

METROPOLITAN

CETA replacement program opens

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — On Friday, Sept. 7, the Private Industry Council (PIC) announced at a press conference that its doors were open to manage the development, implementation and coordination of a local employment and training system.

PIC will implement the new Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) that replaced the 10-year-old Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

Vern Ryles Jr., chair of PIC's board of directors, said the private sector will carry out job training through a partnership with the city of Portland.

"With a reduction of 20 percent in resources, we will make the job training effort more effective and efficient," said Ryles.

Ryles added that the focus will be on job placement. "We will place as many people in full-time employment as we can," he said.

PIC will close down the Northeast CETA and replace it with the Youth Employment Institute. Commissioner Margaret Strachan said the formation of the institute reflected a true commitment to the needs of minority youth in the community.

Computer-aided instructions will help youth upgrade their basic skills, obtain GEDs, and train in job search, as well as teach work world expectations and job placement.

The site for the institute has not been finalized, nor has an employer advisory group been formed. The budget is \$267,000, which includes funding for four staff members, rent, on-the-job training and computer software to help place a minimum of 60 youth.

Ryles said the institute will not meet the needs of all youth, but PIC is committed to train and place a percentage of hard-to-place youth.

Mayor Frank Ivancie said the relationship between PIC and the Portland Development Commission is an "ironclad way of ensuring economic progress and job opportunity."

The Portland Development Commission will market JTPA programs to employers. Once the commission contacts employers, PIC's staff will complete arrangements leading to customized training contracts or direct hires.

Ivancie called the partnership a "hands across the sea relationship between private industry and the public sector."



Thirty young Portlanders took time from their Saturday morning activities to attend a press conference at Pioneer Courthouse Square by Herb Cawthorne, candidate for City Council. Cawthorne presented to the youngsters his proposal for making Portland a "children first city." "This program is not anti-anything....not anti-schools—it's pro-schools....not anti-business—it's pro-business....not anti-government services—it's pro-government services. A "children first" program does not neglect the elderly, it protects the elderly and makes life safer for them." Seattle has initiated a kidsfirst program. The focus of city leadership will be to make Seattle a better place for the young. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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911 Service 38% increase questioned

Commissioner Margaret D. Strachan, in a letter to State Public Commissioner Gene Maudlin, has expressed concern regarding the filing of a tariff by Pacific Northwest Bell that will affect 911 service.

The City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communications currently receives and routes more than 650,000 911 calls for fire, police and emergency medical dispatch.

Strachan said her concerns cover the financial impact of the proposed tariff on public agencies, the linking of 911 to measured business service, the limitation of liability assumed by PNB, and the absence of public hearings on an issue of statewide importance.

The proposed new tariff is linked to measured service pricing, on which Maudlin has recently declared a one-year implementation delay. At present, optional measured service is available. Information from PNB indicates that under the new tariff, the cost of 911 basic service could increase by as much as 38%. The actual amount of increase would depend upon whether 911 agencies elect to utilize measured service.

"I do not believe that 911 service should be structured around the assumption that measured service will be approved in its present form," Strachan said. There has been widespread opposition throughout the State to its implementation, and in fact, the PUC Commissioner has recommended a one year delay."

Strachan urged Commissioner Maudlin to delay any further action on the filing until after public hearings have been conducted.

