

METRO

The Portland Observer

Go Northwest!
Murrayhill Little League
Advances to World
Series Semifinals
see Sports, page B6



SECTION B

Community Calendar

Corn Maze Challenge

The MaiZE at Sauvie Island's Pumpkin Patch challenges all ages with over three miles of intricate pathways, carved into a five-acre field of 12-foot corn. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday evenings until 10 p.m. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children and free for kids under five. Visit portlandmaze.com.

OAME Coffee and Issues

The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs will host a "Coffee and Issues Forum" networking opportunity on Friday, Aug. 25 from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. at the OAME Cascade Plaza, 4134 N. Vancouver Ave. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call Katina Williams at 503-249-7744.

Fort Vancouver Celebration

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site invites you to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the National Park Service's creation, Friday, Aug. 25, with lots of activities and opportunity to learn about the archeology and history that makes the fort special. Admission is free.

'I Have a Dream'

Learn how the local "I Have a Dream" foundation prepares low-income children for post-high school study or rewarding employment through mentoring, tutoring and scholarship. Open houses take place Wednesdays, Aug. 23, Sept. 13 and Oct. 5 at Woodlawn School, 7200 N.E. 11th Ave. For more information, call 503-287-7203 or visit ihadoregon.org.

Concerts at Blue Lake

The 'Music by Blue Lake' summer series wraps up with the eclectic South African group Fools in Paradise, Friday, Aug. 25, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Blue Lake Regional Park, located between Marine Drive and Sandy Boulevard off Northeast 223rd Ave.

Cancer Care Group

A free cancer support group meeting takes place Tuesday, Sept. 5 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Providence Professional Plaza Radiation/Oncology Conference room, 5050 N.E. Hoyt, Level B. Focus on learning to live fully and maintain hope and quality of life while living with cancer. Call 503-215-6015 for more information.

Women's Caregiving

A free health forum "When is it Time to Take Charge? Women and Caregiving" will help participants recognize red flags, cope with caretaking and provide community resources every woman can use. It takes place Thursday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center's Souther Auditorium, 9205 S.W. Barnes Rd. For more information, call 503-513-8404.

Family Fun at Irving Park

Portland Parks and Recreation and First Steps Sports Academy welcome all to Family FunDay, on Friday, Aug. 25 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Irving Park, 7 N.E. Fremont St. There will be food and entertainment, health screenings and more.

Hoyt Arboretum Trees

Discover the wonder of Hoyt Arboretum during "Meet the Trees" events through Sept. 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This free family experience includes tour maps and kids activity maps to explore more than 12 miles of trails through trees from all over the world, including. Visit hoytarboretum.org or call 503-228-8733.

36
years of
community service

Empowerment for the Next Generation

Youth activists rally the vote

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

2006 brings an "off presidential year" election, but local community organizers hope to offset low voter turnout by registering 1,000 young African Americans to vote for Oregon's next governor and state leaders.

Portland activist Karanja Crews spearheads the Community Fellows Program as an extension of his live cable television show Teen Summit: The Next Generation of Leaders.

Crews has brought together active groups within Portland's political circles, including the Oregon Bus Project, which has been mobilizing the youth vote since 2001, and the Youth Empowerment Institute.

Eight young African Americans participants of the Teen Summit are undergoing leadership training in government, politics and public policy.

The long term plan is designing a program that is sustaining for future election cycles, not just ones like this year, where voter drop-off in non-presidential elections is alarming.

"An election is an election, and it's crucial," said Cyreena Boston, constituency director for the Democratic Party of Oregon. "A statewide election is important because that's where it hits home, with school funding and health initiatives."

