

METRO

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Praise and Worship

Local singer/songwriter Gloria Stidum performs a free admission concert at Emmanuel Temple Church, 1033 N. Sumner, on Saturday, June 9 at 6:30 pm. Call Coreinne Peters at 503-758-4556.

Youth Summer Sports

July 5 through July 27, the summer youth sports program is held on the Portland State University campus, providing low-income youths ages 10-16, with sports instruction, field trips, a free medical exam and two free meals daily. Registration is open now. Visit palkids.org.

Interstate Farmers Market

A farmers market is held each Wednesday through Sept. 26 from 3 - 7 p.m. just off Interstate Avenue between Overlook Park and the Interstate Kaiser Permanente Campus. The market is known for its variety of quality fresh local produce, baked goods, cut flowers, artisan cheese, meat and fish.

'Our Violent Sun'

On the second Monday of each month through August, at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., the MHCC Planetarium Sky Theater explores the unpredictable behavior and flame-like geysers of our violent sun. Admission is \$1.

Feminist Organization Meeting

Monday June 11 at 6:30 pm, there will be a chance to learn about Radical Women's activities and how to get involved. The meeting will take place at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth St.

Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, June 16, from 12 p.m. to dusk, the public is invited to this free event at Peninsula Park in north Portland.

Community Support

The African American Health Coalition, a non-profit that touches the lives of millions of African Americans each year, reminds you to support your community organization. All donations, grants, and gifts are tax deductible. For more information, visit aahe-portland.org.

Help Loaves & Fishes

The Two Rivers Loaves & Fishes Center, 9009 N. Foss St., needs volunteer drivers for meals-on-wheels to ensure that homebound seniors in St. Johns receive nutritional meals and a bit of companionship. Call 503-988-4088.

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.

Vancouver Outdoors Market

Saturdays and Sundays, through Oct. 27, the Vancouver Outdoor Market will feature fresh produce, food, and arts and crafts. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays.

Diabetes Support Group

Legacy Emanuel Hospital hosts a diabetes support group the first and third Thursdays of every month, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Room 1027.

Bradley-Angle House

The Bradley-Angle House needs volunteers to help its outreach against domestic violence. Women of color and bilingual women are encouraged to call. For more information, call 503-282-9940.

Work against Abuse

Community Advocates invites those interested in protecting children from abuse to become an event volunteer, event outreach, technology expert, graphic artists or office support team member. For information, call 503-280-1388.

Women in Community Service

Volunteer female mentors are being sought by Women in Community Service to work with incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The women provide support and encouragement for inmates transitioning from prison back into the community. For information, call 503-570-6614.

Food Bank Seeks Volunteers

The Oregon Food Bank seeks volunteers on Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, to sort and repack perishable foods. Call 503-282-0555, ext. 272 or visit Oregonfoodbank.org.

Rude, Crude and Hilarious

Portland braces for racially charged insult comic

BY NICOLE RONAL HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With a city as PC as Portland, are we ready for a woman who refers to people in certain racial or homophobic slurs?

The New York Times dubs comedian Lisa Lampanelli the Queen of Mean. She's made a name for herself as the insult comic and no group is exempt. And anyone sitting in the front rows of her sold out shows better be able to take a joke at their expense.

The 45-year-old white woman hails from Connecticut and looks like any regular soccer mom. But this chick has a potty mouth and doesn't apologize for it.

Lampanelli chimes in to the Portland Observer about interracial dating and why she can drop N-bombs and Michael Richards of the sitcom Friends can't.

Nicole: Has your comedic act changed since the Michael Richards tirade at the Laugh Factory? And why do journalists keep asking you about it?

Lampanelli: How much do you think it's changed? Not a lot and what do I care. I don't know what his motivation was behind saying those racial slurs,

but it was for the wrong reasons. I make fun of all stereotypes and my intentions are never to hurt anyone. He and I are coming from two different angles.

Nicole: What about Don Imus? He's been hung out to dry after using the phrase "Nappy Headed Ho." What is the difference in context between you and him?

Lampanelli: I am funny and he's not. Perhaps if there was a joke attached he could have gotten a laugh out of it. Unlike him, I don't work for anyone but myself so I can't get fired. I have no one to answer to except my own gut and intention. He apologized for what he said and the flood gates opened. I have been protested and people come after me but I know that I love and hate everyone equally.

Nicole: What was it like the first time you went on stage and told a seemingly racist joke?

Lampanelli: It's not a racist joke it's a racial joke. I remember years ago I was nervous about it, but I had to do what works for me and hope that people understand and laugh for the right reasons.

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Lisa Lampanelli is one of America's hottest comics. The equal opportunity offender of insults doesn't tiptoe around issues of race. She is coming to Portland for a performance on Saturday, June 9 at the Newmark Theater.

