.

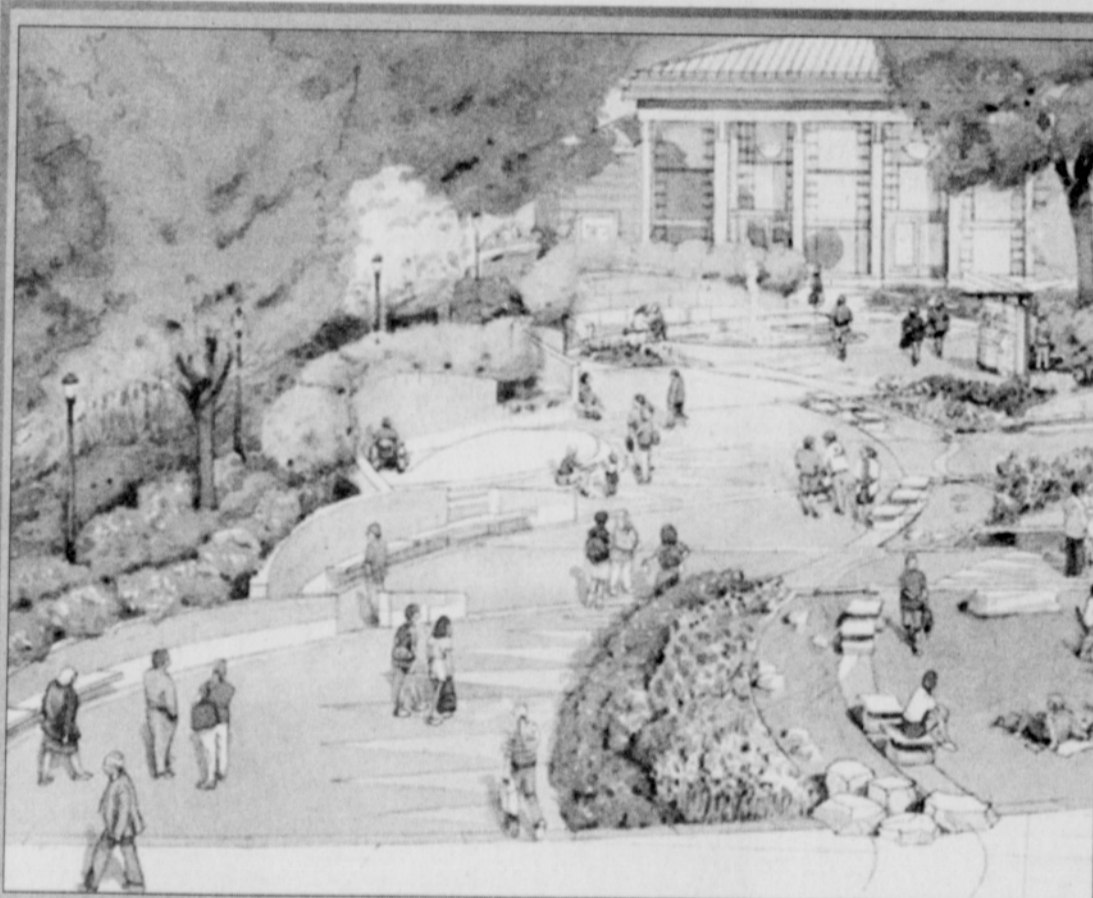
Project Hope pays for students' school fees, and sets them up with after-school employment assembling furniture. They sell the various items including chairs, bookcases, dressers, and beds on site and through an e-Bay business. Profits go to school costs and students' paychecks, which average between minimum wage and \$8.50 an hour.

Project Hope serves lunch each Friday with guest speakers on a range of topics from business to financial matters. Strickland is looking for business leaders and others in the community to speak at these lunches.

"A lot of kids don't know how to handle their finances and lifetime skills," Strickland said. "Whatever they have to offer these young adults, they need a lot of help."

Strickland said the three-person staff is looking for volunteers to mentor and tutor, and are seeking grants and donations. Those interested in purchasing furniture, donating or volunteering can contact Strickland at 503-287-4914.

Project Hope helps 15 to 21-year-olds get their education and offers them after-school employment.



An artist's design of the future Walk of the Heroines, a new community space paying tribute to women, coming to Portland State University.

Walk of the Heroines

New open plaza coming to Portland State

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland State University asks the question: Who is a heroine?

The answer will lie within the confines of new open plaza and walkway on the PSU campus, in what will be one of Portland's most impressive and beautiful manifestations of urban design.

The Walk of the Heroines, a campus and community partnership, is designed to be both a cultural attraction and lasting tribute to Oregon's women. It will be located at the juncture of the university and South Park Blocks, running perpen-

dicular, one block west of the blocks.

The walk's executive committee aims to break ground this summer, with a grand opening in the fall.

To experience the walk will be more than a quiet stroll. Once completed, the impressive display will combine several dimensions of tribute to individuals, with a park and community setting. The project's designers are committed to creating a diverse tribute, honoring women of many different cultures and eras.

"We've done a bit of outreach in

continued on page B6

Clash of the Class Clowns

High school comedy champs give new meaning to "sophomoric humor"

The Northwest's first annual High School Improv Comedy Championship is set to begin April 14. The event includes the best high school improv comedians from high schools in the Portland metro area battling for the honor to be top improv comedian. Jam Night, Portland's premier improv-sketch comedy show, along with Emperean Perspectives Inc. and Perspec+, will be hosting the Friday nights of competition in the Mahalia Jackson Hall in North Portland.

This first of its kind competition is a great opportunity for students to showcase their comedic prowess, theater skills, and to actually be rewarded for being the class clown.

The first night, Friday April 14, will showcase contestants from Riverdale,

Tualatin, Wilsonville, and Glencoe high schools. The second night, Friday April 21, will feature three Vancouver schools - Evergreen, Hockinson, and Mountain View. The last night of preliminary competition will take place on Friday April 28 between Sunset, Gresham, Lake Oswego and Lincoln high schools.

The finals will be held on Friday May 5 featuring the three winners from each of the preliminary rounds.

Each night of competition will begin at 9 p.m. in the Mahalia Jackson Hall located at 8131 North Denver Ave. Tickets are \$5 for general public and \$2 for students with high school ID. For more information call 503-735-4184 or visit www.jam-night.com.

UO Law School Honors Judge Clifford Freeman

Multnomah Circuit Court Judge Clifford Freeman will receive the 2006 Frohnmayer award for Public Service at a banquet in Portland on April 21.

The award ceremony, given by the University of Oregon School of Law Alumni Association, will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, 319 S.W. Pine St.

"Judge Freeman personifies the qualities of a good judge, a public servant, and a mentor - he doesn't seem to be affected by his own considerable power as he goes about living an exemplary life for the good of his community," said Ellen Rosenblum, Oregon Court of Appeals judge who has known Freeman



Clifford Freeman

for 30 years.

Freeman, a Portland native, earned degrees in economics, education, and law from the University of Oregon. A circuit court judge since 1996, Freeman was involved at the beginning of Portland's Community Courts and presided over them from 1998 until 2002. In addition to his extensive legal career, he has been a member of numerous local, state, and national boards and commissions. Freeman is currently Oregon's only African-American circuit court judge.

The Frohnmayer Award is given out yearly to recognize a graduate, faculty member, or friend whose public service brings honor to the School of Law.