



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
The Rose City Vaudeville players brought stilts, acrobats, musicians, jugglers and more to the delight of thousands of spectators for Saturday's annual Alberta Street Fair parade in northeast Portland.

Westside Max Turns 10

Portland Mall next

The 18-mile Westside MAX Blue Line turned 10 years old last week and has totaled 105 million rides since opening on Sept. 12, 1998. That's more than 200 rides for every person living in Washington County.

Transit trips along the Westside corridor have tripled since opening. In July 2008, Westside MAX weekday ridership was 42,400, a 94 percent increase in 10 years.

"There has been tremendous transformation along the Westside MAX line since opening," said TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen. "It has helped serve as a catalyst for more than \$2 billion in development near the MAX line, helping to create new neighborhoods and strengthen existing ones. It's really exciting to see the change and see riders be able to make more connections throughout the region as the MAX system continues to expand."



Fred Hansen

TriMet's fifth light rail line is under construction. The 8.3-mile I-205/Portland Mall MAX Light Rail Project will add light rail to Fifth and Sixth avenues in downtown Portland between Union Station and Portland State University, and between Gateway Transit Center and Clackamas Town Center.

It is the first light rail extension into Clackamas County and it will serve the heart of downtown Portland. When it pens in September 2009, it will help revitalize the Portland Mall and poise the region for future rail extensions.

Smith Rejects Portland Debate

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith of Oregon has declined an invitation to participate in a Portland City Club Forum debate with his opponent, Oregon State Rep. Jeff Merkley.

The City Club extended an invitation to both candidates to debate the issues over a month ago, offering the option of multiple dates, but received word Tuesday that Smith has chosen not to appear.

Officials from the organization called Smith's decision disappointing and regrettable.

The fact that Rep. Merkley has accepted the club's invitation entitles him to appear at a Friday Forum debate on Oct. 17, City Club officials said.

Dear Deanna!

I made the mistake and married a man that was a virgin. Everything in the relationship has always been wonderful until our wedding night. I was disappointed because I've been with others and had experiences that were 10 times better. I'm not sure I want to stay in the marriage because I can't deal with this. What do I do? -- Misha Tyler, Fort Hood, Texas

Ask Deanna!

Real People,
Real Advice



An advice column known for reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

Two of my friends have been making me suspicious about my husband because he comes home late from work. They have been filling up my head with stuff and have successfully led me to think he's having an affair. I followed him in a different car, pushed re-dial on the telephone and checked his pockets for phone numbers. His behavior hasn't changed but my friends keep trying to convince me he's messing around. I can't find anything. Am I losing it? --Paranoid; Bronx, N.Y.

Dear Paranoid,

Grow up and stop doing childish things like playing Inspector Gadget. If your spouse doesn't display signs of infidelity don't look for any. If your man comes home late, and he says he was working---trust him. You are borrowing trouble and setting your marriage up for a downfall by listening to your friends. When your girlfriends start trying to cause drama, stop them dead in their tracks. If they keep at it, tell them to get lost so you can keep your marriage happy and healthy.

Dear Deanna!

When my husband and I were together he took excellent care of our kids. Now that we're divorced he has amnesia and forgot he has obligations of child support and health care. Don't get me wrong, I still care for him but now I have to go through so much stress to get him to help me. I have legal documents outlining his responsibilities. How long do I wait before taking him through the court system? --Allison Kramer; Omaha, Neb.

Dear Allison:

Daycare bills, tight clothes, and hungry stomachs don't have time to wait for daddy to grow up. At this rate, your kids will be senior citizens collecting a pension before your ex-husband steps up to the plate. The court order that he violated gives you front row seating with a judge. If he has no sympathy or concern for his children's welfare, then you need to handle your business and take him to court at lightning speed. Rest assured that God is going to fiercely deal with him for neglecting and rejecting the care of his flesh and blood.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

Dear Misha:

Be glad you married a man that avoided sexual immorality. Your virgin eliminated your exposure to AIDS, diseases and baby momma drama. Apparently there were things other than sex that made you love him and accept his hand in marriage. If you were smart, you'd realize you're the teacher with a permanent student whose skills are going to get better and improve with each lesson...if you know what I mean.

THE GREATEST GIFT WE CAN PASS ON TO OUR CHILDREN IS THE GIFT OF HOPE.

-Barack Obama



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