

# Cycle Portland

BY SARAH BLOUNT

David Yandell is easily bored. He's also prone to drunken epiphanies behind the Megatouch machine, those videogame fixtures of Portland dive bars.

Gruff and twitchy in a wise-guy kind of way, Yandell will openly talk about his life with bipolar disorder.

"Lots of strange things happen in my world," he says.

Yandell is also a community hero for kids in need of bikes each Christmas.

A Radio Cab driver for 22 years, he doesn't even ride a bike. He doesn't have a bank account either, but will help give away 300 bikes this holiday season thanks to his New Bike Project, a charity he jumpstarted four years ago.

The bikes will bring to 800 the total number he has had a hand in giving to disadvantaged children, mainly because he started getting bored with giving away turkeys, another philanthropic hobby of his.

All this from a man who waxes about how little he can relate to normal society ("I don't understand mom, dad, prom," he says) and likes surprising reporters by catching big words they throw at him, like esoteric, a label to which he takes slight offense.

But Yandell understands more of society than he lets on. After a childhood of foster homes, social ineptitude and occasional incarceration, Yandell enrolled at Portland State University to get a jumpstart on his irony-laden and altruistic future by earning degrees in psychology and sociology with a minor in philosophy.

He has sharpened the edges of his socialist nature and scatological sense of humor to become somewhat of a media darling in Portland. You will hear about him on the radio and local news broadcasts especially during the holidays when he organizes the turkey and bike donations.

He calls his insatiable drive for media attention "Yandellization," and this is what catches the eyes, ears and wallets of financiers like prominent city developers, corporations and labor unions — all of whom donate time and money to Yandell's whimsical causes.

"When I hit a plateau it's time to keep moving," he said.

Let's hope he doesn't get bored giving bikes and helmets to children after this year's giveaways, which take place Monday, Dec. 11 at Beech Elementary; Tuesday, Dec. 12 at Vernon Elementary; Wednesday, Dec. 13 at Rosa Parks Elementary and the same day at King Elementary; Thursday, Dec. 14 at Boise Eliot Elementary and Friday, Dec. 15 at Clarendon Elementary.

Sarah Blount is a reporter for the Portland Observer.

# Political Imprisonment Charged

continued ▲ from Front

"We are hoping for a reversal and remand for a resentencing in district court," McCrea said, adding that a three judge panel for the 9th circuit will take an unspecified amount of time before ruling.

The case has drawn national attention and a spectrum of the local community in solidarity of civil liberties.

Kayse Jama, founder of the Portland's Center for Intercultural Organizing and friend of the Ford family, was among supporters.

"I don't know when we became a nation where we convict people for their beliefs," said Jama, a fellow Muslim who believes Ford is a political prisoner.

Students, including Abdul Boutnach of Morocco, members of the local Roman Catholic parish attended by Ford's father Kent, and several individuals holding "Free Lumumba" placards also joined Ford's mother outside during the hearing.

The father stepped out of the courthouse looking grim, but said he is hopeful and thanks everyone for their prayers.



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In solidarity of their support for civil liberties, family and friends of Patrice Lumumba Ford rally Monday to overturn his 18 year prison term for trying to travel to Afghanistan just ahead of the U.S. government's 2001 invasion of the country.

## Attorney Turns Attention to PSU

Attorney Henry "Chip" Lazenby Jr. has turned his attention to Portland State University as the institution's interim general counsel.

A former general council for the Portland Development Commission and others, Lazenby is responsible for assisting PSU in litigation and legal representation of the university, its officers and employees.

"Chip has the knowledge and experience we're looking for in a general counsel," said PSU President Daniel O. Bernstine. "His familiarity with the region, and with state and local governments, as well as his experience in the role of general counsel, will serve the university well."

Lazenby runs Lazenby & Associates, a consulting business that works with a wide range of cli-



Henry 'Chip' Lazenby Jr.

ents, including public entities, small business, community development corporations, developers and contractors. He is a former counsel to Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber. He has a degree from Harvard Uni-

versity and the University of Oregon where he earned his law degree and a master's of business administration.