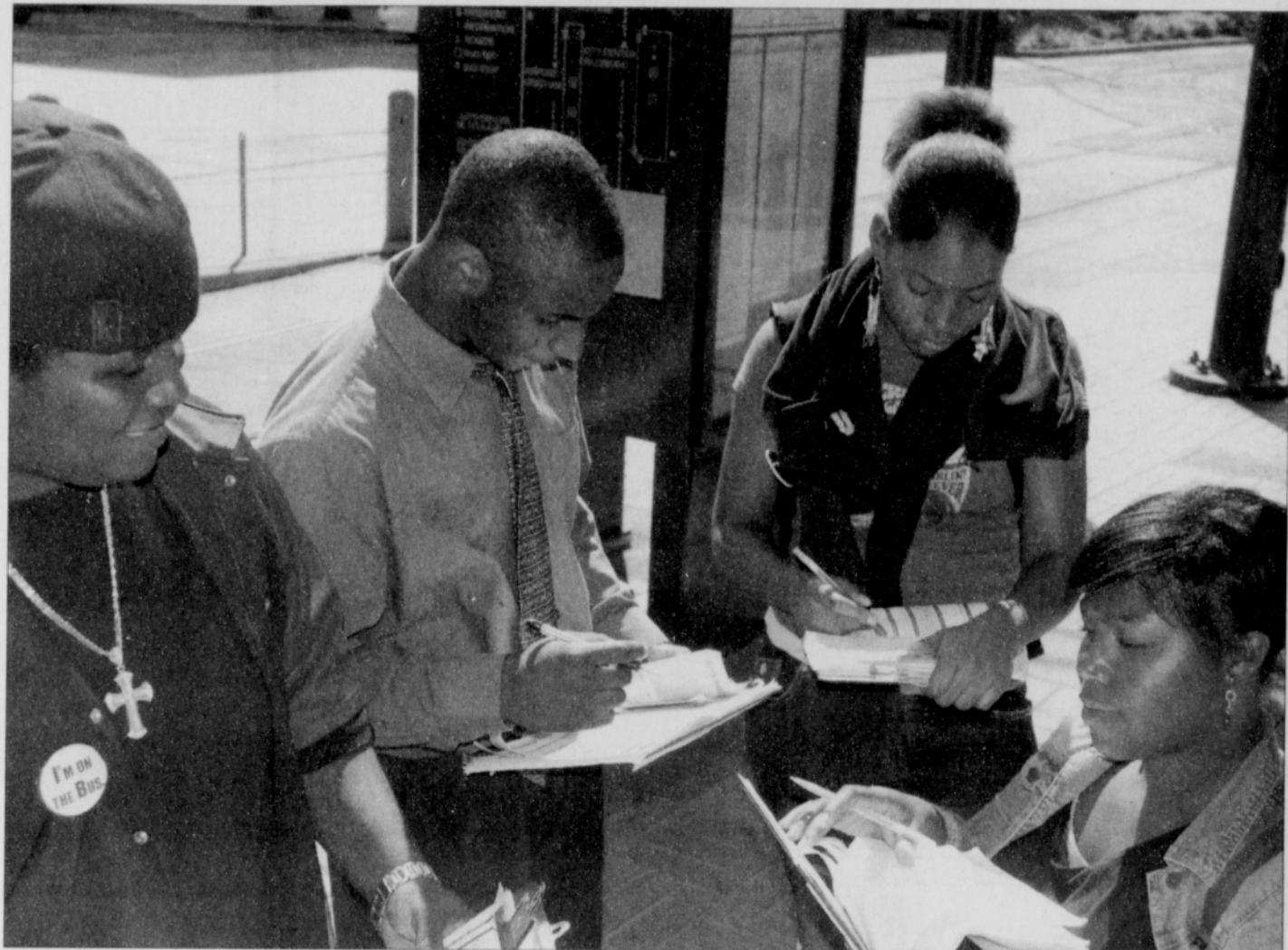


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Michael Caples, Gabriel Shank, Lakeisha Holloway and Chelsea Overton spend an afternoon registering voters near a MAX station at Holladay Park. The volunteers are trying to increase voting activity and public involvement among African American youth.

Crews will lead voter registration events until Oct. 17, the last day voters can sign up to vote for the Nov. 8 election, and will host get-out-the vote events until Election Day.

Participants have already registered

more than 100 voters from the first few events, including a National Night Out celebration at New Columbia.

Future events will target the faith community, a gospel festival, high schools, community fairs, public forums and town hall meetings, or any place they can find potential voters and future leaders.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Crews at 971-235-5197 or Boston at 503-381-7174.

Documentary Uncovers Neglected Elections Process

Sneak peak of 'By the People' at Cinema 21

By the People, a new behind-the-scenes documentary that exposes who and what it really takes to put on an American election, will screen Wednesday, Sept. 5 and Thursday, Sept. 7 at 5 p.m. at Cinema 21, as part of a nationwide theatrical release and in advance of the film's national television broadcast on PBS stations in October.

