

The INSIDE

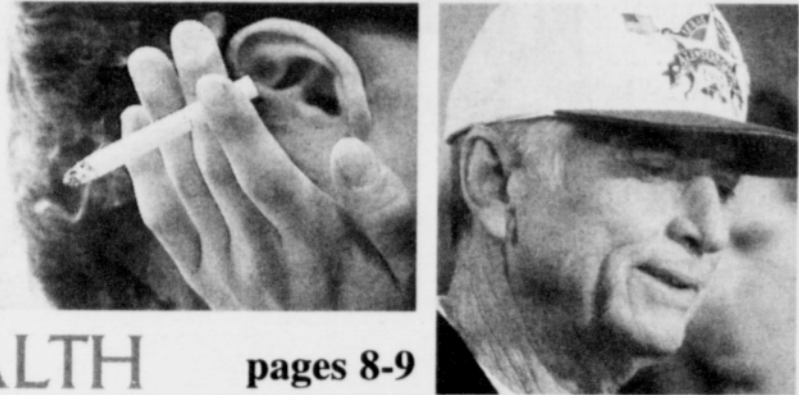
This page
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What's on your list today?



CAREER & EDUCATION page 4-7



HEALTH pages 8-9



SUSTAINABILITY pages 10-11



MIETRO pages 13



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT pages 14-17



OPINION pages 18-19

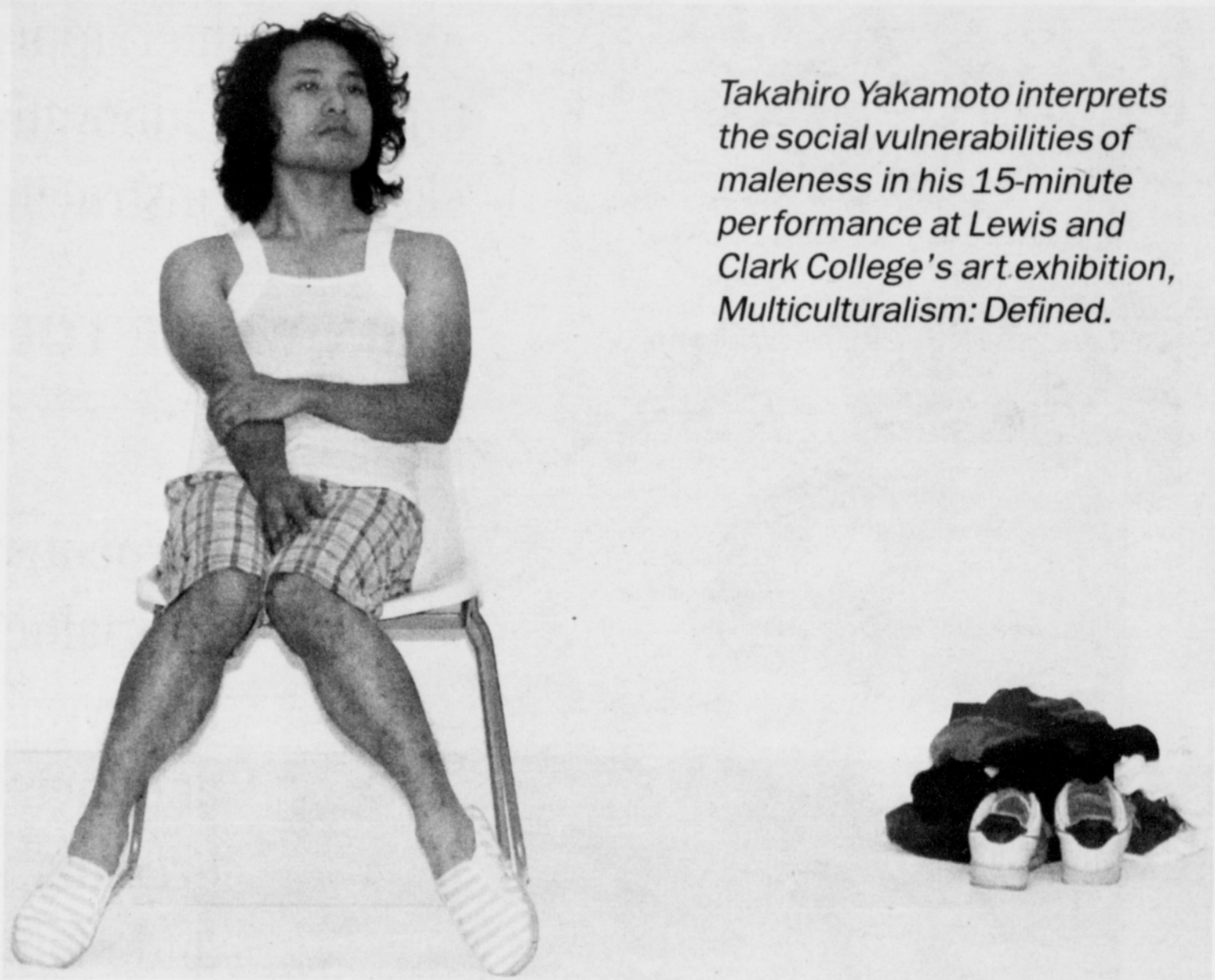
CLASSIFIEDS page 22

NOVEMBER CALENDAR page 23



FOOD page 24

LOCAL NEWS



Takahiro Yakamoto interprets the social vulnerabilities of maleness in his 15-minute performance at Lewis and Clark College's art exhibition, *Multiculturalism: Defined*.

Rap on Multiculturalism

Lewis & Clark explores meaning

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
"Multiculturalism is dead," a recent statement made by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, prompted a debate at Lewis and Clark College's eighth annual Ray Warren Multicultural Symposium, where experts from Portland and beyond considered the theme, the Miseducation of Multiculturalism.

The weekend symposium opened with an art exhibition, *Multiculturalism: Defined*, featuring various works by artists who reflected on what multiculturalism means and lend an understanding of culture that transcends semantics and interpretations.

"We realized that to understand how we have been 'miseducated,' we must first achieve a fundamental understanding of what multiculturalism really means," read a statement by Lewis and Clark art curators Megan Sadler

and Kyle Yoshioka.

Too often, multiculturalism is connoted exclusively with race and ethnicity, when really the concept can encompass far more, including issues of class, religion, sexual orientation, and many others, they said. Artists challenged the notion of

multiculturalism with drawings, photographs, music, creative displays, performance, and more.

Sokhun Keo expressed the melding and evolution of culture with a crate of Cambodian albums and an American record player for participants to play. According to his artist's statement, Keo doesn't identify himself as distinctly as Cambodian, American or even Cambodian-American.

"Cambodian-American culture does not exist. Instead a multi-culture or hybrid culture exists," he said. "To say that I am Cambodian-American must mean that I am authentically Cambodian and American simultaneously, which is impossible."

While some artists' work revealed the complexities of multiple identities and ethnic origins, others expressed what it's like to grow up solely with U.S. traditions.

In her artwork, Camille Shumann conveys a lack or weakening of American culture that has impelled her to explore and absorb other cultures.

In *Self Portrait: Ramblin*,
continued ▼ on page 20



A self-portrait of student artist Camille Shumann at Lewis and Clark College's Multiculturalism Symposium is a composition of her cultural travels.