Lazenby is involved with a number of community and professional organizations, including the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association and the LaSalle North High School board, Portland City Club's board of governors, co-chair of the Portland-Multnomah County Sustainable Development Commission, and Oregon Holocaust Resource Center board of directors.

## Give Away Helps Needy

The congregation of Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave., is sponsoring its "Be A Blessing" give-away for the holiday season with clothing and household items to assist those in need.



Rev. J.W. Matt Hennessee

Only quality items will be given away, everything from gently used

to new clothing for all ages and sizes to backpacks, duffels and other items. The event will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church's Fellowship Hall.

"God has been so good to us and we want to pay it forward," said J.W. Matt Hennessee, church senior pastor.

For more information, call 503-282-9496 or [vancouveravechurch.org](http://vancouveravechurch.org).

## Free Haircuts at Moore Street

The Salvation Army Moore Street Center, 5325 N. Williams Ave., is gearing up for its 24th annual free Christmas haircuts.

On Monday, Dec. 18, children through age 16, can receive a free haircut donated by professional hair cutters, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

With fun and festive activities and goodies, both children and parents will enjoy this special time. The kids receive their free haircuts on a first come, first served basis, with no appointment necessary.

For more information, call Anita or Cheryl at 503-493-3925.

## Trust Fund Helps Fire Victim

Sister Melva Holmes lost her home in a fire, and now the community can help by donating to a trust fund set up at

U.S. Bank in her honor. For more information, please contact James Loving at 360-213-7543.

THE OREGON SYMPHONY'S  
**GOSPEL CHRISTMAS**  
DECEMBER 8-10 • 7:30 PM

Let holiday spirits high with the joyful sounds of Christmas. Dynamic conductor Charles Floyd joins inspirational soloists and the passionate and powerful Northwest Community Gospel Chorus for this heart-stirring celebration of the season. **TICKETS \$25-73**

OREGON SYMPHONY 503.228.1353 **OrSymphony.org** PortlandTribune

**ARLENE SCHNITZER CONCERT HALL** SW Main & Broadway - Portland Center for the Performing Arts

## Free Internet Begins

continued ▲ from Front

which provides wireless broadband access with speeds comparable to DSL. In addition, Microsoft will partner with the company to provide local content and services, including weather, news and maps.

In time, the city of Portland expects to use the wireless cloud to streamline some government services through real-time communication with workers in the field.

For example, meters may be read with wireless devices, or citizens could instantly report nuisances like street pot-holes.

"Almost half of the U.S. population still does not have Internet access at home," said Mayor Potter. "Only about 30 percent of youth in the lowest household-income bracket use computers at home as com-

pared to over 90 percent of youth in the highest income bracket.

The city's wireless internet initiative called "Unwire Portland" will enhance digital technology opportunities in Portland and "help us in our goal of achieving equal access to technology," Potter said.

The network is modeled on wireless broadband networks that MetroFi has built and operates in Aurora, Ill.; plus the California cities of Foster City, Cupertino, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, San Jose and Concord.

Advertising pays for the service. Inaugural Portland sponsors include KPTV, the Boyd Coffee Company and Windermere Cronin & Caplan Realty.

The MetroFi Free Portland network is expected to be completed in all local neighborhoods by mid 2008.

**NEW SEASONS MARKET**

*Pharmacy*  
AT ARBOR LODGE

Meet your Pharmacist, Melinda Butler.

**YOUR LOCALLY OWNED, NEIGHBORHOOD PHARMACY AT ARBOR LODGE**  
N INTERSTATE AVENUE & PORTLAND BLVD • 503.467.4848  
[www.newseasonsmarket.com](http://www.newseasonsmarket.com) • MON-FRI 9am-7pm • SAT 9am-6pm • SUN 10am-4pm

**Yes! We are a regular pharmacy!**

- ✓ We fill prescriptions — including antibiotics, high blood pressure medications, anti-depressants, birth control, and more.
- ✓ We have knowledgeable, friendly pharmacists who have the time to share information.
- ✓ Our prices are competitive. We accept most insurance plans and are adding others as requested.
- ✓ We specialize in custom compounding.

New pharmacy customers! Transfer a prescription & get a \$10 gift card. (one gift per customer please)