

Little League Draws Support From Friends of Baseball

Friends of Baseball, an advised fund of the Oregon Sports Authority Foundation, is partnering with Peninsula Little League and the Lady Ballers Softball Team to pay for much needed equipment and travel.

Keenan Longcor, a trustee and founder of Friends of Baseball attended Saturday's opening weekend celebration to announce a grant of \$1,224 for Peninsula to purchase a popcorn popper and snowcone machine.

"We are thrilled to assist these teams, their amazing volunteers and ultimately, the children of this neighborhood. One of our goals is to assist in efforts to create long term sustainability for our grantees. With Peninsula Little League growing from 12 to 17 teams this season, we are thrilled to assist in their success," Longcor said.

Additionally, FOB announced a grant of \$1,500 to the Lady Ballers U14 Softball



Opening weekend for the Peninsula Little League, serving north and northeast Portland, included some greatly needed financial support from the Oregon's Friends of Baseball Foundation.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Team, who won the State Games of Oregon this past summer. These funds will provide both new equipment and assist in travel expenses so that the team may represent Oregon in the State Games of America this season.

A Friends of Baseball/Lady Ballers reception and grant presentation will be held on Saturday, April 21 at 2 p.m. at Alberta Park in northeast Portland.

Leslie Goodlow-Baldwin, who is active with both organizations, was instrumental

in sharing the needs of these two organizations.

"By receiving these grants, kids from north and northeast Portland will have the opportunity to excel and compete at a higher level," Goodlow-Baldwin said. "In

addition to providing this field equipment, this grant provided us the opportunity to purchase concession equipment that will enable our league to generate revenue and to continue to upgrade equipment and uniforms."

Tangled over Abortion

continued ▲ from Front

"I want to know," Williams asked, "are they (the opposition) the same ones who will address the issue when babies don't have health care, and when their mothers don't have employment?"

Williams said he is more concerned that Planned Parenthood fulfills their promise of economic development. Greenberg said the non-profit plans to hire African Americans.

"That's the key question," Williams said. "There has to be employment for African Americans coming in."

Groups who oppose the clinic do exist within the minority community of the neighborhood. A non-profit just north of the site isn't thrilled about their potential neighbors, and wonders why Planned Parenthood wants to set up shop "on the most drug infested, poverty stricken corner of the city."

The question was posed by Shaheed Haamid, lay leader of the adjacent Muslim Community Center. Haamid said he opposes the clinic on obvious moral grounds, but on a secular level as well.

"I think it's a travesty to put it right next to a mosque," he said, adding



PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Shaheed Haamid and his Muslim Community Center are next door to the proposed new Portland headquarters for Planned Parenthood. Haamid is opposed to the women's health and family planning clinic on moral grounds because of the abortion issue.

that it was insensitive of Planned Parenthood not to gather community input.

But King pointed out talks between one of the agency's commissioners and leaders of the Muslim center. Haamid said that is because the particular commissioner is a fellow Muslim, but they still stand firm

on their objections to the clinic.

North Portland resident and African American Eugenia Slater also opposes the clinic, based on the racist beliefs of the clinic's founder, Margaret Sanger, who lived during the turn of the century.

"That's offensive to me as a minority," she said.

Slater said she is a former client of Planned Parenthood, but after her birth control pills raised her blood pressure she began reading up on their history and her opinion changed.

"They profit from promoting their agenda," she said. "By dispensing birth control pills and by promoting promiscuity."

Greenberg disagrees. He points out that in 1966 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. accepted the Margaret Sanger Award, the organization's highest honor.

"We're not trying to prevent child-bearing," he said. "We do a lot of education and counseling."

Greenberg also noted that at the current northeast location, abortion constitutes less than two percent of services.

Legal Help Fails Blacks

continued ▲ from Front

evidence," said Barton. "Who knows what would have happened to O.J. with limited resources."

Barton says that the average defendant doesn't have access to DNA testing or a "dream team" of lawyers, and that can be a proxy indicator of racism.

Henry, who helped start NAACP branches in Corvallis, Salem and Eugene, believes that having more attorneys that are competent in the cultures of their clients is just one step in the legal process that will make it easier for blacks to get the assistance they need.

Founded in 1977, the multi-hundred member OABA is a civil rights organization that often hears complaints about biased legal care.

Henry said the inability to find a good lawyer is the fate for many black Oregonians.

"I want attorneys to be aware that they have a duty to represent in an unbiased and affective manner," said Henry. "I don't care if you like me or not but you ought to be able to represent me."

Walsh said there are almost 13,000 registered lawyers in Oregon and only 100 of them define themselves as black.

Being the same race as a client is also not an indicator of good legal service, Henry says, but to him it is important that lawyers know about the culture of the client they represent.

Currently, HB 2886 is in the Judiciary Committee and is not on the schedule to be discussed.



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