

METROPOLITAN



Albina Branch Library staff fear their branch will be closed if County Commission does not adequately fund the Library Association. Barbar Gorter, librarian; Angela Lin, page; and Bobbi Jackson, clerk.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

Libraries fight for County funding

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—On Tuesday afternoon, April 12, in a County board room filled to capacity, the Multnomah County Commissioners heard public testimony regarding the requested 26 percent out of the public library's budget. The County Commissioners made it clear from the beginning that no decision would be reached that afternoon on the library's budget. They deferred their decision until the latter part of April.

Well over 28 individuals and organizations, as diverse as the Early Childhood Educational programs to representatives from area nursing homes, testified on the community impact libraries had on them in particular, and on the surrounding community in general. A lot of the testimony centered on the ability libraries had in attracting high technology to a given area and how intellectually isolated a community is without a library.

Eleanor McKinnon, President of

the Library Board, pointed out that the 26 percent cut in the library would mean the closing of nine branches. Some library staff believe Albina Branch would be the first to go. The dismantling of home institutional services, group rentals, the film library and the end of the Bookmobile would also occur. "The Branch libraries developed long before central. It is basic to the community's development. Libraries provide a sound educational system of services to everyone. The proposed cuts would curtail the new book buying budget. And once a library gets behind in new book buying, it never really catches up."

JoLinda Osborne, President of the Friends of the Library, turned over to the County Commissioners well over 16,000 signed petitions protesting the proposed 26 percent cutbacks in library services. "The Library must be maintained at its current levels. Past cuts have stripped the library of modernizations and once a blow has been dealt, it's hard to recover. I would

hate to see a standard system become the norm for the Multnomah County Library." Ms. Osborne stated the Library consistently finds itself in a yearly scramble for funds because there is no long-term base for funding.

Commissioner Earl Blumenauer brought up the issue of putting the funding for the public library against funding for the Sheriff's office. The Library personnel did not respond. However, what did occur was a battle of wits between Blumenauer and Commissioner Caroline Miller about Blumenauer's position on a serial levy to create and match funding for the library. Blumenauer never directly answered Miller, other than to say, "I will not support a new tax this year. The Library ought not to be the budget balancer for the County."

Commissioner Miller let her true feelings slip out about library funding during the Project Health hearing when she stated, "Survival programs come before Art and Libraries. Taking care of basic needs is what matters."

Summer camp registration open

Registration is now open for the summer camping season at the Portland Area Council of Camp Fire, Inc. Camping sessions are available to members and non-members from June through August at Camp Fire's two resident camps and five day camps.

Sessions for the resident camp are one week. Transportation to and from the resident camps is provided by bus from the Lloyd Center area.

Camp Namanu is a resident camp located just outside Sandy, Oregon in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Programs at Namanu include swimming, hiking, crafts, boating and outdoor skills.

