



# The SOC-KET



The weekly publication of the Optimist Club of Salem  
 Volume 58 Issue 24 March 29, 2007  
 Ye Olde Editor — Wes Alderson

The Club meets every Thursday noon at the Great Wall Buffet  
 ( check out our website at [www.optimistclubofsalemor.org](http://www.optimistclubofsalemor.org) )

## 2006-07 Club Officers

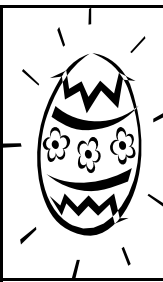
President:	Bruce Gilbertson
President-Elect:	(position open)
Immediate Past-President	Maur Horton
Vice-Presidents:	Frank Milton & Dave Sevall
Secretary/Treasurer:	Arlen Hollinshead
Directors: (position open)	Bob Bjurstrom
	Vern Tabery
	Bob MacArthur
	Frank Masser
	Flora Butts



Salem Boys Choir is having it's Boys on Broadway dessert concert and silent auction on Friday and Saturday, April 13 & 14. Auction will begin at 6:30, with dessert and program to follow. Tickets are \$20 and may be reserved by calling (503) 399-1364, or sending an email to: [tickets@salemboyschoir.org](mailto:tickets@salemboyschoir.org).



The sign-up sheet is still being circulated for those who plan to spend a few hours on Saturday morning, May 5th, at the site of the Awesome 3000, helping encourage the kids to run just a little faster.



Lest you forget, this years Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 7, on the grounds at Morningside Methodist Church. However, the stuffing is to be done at Arlen's abode on Tuesday evening, April 3. Come and join in the festivities. There are generally refreshments of some kind and, of course, a smattering of reparation (whatever that means).



**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**  
 April 5 TBA  
 April 12 Youth Appreciation  
 (Most Improved in Academics)  
 April 19 " "



Announcing a new fundraiser! The Optimist Club of Salem Foundation encourages donations of items to be sold on EBAY; with the proceeds going to the Foundation. The donor has to do nothing—other than contact Ray Thomas (503) 585-1824, [thomar1@aol.com](mailto:thomar1@aol.com), and the rest will just happen! What could be easier—or better for Optimist programs for youth?! Please participate generously and frequently is this “painless” fundraiser. You get rid of that item and get a charitable donation receipt. (You needed to do some “spring cleaning” anyway, didn't you?) Other Foundation Board members are: Vern Tabery, President, Nick Zimmerman, Arlen Hollinshead and Karen Heuberger. (The foregoing was provided by Karen Heuberger, who is Secretary of the Foundation.) e-mail [ejkroheub@netzero.net](mailto:ejkroheub@netzero.net).

Not only did Brandon Hulse return again as his granddad's guest, but he had a number of very good questions that he put to our guest speaker. Thanks for your inquisitiveness, Brandon, and we are always pleased to see you.

## EVEN POLITICAL HUMOR HAS A PLACE

“President Bush also said that all the military commanders who have looked at his plan say it will work. That's because all the ones who said it wouldn't work aren't military commanders anymore.” Jay Leno

“In a prime time speech last night, President Bush said that he was sending in 20,000 more troops to end the war. He wasn't talking about Iraq. He was talking about the war between Rosie O'Donnell and Donald Trump.” Conan O'Brien.

“President Bush announced he's creating 20,000 new jobs. They're all in Iraq.” Jay Leno



## OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY

No doubt most of us would prefer to think, especially based upon those with whom we come in contact on a frequent basis, that the youth of our communities are of the exemplary kind. Will it come as a surprise to learn that there are quite a number of kids who are not of the sort one can point to with pride? Shirlee Pierce, Oregon Youth Authority, brought a substantial amount of material with her for distribution to the membership, and the data that these papers contain paints a rather somber picture of the problems each community is compelled to cope with. This does not mean that crime of one kind or another among kids is pervasive, just that it is an everyday job trying to keep up with it.

In an effort to deal with the problem, in 1994 voters passed ballot measure 11. Simply put, it requires teenagers 15 to 17 years old, who are charged with certain serious crimes, be tried as adults in criminal court. Without going into great details, sentences for these crimes can range from 5 years, 10 months to as much as 25 years. In addition, there is no chance of probation or early release. However, the system takes no pleasure in meting out sentences such as these. There is far more satisfaction from diverting young offenders from further transgressions. Therein lies the problem for O.Y.A., and society as well.

As of January 1, 2007, the number of youth involved with OYA in one way or another state-wide totaled 1,944. The number on parole was 464, and another 629 were on probation. There is little guesswork involved as to where the remaining 851 were located. Not surprising is the percentage of male to female lawbreakers; 88% to 12%.

Of the variety of crimes with which these kids are charged, 35% are sex offenses, 32% against property, and 17% person to person, and contrary to what some might have you believe, it isn't the minority populations that comprise the greater number.

There are eleven incarcerating facilities throughout the state that are charged with housing a number of these kids, eight of which are concentrated in the valley and the coast area north of Florence. There are also more than 25 residential treatment facilities located throughout the state.

Punishment is not the primary objective of OYA. If it were possible to redirect all of these young people toward decent, productive lives, the state would save a bundle of money and the citizenry could go to bed nights knowing that the next day would be filled with peace and harmony.

Although news of this type may be of the depressing sort, it is nevertheless, reality. Shirlee is to be commended for the type of commitment she makes to OYA, and it would be a pleasure to have her back at some future date to explain all this to those who did not have an opportunity hear her the first time.

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