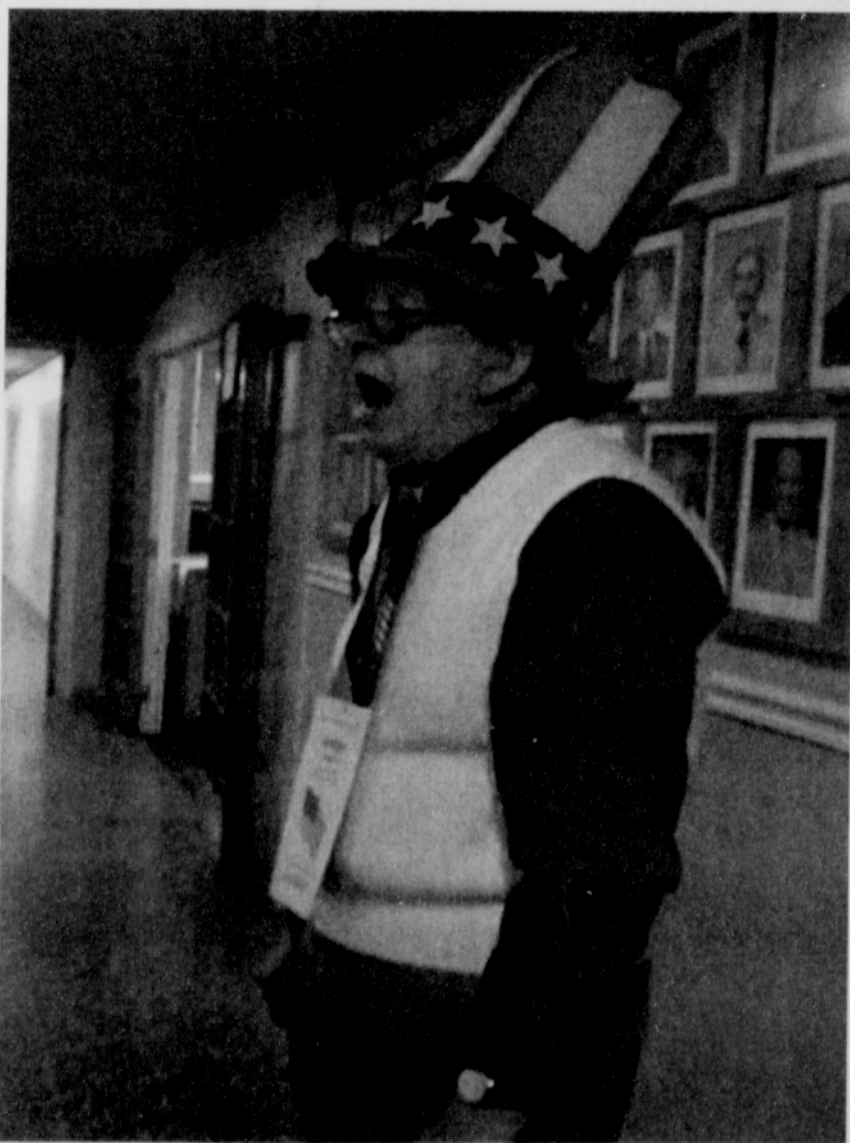
The Portland screenings will give audiences and critics alike an early look at this important film and a chance to take action prior to the 2006 elections. At screening across the country, the filmmakers has been partnering with local election boards, who are providing information and registering people as poll workers and to vote on site at each theater.

In By the People, first-time director Malindi Fickle provides an inside view of the challenges facing election officials across the country, revealing a fragile and neglected elections process with far-reaching and potentially catastrophic consequences.

Published reports during the 2004 Presidential election estimated a shortage of approximately 500,000 poll workers nationwide and put the average age of volunteer poll workers at 72. If the poll worker crisis is not alleviated in the coming years, if average citizens do not get involved, our democracy will be at risk.

The answer, says Fickle, is raising awareness about the process itself and illustrating how each citizen is relevant to the system.

"Everyone, including myself, thinks they know what it takes to put on an election. The truth is, the most important part of the political process—not our right to vote, but our ability to cast a vote—is also the most often taken for granted," said Fickle.



A behind-the-scenes documentary revealing a fragile and neglected elections process show an elections worker dressed up as Uncle Sam.

By The People unfolds over the 11 days leading up to the 2004 Presidential election, following a young County Clerk in Marion County, Indianapolis,

her small crew of government employees, and the dedicated volunteer poll workers. Unflinchingly honest and unexpectedly funny, the film captures average Americans of all political stripes working side by side to insure that everyone—including quadriplegics

and prisoners awaiting trial—are allowed to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

By the People is not about political scandal, media hype, election slogans, or partisan division. It is the story of real people, from all ages and political backgrounds, struggling to hold one of America's most basic freedoms together.

Cycle Portland

The Curse of the Courteous Driver

BY SARAH BLOUNT

My bike and I almost caused a wreck the other day, at a crosswalk on Martin Luther King Boulevard. My brush with danger was no biggie since I ride daily and I'm aware of the dangers lurking on MLK. What was significant this time was the realization that drivers are getting friendlier to cyclists, but they're still a minority.

As I waited for my chance to cross this busy street during rush hour, along came the bane of my biking existence—the courteous driver.

On one hand, the "courteous driver" is the cyclist's friend; as an ambassador of drivers everywhere, they strive to bring harmony to the shared roadways. On the other hand, cyclists can't always appreciate them. This is because no matter how friendly a driver is, cyclists and other drivers sometimes misunderstand their concessions. Another reality is that most cars will not join them in letting cyclists use a crosswalk.

In my case, one (very courteous) car decided to yield, but the driver behind him wasn't so patient. As this car tried to pass, it cut off a driver in the other lane. I stood back and watch the honking and tire screeching from the sidelines. I know better.

Portland bike lawyer Ray Thomas writes: "While the laws in Oregon's vehicle code clearly provide non-motorists with the right of way in crosswalks, the laws of physics require careful assertion of pedestrian legal rights on the street".

Careful assertion should be used sparingly during rush hour, because physics triumph over any law or concept humans invent.

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