



Mariko Yabuki and the Yabuki Bear pass out gifts at the Woodlawn Center of the A. M. A. Head Start Program.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

## Yabuki, Inc. Donates Toys For Children of Head Start Program

Yabuki, Inc., a Portland-based toy company, donated Christmas gifts to benefit over 200 children, according to Ron Herndon, director of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Head Start Program. The event took place Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the Woodlawn Center (1425 N.E. Dekum), one of ten Head Start Community Centers, from 10:00 am throughout the day. Children at each center had a special visit by the Yabuki Bear, a giant Panda (Herndon), who passed out toys and gifts donated by Mariko Yabuki, vice president of Yabuki, Inc.

"I believe in investing in our future and the exceptional work Ron Herndon has done for the Head Start Program for the children in our community," stated Mariko Yabuki. "We need more organizations devoted to the growth and development of our children since they can make a positive change in our future. I'm glad that Yabuki, Inc., can be a part of that future." Yabuki also donated educational puppets to each of the ten Head Start Centers, which have also been used in the Portland Public School System.

Since 1977, the Albina Ministerial Alliance/Head Start Program has been involved in community service and education for children and families throughout the Portland metro area. Yabuki, Inc., established in 1979, is a manufacturer of plush and educational toys.

# Researcher Interviews Black Organizations

by Jerry Garner

The Christian Women Against Crime (C.W.A.C.) and the Black United Front (BUF), two non-profit community organizations which serve Portland's Black population, were interviewed by researchers from the National Participation Development Project.

"The purpose of the project is to find out how citizen participation efforts are able to have a lasting impact on the well-being of the entire community by working within the policy-making process," said Dr. Kent E. Portney. Dr. Portney is Survey Director of the Participation Development Project.

The project is being conducted by the Lincoln Filene Center, Tufts University, Medford, Maine. The project was made possible by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

The project attempts to examine how constructive participation can help increase policy balance and responsiveness; build citizen capacity; and increase citizen confidence to enable effective, purposeful action by government agencies. The research project will attempt to identify the impact of governmental programs on the entire community, not just upon the agencies and participants who are actively involved.

Portney said Portland was one of the six cities chosen for the project because of community involvement in the policy-making process.

The citizen Participation Development Project's primary project components include:

- A national survey to identify the full range of citizen participation programs currently in operation and provide information about the characteristics of participation programs which lead to the greatest achievement of participation objectives.
- Establishment of small research and working groups of scholars and practitioners to assist in research site selection and development of research design and criteria for participation success.
- Regional conferences of major citizen group leaders, government officials and researchers in the field to provide an interchange of information about successful participation models.
- Development of a series of articles for the Citizen Participation News-magazine to increase awareness of the goals and progress of the project among as broad an audience as possible.
- Production and distribution of a casework of effective models, research results, and current literature and resources for citizen groups and government officials seeking to strengthen their participation efforts.

Portney said individual citizens and citizen groups should lobby and pressure governmental agencies to adopt their proposals or meet their demands on issues vital to communities. He said this can be done through public hearings and legal notices in local newspapers, and electoral competition of individual candidates vying for public support.

### Red Cross Babysitting Course Scheduled

Does your 11 year-old or older child need something worthwhile to do over the Christmas/New Year Holiday? Red Cross offers boys and girls 17 years and older many opportunities to develop their knowledge and chances for babysitting jobs through many Red Cross Babysitting courses scheduled in December:

Meridian Park Hospital, 19300 SW 65th, Tualatin, Monday/Tuesday, Dec. 29 & 30, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 692-2184 to pre-register.

Garden Home Recreation Center, 7475 SW Oleson Road, Portland, Monday/Tuesday, Dec. 29 & 30, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 284-7090 to pre-register.

Hillsboro Library, 775 SE 10th, Hillsboro, Monday/Tuesday, Dec. 29 & 30, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 681-6115 to pre-register.

American Red Cross Headquarters, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave., Portland, Monday/Tuesday, Dec. 29 & 30, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 284-7090 to pre-register.

These classes are presented as a community service by Red Cross volunteer babysitting instructors. They will explain the responsibilities of watching small children, elementary first aid, how to deal with emergencies, how to interview for a job, what to expect of parents who hire you and what parents expect from the sitter.

Class size is limited. The charge is \$15 per student. Scholarships are available. Please call to pre-register.

### Thanks To Community

We, the family of the late Herman C. Plummer, wish to express our thanks to all our friends for their expressions of sympathy, kindness and support during his illness and passing.

Jeannette J. Plummer

### Reed College Christmas Jazz Concert

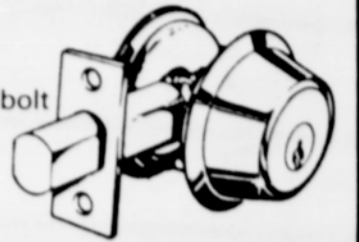
Jeannie Hoffman, Jazz pianist, and David Friesen, bassist, will present their annual concert of classical jazz and Christmas jazz on Sunday, December 14 at 3 P.M. in the Reed College Commons. The concert, which is sponsored by the Reed College Music Associates, is fourth in a special eight-concert series of Music Matinees to celebrate Reed College's 75th Anniversary Year. The concert is free and open to the public.

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