Tubman school plans picnic

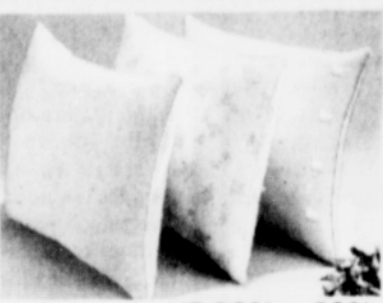
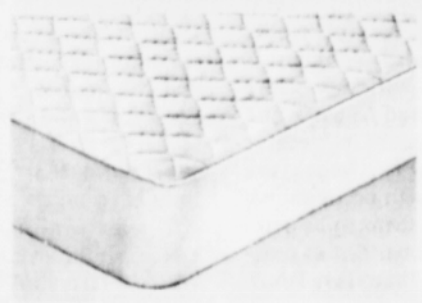
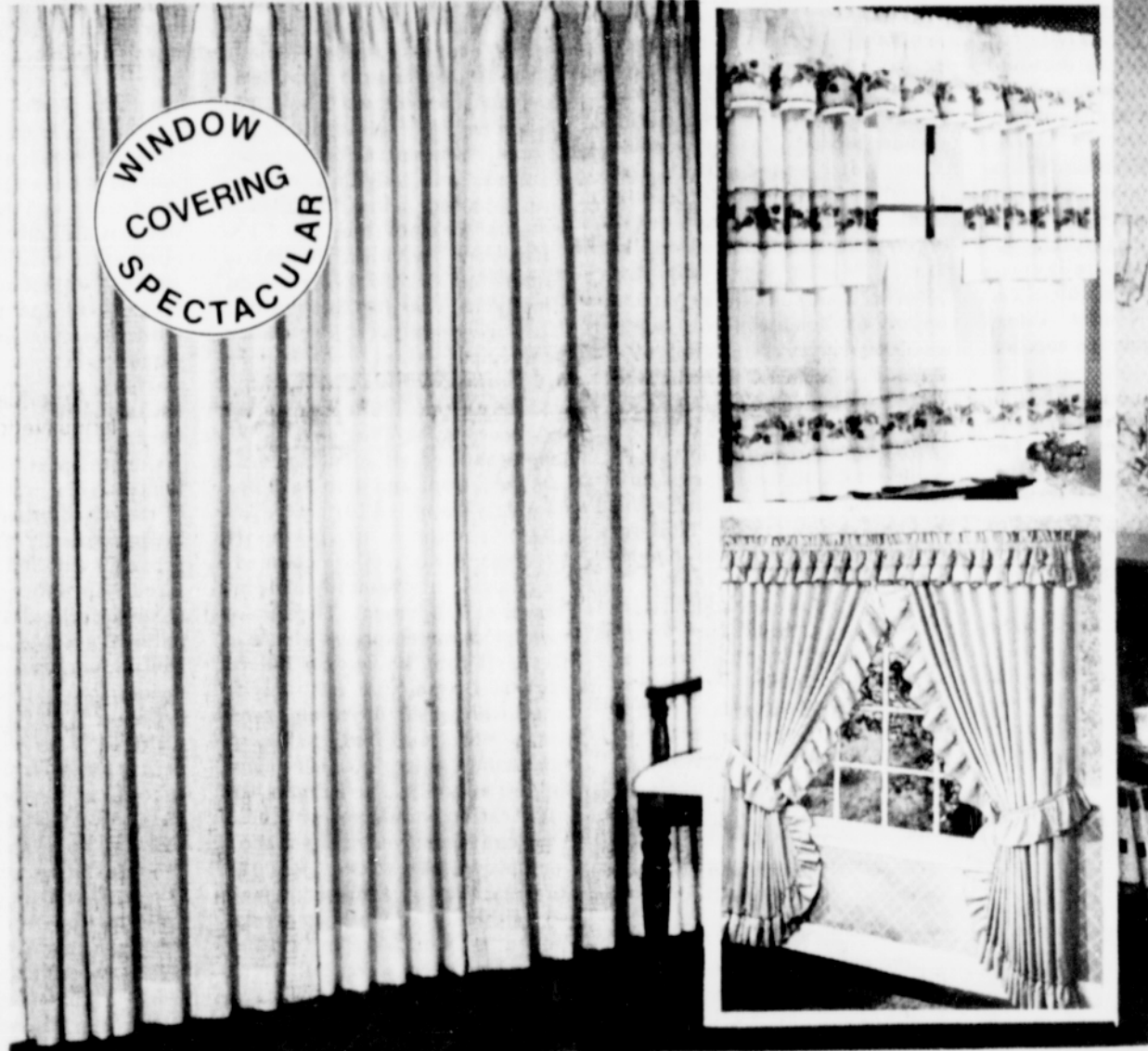
Harriett Tubman Middle School's fourth-annual "all school picnic" for parents and students runs next Tuesday (Sept. 11) from 4 p.m. to dusk at Peninsula Park, 6400 N. Albina Ave.

Families from about 60 Portland neighborhoods are expected at the picnic. Tubman's students come from all over the city to attend the Portland School District's only magnet middle school.

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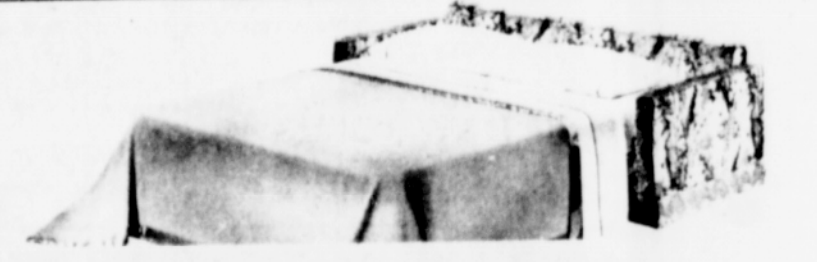
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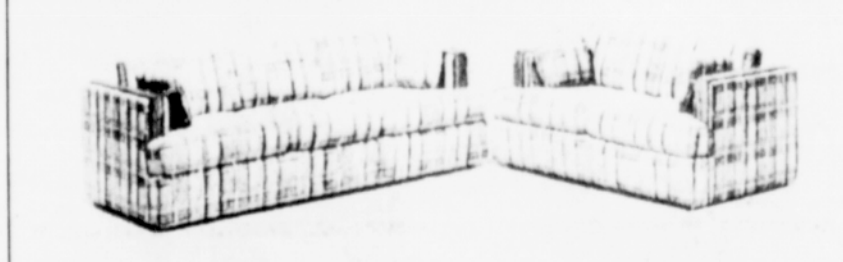
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