

Zoo Workers Apologize



PHOTO BY SEAN O'CONNOR/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
A giraffe browses near the wall of its zoo enclosure.

"In this case, I really feel bad for Ken, because I think this is truly a case of him being so far from having any kind of prejudice it never occurred to him this might be offensive," he added.

Zoo workers received another apology by email a few weeks ago, this one by new elephant barn supervisor Joe Sebastiani, who showed up for his first day of work, Aug. 21, sporting a bumper sticker that said "Earth's Most Endangered Species: The White Race".

Sebastiani told zoo officials the sticker was a joke played on him by former co-workers. The sticker has been traced to the National Alliance, a neo-Nazi organization based in Hillsboro, West Virginia.

Vecchio said after Sebastiani issued the email to all zoo employees no further action was taken. He was adamant in saying the recent events were not reflective of any prejudice on behalf of the zoo.

"I think we never stopped being a welcoming place for everybody," Vecchio said. "We would never do anything we think our visitors or staff find offensive."

He also pledged to make the zoo a more enjoyable place for diverse audiences, to diversify its workforce, and be a nationwide player in zoo diversity issues.

continued ▲ from Front

sion to display the pictures by Carmen Hannold, the zoo's deputy director.

But Hannold may have not been aware there would be a Confederate flag within the photograph, according to Oregon Zoo Director Tony Vecchio, who was out of town at the time of the incident. Hannold could not be reached

for comment.

Vecchio told the Portland Observer that Metro, the regional government agency that owns and operates the zoo, has extensive policies against harassment, but no clear direction on the depiction of photographs that may be considered offensive.

"I'm sure there will be, and I'm going to talk to Carmen," Vecchio said.

Vote Could Send Lawmakers Packing

continued ▲ from Front

promote candidates of color.

"Both parties have failed to aggressively recruit and promote candidates of color," she said. "Future candidates will come in other ways, and we'll see candidates who have ties to their own communities."

"I was an example of that as a community based activist," she added. Gordly has also been elected as a Democratic Party candidate, but recently switched her voter registration to Independent.

A study published in August by the National Conference of State Legislatures backs the

argument that term limits erode the effectiveness of state legislatures with inexperienced lawmakers and polarized legislative bodies.

The group disputes claims that term limits bring greater social, gender and racial diversity in legislatures and decrease in political careerism.

But Farago said those conclusions are self-serving

"They are a self-interested group that represents incumbent state legislatures," he said. "If you look at any open seat you'll see greater diversity of candidates. When you look at an incumbent, they will often run completely unopposed."

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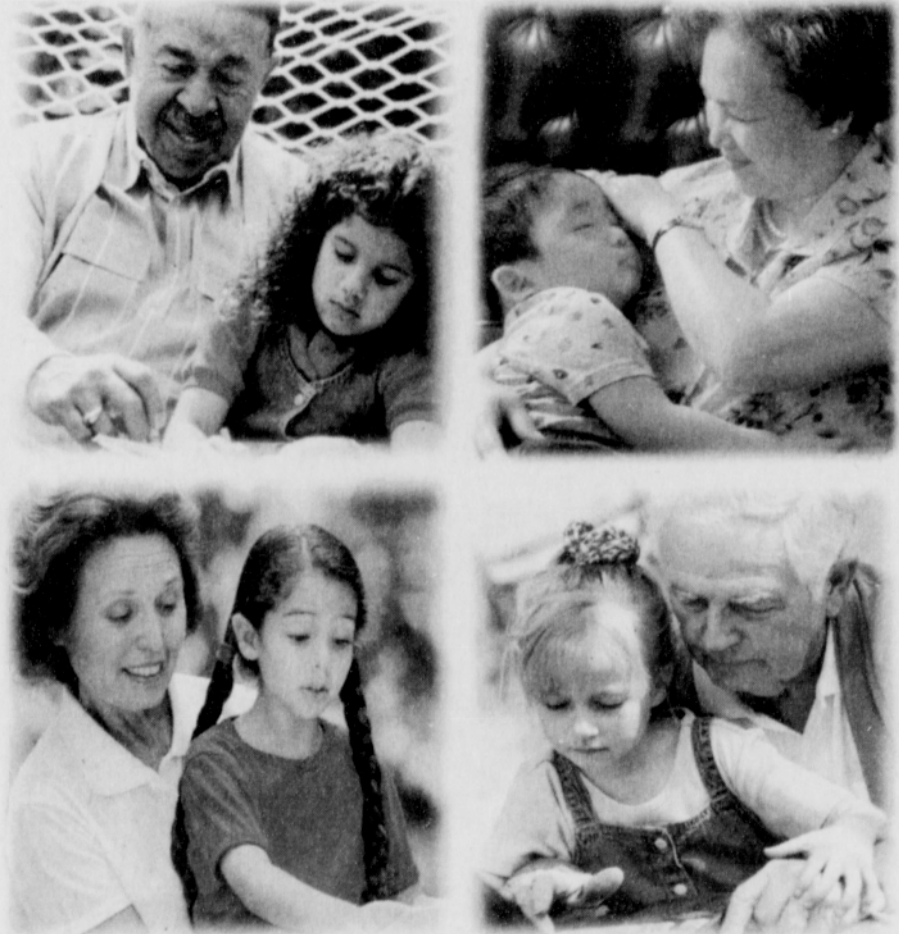
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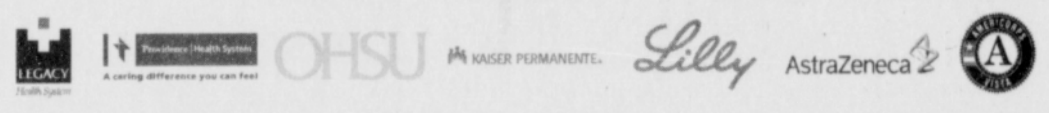
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2nd Annual Health Disparities Conference:
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Ambridge Event Center (formerly Portland Convention Center)
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For community members, health care providers, and policy makers to generate solutions to health disparities in Oregon.

Keynote address by Dr. Joy Leary:
"Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome"

- 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Registration (\$150 for lunch and the workshop)
- 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. State of Black Health Report by Oregon State DHS
- 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch & Keynote Address by Dr. Leary
- 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Workshop by Fred Miller, "African American Health: The Good... the Bad... and the Ugly"

Saturday Oct. 21st, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

11th Annual Wellness Village at The Blazers Boys & Girls Club
5250 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

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 - Cooking demo & tastings
 - Gospel choir
 - Children's activities
 - Raffle prizes