

Farmers Market Checks Distributed

A new federal law this year requires eligible seniors to return an application to receive \$30 in farmers' market checks. In 2006, every eligible senior was automatically mailed the checks.

About 43,000 Oregon seniors are eligible to participate in the nutrition program.

Recipients may also have a designated family member or caregiver shop with their checks on their behalf. Oct. 31 is the

last day that seniors may spend checks from the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program.

To be eligible, seniors must be 60 years or older and enrolled in food stamps and/or Medicaid; living in a situation where food is not provided; and have a monthly income that does not exceed \$1,149 for a single person or \$1,541 for a couple.

For questions about senior eligibility and check distribution, call 866-299-3562.

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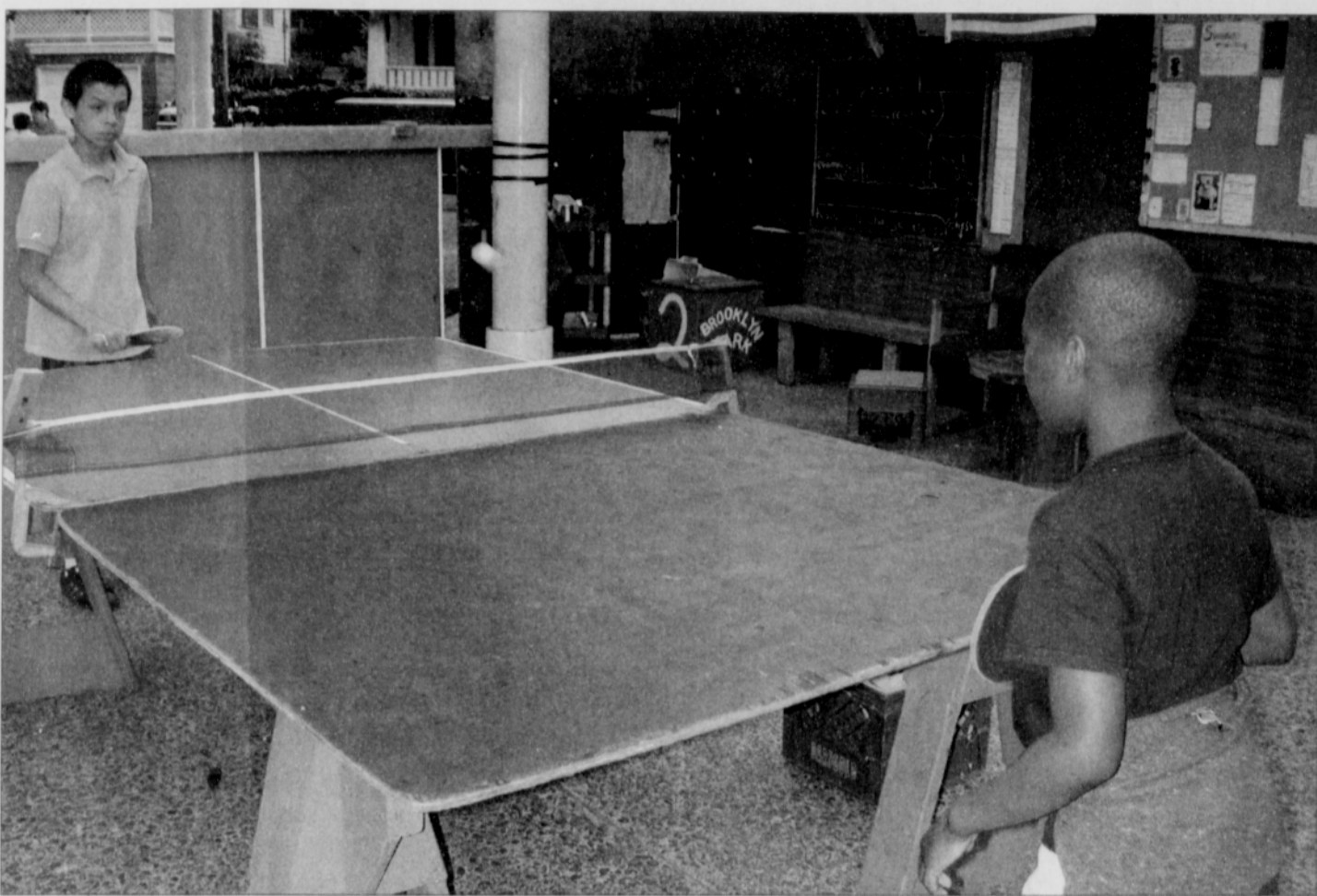


PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Parks Host Free Summer Activities

Antonio Tula-Ruiz (left) and Enyi Ereole take advantage of the summer activities at Brooklyn Park in southeast Portland. Free summer activities are available at city parks throughout Portland until Aug. 15. For more information, visit portlandonline.com/parks.

