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 wiseguy 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 Cabdriver 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 dr media attention "Yandellization," and this is what catches the eyes, ears and wallets of financers 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.

Cycle Political Imprisonment Charged

continued A 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 council.

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."



Henry 'Chip' Lazenby Jr.

ents, including public entities, small business, community development corporations, developers and con-Lazenby runs Lazenby & Asso- tractors. He is a former counsel to ciates, a consulting business that Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber. He works with a wide range of cli- 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 La Salle 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.

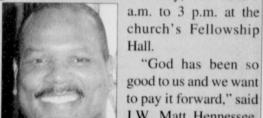
Give Away Helps Needy

The congregation of to new clothing for all ages and Vancouver Avenue First Bap- sizes to backpacks, duffels and tist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver other items. The event will be Ave., is sponsoring its "Be A held on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 9

Blessing" giveaway for the holiday season with clothing and householditems to assist those in need.

Only quality

items will be given away, everything Rev. J.W. Matt from gently used Hennessee



"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.

Free Haircuts at Moore Street

The Salvation Army Moore annual free Christmas haircuts.

free haircut donated by professional hair cutters, from 10 a.m.

With fun and festive activities Street Center, 5325 N. Williams and goodies, both children and Ave., is gearing up for its 24th parents will enjoy this special time. The kids receive their free On Monday, Dec. 18, children haircuts on a first come, first through age 16, can receive a served basis, with no appointment necessary.

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

Trust Fund Helps Fire Victim

her home in a fire, and now the more information, please coning to a trust fund set up at 7543.

Sister Melva Holmes lost U.S. Bank in her honor. For community can help by donat-tact James Loving at 360-213-



Free Internet Begins

continued A from Front

which provides wireless broadband access with speeds comweather, news and maps.

In time, the city of Portland technology," Potter said. expects to use the wireless cloud to streamline some gov- wireless broadband networks ernment services through real- that MetroFi has built and optime communication with erates in Aurora, Ill.; plus the workers in the field.

For example, meters may be read with wireless devices, vale, San Jose and Concord. or citizens could instantly report nuisances like street pot- vice. Inaugural Portland spon-

Internet access at home," said Realty. Mayor Potter. "Only about 30 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 parable to DSL. In addition, initiative called "Unwire Port-Microsoft will partner with the land" will enhance digital techcompany to provide local con- nology opportunities in Porttent and services, including land and "help us in our goal of achieving equal access to

The network is modeled on California cities of Foster City, Cupertino, Santa Clara, Sunny-

Advertising pays for the sersors include KPTV, the Boyd 'Almost half of the U.S. Coffee Company and population still does not have Windermere Cronin & Caplan

The MetroFi Free Portland percent of youth in the lowest network is expected to be completed in all local neighborhoods by mid 2008.

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