

# METRO

The Portland Observer



## Paintings Inspire Dayton Dancers

Boast the world's largest repertoire of works by African-American choreographers. See A & E, page C3

37  
years of  
community service

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Reflections Hosts Author

Saturday, April 21, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Reflections and The Talking Drum Book Store, 446 N.E. Killingsworth, presents James Gordon, author of the Unbegotten Series, signing his newly released book Nationhood.

### Financial Aid Workshop

Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Mt. Hood Community College Office of Financial Aid will host financial aid workshops in the College Library, Room 3333. The seminars begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue each half hour throughout the day. Call 503-491-7262 for more information.

### Earth Day Spiffin' Up

Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the community is needed to join together in pride to clean up litter and graffiti along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Volunteers will meet at 3117 N.E. MLK Blvd. at 8 a.m. To volunteer, visit solv.org.

### Neighborhood Clean Up

Saturday, April 21, the North Portland-Earth Day clean-up project invites residents to drop off unwanted recyclable goods to 4340 N. Lombard. For more drop off sites and information on how you can help clean up the neighborhood, call 503-823-4099.

### Urban Scavenger Hunt

Saturdays and Sundays, April 21-22 and April 28-29, the Give a Buck for Buckman Association will host an architectural urban scavenger hunt to help raise awareness to preserve the historical neighborhood. Join the fun, learn something new and make a difference. Visit pyung.com/dev or call 503-236-2214.

### Nursing Scholarship

The Black United Fund is seeking applications for the Linfield School of Nursing Scholarship. Email cjenkins@bufor.org or visit bufor.org for application packets.

### African American Council

You're invited on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. when the African American Advisory Council meets at the King Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. Call 503-823-0000 for more information.

### Autism Walk-A-Thon

Sunday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Autism Society of Oregon, launches the 5th annual fundraising walk-a-thon from Oaks Park near the east end of the Sellwood Bridge. For registration forms, visit autismwalkathon.com.

### Party for the Planet

Sunday, April 22, from noon to 4 p.m., the Oregon Zoo, 4001 S.W. Canyon Rd., will host an Earth Day event. For more information visit: oregonzoo.org or call 503-226-1561.

### Earth Day: Pinot Pedal

Sunday, April 22, Urban Wineworks and Bishop Creek Cellars, host the 20-mile inner city bike ride. The ride will kick off at noon, from Urban Wineworks, 407 N.W. 16th Ave., with lots of fun, food and exercise. For more information visit orbike.com.

### Fostering Diversity

Thursday, April 26 thru Friday, April 27, Mt. Hood Community College and Portland State University, will host the two-day conference to address critical diversity-related issues in the Portland and Gresham communities, with educational, business and cultural leaders. Call 503-491-7254 for more information.

### 82nd Avenue of Roses Parade

Saturday, April 28, at 9 a.m., beginning at the Eastport Plaza, 4000 S.E. 82nd Ave., the parade will travel north on 82nd turning west at S.E. Yamhill, disbanding at S.E. 78th Ave. For more information or to participate contact: 503-771-3817.

### SOLV-IT Challenge

Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Portland General Electric presents the SOLV-IT Challenge, the largest Earth Day clean up event in the metropolitan area. Volunteers are needed. Visit solv.org or call 503-844-9571.

### Women's Health Conference

Saturday, April 28, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Oregon Convention Center, New York columnist, Jane Brody, will be discussing issues related to women's health. To register call 503-494-0712 or visit ohsuwomenshealth.com.



A historic photo is testament to a lack of a color line in Vanport when a diverse group of children and adults gather for Bible school class at Vanport's Recreation Center No. 5.

# Parallel to New Orleans

## Survivor speaks to Vanport's multicultural legacy

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Culture shock is a mild term for what people of the 1940s experienced upon moving to Vanport. The town located near the Columbia River between Portland and Vancouver was one of the country's only multicultural housing projects.

Everyone shopped at the same new-fangled supermarkets and utilized the same publicly funded 24-hour daycare. It was a mini-city of 18,000 people and more than one-third of them were black.

But just when people got used to this multicultural experiment, they were shocked again by floodwaters which washed away everything. The spectacle paralleled the hurricane hitting the Ninth Ward of New Orleans.

"The Katrina disaster sort of rebrought that home for me," says Dale Skovgaard, who recently submitted his memories of living in Vanport to the Oregon Historical

Quarterly. His essay discusses many aspects of life and disaster at Vanport, but he felt comfortable going into much more detail about race relations in an exclusive

interview with the Portland Observer.

Vanport was a particular shock for this 10-year-old boy from southwestern Minnesota.

"I had never seen African Americans, except in movies," says Skovgaard, "but then I walked through a black community every day on my way to school...I guess you'd call that segregation in that they would house people in different districts."

While most of Vanport's blacks attended a Baptist African American congregation, Skovgaard's family "of course" went to a Lutheran church with the white religious folk of the community. But Skovgaard thinks that Vanport's integrated schools worked quite well.

He remembers only one incident while walking to school with a trumpet and encountering a black boy who insisted on playing it. "My dad told me to never let anyone else blow my horn," he says.

Skovgaard's experience was child's play compared to issues in other areas



A racially integrated town of 18,000 people, unusual for America in 1948, lays destroyed after the Vanport flood.

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# Ebony Fashion Fair Presents:

'Stylishly Hot,' — a benefit for local scholarships

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual Ebony Fashion Fair "Stylishly Hot" will appear in Portland at the Oregon Convention Center on Friday, April 20 at 8 p.m.

The world's largest traveling fashion show is produced and directed by Eunice W. Johnson, a premier fashion authority. The show is sponsored by The Portland Chapter of The Links, a national African American women's organization. Proceeds benefit local scholarships.

This extraordinary show will reveal fresh, original and exciting designs, featuring the latest styles by world-famous designers, such as Bill Bass, Oscar de la Renta, Carolina Herrera, Vivienne Westwood and Jean Louis Scherrer.

Thirteen magnificent models, including 11 gorgeous women (including a full-figured model) and two strikingly handsome men will don the breakthrough designs.

The show is characterized by its glamour, elegance and beauty and has all of the energy of a Broadway show. The flare of the world's most creative clothing designs make Ebony Fashion Fair's "Stylishly Hot" an event not to be missed!

Jonnie Reed Bell, general chairman of the benefit performance, indicates ticket sales are going exceptionally well and she expects an even larger attendance than last year.

No tickets will be sold at the door, but are available in advance at Geneva's Shear Perfection, 5601 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., 503-285-1159; Simply Elegant Nails, 35 N.E. 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave., 503-262-8208; One Stop Music Store, 1615 N.E. Killingsworth St., 503-284-2435; Tondalayera Designers Salon, 5401 N.E. Cully Blvd., 503-284-0712; Talking Drum/Reflections Book Store,

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A design by Gianni Caglinano  
Couture of Rome has Swarovski crystals and stripes of satin ribbon ornamenting a back laced bustier worn atop a ball skirt uniquely covered with cascading abstract shapes cut from sheets of opaque plastic.