Sicko Documentary Touts Cuban System

9-11 rescue workers seek medical attention

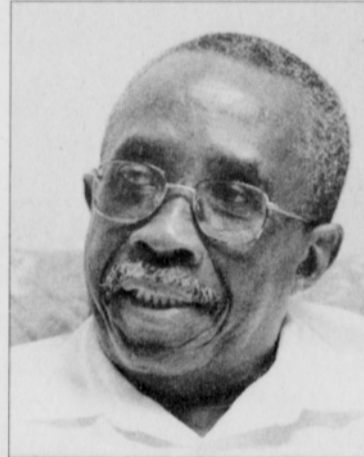
Michael Moore's new documentary film "SiCKO" has given Cuba's free health system its best publicity since Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, a Cuban doctor who hosted the filmmaker's visit said on Monday.

Moore took eight Americans sickened after volunteering for the Sept. 11, 2001, rescue efforts for free treatment in Cuba in March in order

to extol the Communist state's universal care in his film, which attacks the U.S. health system for being driven by profits and leaving millions uninsured.

"SiCKO" has stirred heated debate in the United States since opening in June due to its scathing indictment of the U.S. pharmaceutical and medical insurance industries. Moore argues that a poor country like Cuba is doing a better job than the United States at looking after its citizens' health.

"Michael Moore spurred more interest in our health system than the 40-odd years we have spent providing health to our people," Dr. Jaime Davis, who provided free check-ups and treatment to



Dr. Jaime Davis, surgeon and member of the foreign affairs department of Cuba's health ministry, speaks during an interview with Reuters in Havana on July 16. Davis said that Michael Moore's controversial documentary 'SiCKO' has given Cuba's free health system the best publicity since its 1959 revolution.

Moore's group, told Reuters.

During their 10-day visit, the U.S. patients received treatment for respiratory problems caused by inhaling dust in the ruins of the World

Trade Center. Some were treated for dental and digestive problems, Davis said.

Moore himself had his blood pressure taken.

Earthquake Spurs Nuclear Leak

Raises questions about safety

Japanese authorities Tuesday suspended the operation of a nuclear power plant after a radiation leak and other damage from a deadly earthquake raised new concerns about the safety of Japan's accident-plagued nuclear industry.

Tokyo Electric Power, an electric company that operates the nuclear plant near the city of Kashiwazaki, said it had found more than 50 problems at the plant caused by Monday's 6.6 magnitude earthquake.

While most of the problems were minor, the largest included 100 drums of radioactive waste that had fallen over, causing the lids on some of the drums to open, the company said.

On Monday, the company said that the earthquake also caused a small fire at the plant, the world's largest by amount of electricity produced, and the leakage of 317 gallons of water containing trace levels of radioactive materials into the



A cyclist passes destruction caused by one of two major earthquakes that hit Japan on Monday, killing at least nine people and injuring more than 1,000.

nearby Sea of Japan.

The company announced Tuesday that it had detected tiny amounts of radioactive material in an air filter in one of the plant's seven reactors, though the company said it was unlikely that the material had entered the atmosphere outside the reactor.

The company said it was still examining how the tainted water had leaked out, but it said the level

of radioactivity was too low to endanger humans or the environment.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe criticized Tokyo Electric for being "too slow" in reporting the problems to the government and the public.

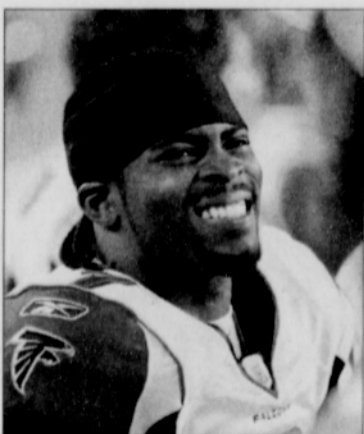
Television footage showed rescuers digging through buildings in Kashiwazaki that were toppled by the earthquake, which local police said killed at least nine people and injured another 1,000.

NFL Star Charged in Dogfighting

(AP) -- Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick was indicted Tuesday by a federal grand jury on charges related to illegal dogfighting.

Vick and three others were charged with violating federal laws against competitive dogfighting, procuring and training pit bulls for fighting and conducting the enterprise across state lines.

The indictment alleges that Vick and his co-defendants be-



Michael Vick

gan sponsoring dogfighting in early 2001, the former Virginia Tech star's rookie year with the Falcons.

It accuses Vick, Purnell A. Peace, Quanis L. Phillips and Tony Taylor of "knowingly sponsoring and exhibiting an animal fighting venture," of conducting a business enterprise involving gambling, as well as buying, transporting and receiving dogs for the purposes of an animal fighting venture.

Attention Local Businesses:

Would you like to see a review of your local service or products in the Portland Observer? Our goal is to feature more local businesses this fall. Please contact reporters

Sarah Blount at sarahb@portlandobserver.com or Nicole Ronal Hooper at nicoleh@portlandobserver.com or call our office at 503-288-0033.

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