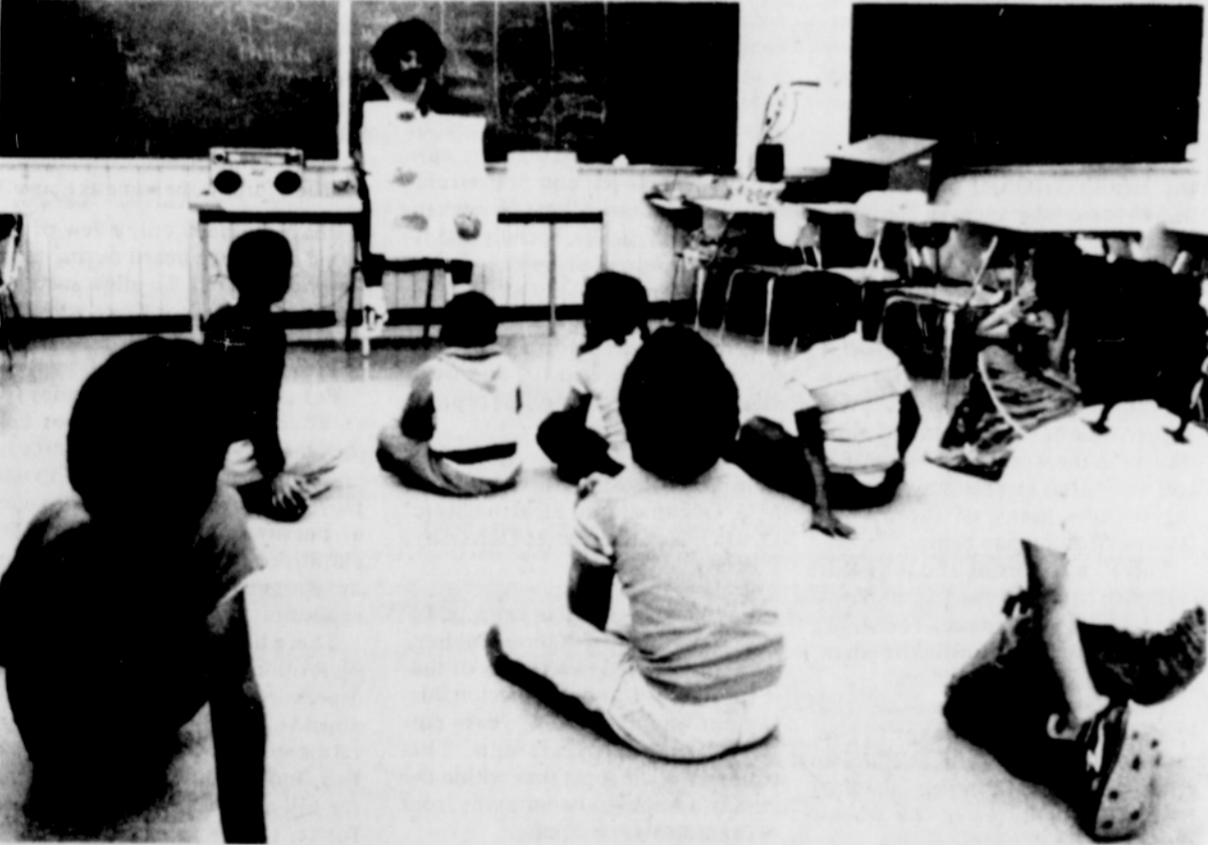
Camp Kwoneesum, the Council's other resident camp, is just north of Washougal, Washington. Included in the camp's 1,800 acres is a large lake for canoeing, swimming and sailing instruction.

Five day camps are located in the Portland Metropolitan Area: Camp Adahi in Forest Grove, Camp Lowami in Beaverton, Camp Tolinda in St. Johns, Camp Wekio in Southeast Portland, and Camp Nadaka in east Multnomah County. Day camp sessions are eight days, four days each week for two weeks, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$12 for Camp Fire members and \$16 for non-members.

Day camp registration is open to any girl entering the 2nd grade through the 7th grade, fall of 1983; and to any boy entering the 2nd grade through the 6th grade, fall of 1983.

For more information or a camp brochure, call the Portland Area Council of Camp Fire at 224-7800.

"Education is our sixth sense."
Clive Bell



Black Women's Network workshop instructor Lisa McConnell helps the kids learn how to work out their stress and stay healthy. McConnell was

the guest lecturer for the physical education and nutrition workshop for kids 6 through 8 years last Saturday at the P.C.C. Cascade Campus.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

Workshop addresses survival

The issues of self-reliance and group support were the main themes discussed at a workshop held recently by the Black Women's Network in cooperation with the P.C.C. Afro-American Cultural Affairs Committee. The workshop, "Health and Survival Skills for Black Women," noted the attendance of 135 men, women and children this past Saturday at the P.C.C. Cascade campus.

The workshop was held in tribute to Trina Deanne Hunter. The 17-year-old's body was found December 29, 1982 in a marsh in Battle-ground, Washington.

Resolutions coming out of the session were a call for more self-re-

liance and independence for black people; support for one another as individuals and as a group; preservation of Afro-American culture and traditions; continued and reinstituted support for black children; a continued fight against racism; more active participation in community activities, and a demanding of respect, not assimilation or integration from the majority community.

Juvenile court counselor Janice Barrett told the group during the noon luncheon that the community may not have been able to save Trina, but there are others we can save. In addition, she said, "If the system does not care about our kids simply because they are black, then we must hold them accountable and


use local and national community resources to help our children."

BWN president Stephanie Michael stated that this workshop was the first of many to follow to serve the community. Michael said the Black Women's Network plans to conduct several research studies, become more active in the political system, and help organize an effective network system. She claims the network system will be a reinstating of the traditional extended family concept. Persons interested in joining or participating with BWN functions would call the BWC office at 287-1271 and leave their name, address and phone number.

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