Production Launches for Globetrotter Story

Meadowlark Lemon weighs in on biopic

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Celebrities never look perfect in dramatic portrayals on screen. This is becoming increasingly true in biopics that have

recently come out portraying Muhammad Ali, Ray Charles and Johnny Cash.

These three films are the "comparables" that Portland producer Billy Moore is using for a movie about Meadowlark Lemon, a former Globetrotter great who still plays professional basketball and preaches in Scottsdale, Ariz.

By waiting until the death of Ali, Charles and Cash, producers of these previous films avoided much legal scrutiny. But

Moore wants to release Lemon's story during the next three years when it is likely that the septuagenarian will remain healthy.

Even with Lemon around to complain about the dramatization of juicy bits, Moore thinks the movie will still bring out all the fascinating aspects of one Globetrotter's fraught life. Lemon's story contains all of Hollywood's prerequisites: troubles with women, the law, politics and coworkers, Moore said.

Lemon doesn't think he has anything to hide.

"We're going to make a good movie," he says. "In terms of the drugs and alcohol, I didn't do any of that, but I have been poor, although I like being rich much better."

Lemon's nemesis, Globetrotters owner Manny Jackson, provides the dramatic tension that most interests them in this story of a basketball performer's early moral and financial poverty.

Moore says is common for anyone to resent the ascension of others to the top and that these powerful men apparently could not find a way to rise peacefully together.

The Globetrotters of Lemon's era were also the subject of constant racial scrutiny. When Lemon first signed on, they provided one of the few professional outlets for black basketball players that were frequently barred from playing during that era in the U.S.

As the NBA began to accept black talent later on, Lemon's team was accused of "Tomming for Abe" by continuing the act in a supposedly minstrel-like fashion. "Controversy is just something that comes out of that kind of life," says Lemon.

As a born-again Christian, Lemon wants to use the struggles of his past as an object

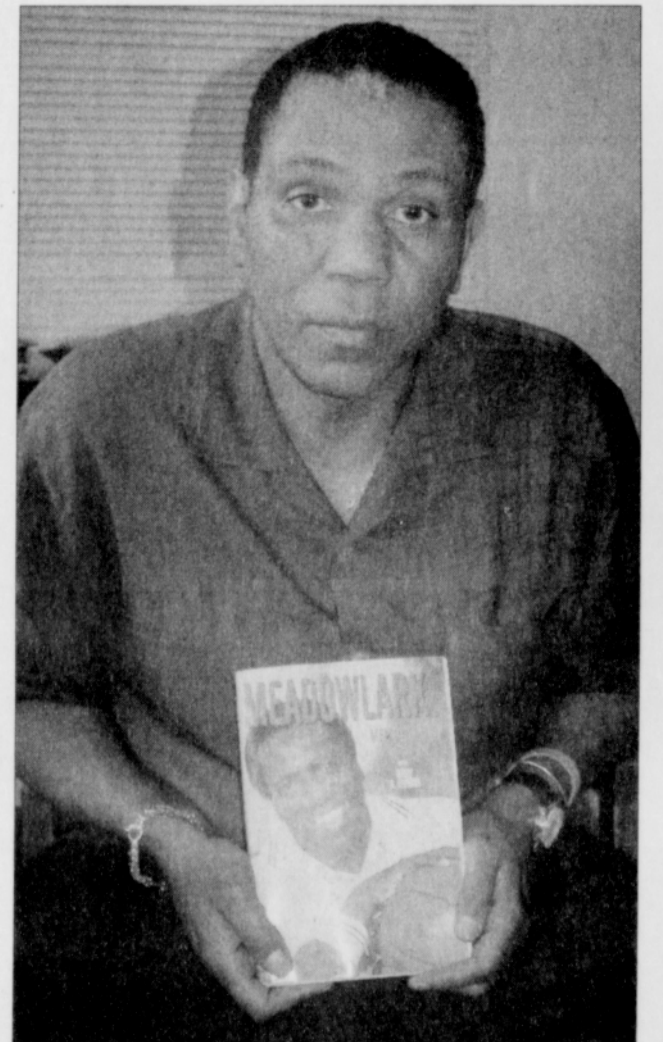
lesson for the benefits of finding God.

"I'm a minister," he says. "I use joy, I use comedy, I use songs, and I use Christ to eradicate racial prejudice; that's the only way that I know."

Moore will be banking on the fame of the person he calls "the Bob Hope of comedy basketball."



Portland producer Billy Moore (left) and former Harlem Globetrotter Meadowlark Lemon work together on a movie about the basketball legend's fraught life.



A book on Meadowlark Lemon's life is part of Portland producer Billy Moore's research for a movie he is developing on the former Globetrotter great.

Lemon is one of only four Globetrotters to have his number retired and is second only to Wilt Chamberlain in terms of name recognition.

The elite and predominantly white Multnomah Athletic Club has provided a key venue for Moore to solicit financial support for his film.

"You know how these white MAC people are," Moore says, "they like celebrity, and I get to headline with big coaches so I get a different level of respect."