

High School Students In Home Repair Training Program Complete Project Under PDC's Homestead Program In Record Time

Eighteen Portland high school students have spent the past eight months completely transforming a vacant home in Northeast Portland purchased through the Portland Development Commission's (PDC) Homestead Program.

The excited homeowners, Paul and Valerie Thomas and their two children, moved in to their new home on June 8. The Thomases first saw the home at a PDC Homestead Open House and were subsequently chosen as home owners by random drawing. The home was purchased under PDC's Homestead Program which provides low-cost home ownership opportunities to qualifying city residents. The homesteader is required to have all major housing code violations repaired and live in the house for at least three years.

This is the seventh home completed by the Portland Public School's Home Repair Training program (HRTTP) since it began in 1985 under a cooperative agreement with PDC's Homestead Program. Students enrolled in the program come from a variety of Portland high schools.

Students who have participated in HRTTP not only have helped reclaim some of the city's stock of low-income housing but, in some cases, have found rewarding careers through the program. Some students have gone on to open their own building and remodeling businesses.

HRTTP students, who fill the role of general contractor, performed a variety of remodeling work on the Thomas home. Their work included completely fishing the basement with two new bedrooms and a second bathroom, completely remodeling the kitchen and refinishing the hardwood floors. Electrical and plumbing work is typically subcontracted. Normally the students complete the total rehabilitation over a period of eleven months but this year's students completed all the work three months ahead of schedule.

The students work in two shifts, one group in the morning, another in the afternoon, leaving half the day for their regular classes. Program coordinators note that the Program gives the participants a leg-up on others entering the building and remodeling trade. The students learn valuable skills to offer an employer.

In addition to the Homestead Program, HRTTP students also perform a variety of home repairs under PD's Home Repair Loan Program. Under both programs the homeowner only pays for the materials used by the students and the cost of the subcontractors. Fall will find the HRTTP students working on their next Homestead rehabilitation project.

PDC is the city's agency for urban renewal, housing and economic development.

Tukufu Raps At Ockley Green...

Dr. Darryl Tukufu, president of the Urban League of Portland recently performed his "Tukufu Rap" at Ockley Green Middle School. Dr. Tukufu wrote the rap which encourages kids to stay in school.

Fox 49s production crew taped the performance which included students of Ms. Kelly Barrett's eighth grade English class. The piece was made into a sixty-second music video, public service announcement.

The "Tukufu Rap" PSA can be seen on Fox 49 throughout the year as a part of Fox 49s Great Expectation Education Campaign.

State Fair Premium Books Ready

Now is your chance to enter your best pie, quilt, or polled herford-premium books for exhibiting at the 1992 Oregon State Fair are now available. Those interested in receiving a book may call the State Fair at 378-3247, or write 2330 - 17th St. NE, Salem, OR 97310. You may also come into the State Fair offices to pick up a book.

The open class departments are: Art, Photography (Oregon and International), Home Economics, Hobbies and Crafts, Livestock, Poetry, Calligraphy, Poultry, Amateur Wine, Agriculture, Floral, and Horse Show. When calling or writing, please specify which book or books you would like. If you exhibited last year, you will automatically receive a book.

Each department has separate deadlines for entries. If you have any questions, please call the State Fair at 378-3247, or (800) 833-0011 after July 3.

University Seeking Visual Artists to Exhibit Their Work

The African-American history Month Committee at the university of Illinois at Chicago is seeking visual artists of African, African-American and Caribbean descent to exhibit their work during the February 1993 celebration. Artists wishing to have their work considered should submit at least seven slides of their work, a resume and a stamped, self-addressed return envelope to: Booker T. Suggs, Chair, African-American History Month Committee, university of Illinois at Chicago, Box 4348, M/C 118, Chicago, IL 60680-4348. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 29, 1992.



Bumper Sticker Politics; "Balanced Budget Amendment"

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

We may keep a new Great Society on hold because that inept little group of wimps we refer to as congressmen are pressing their ultimate gimmick for evading fiscal responsibility. With the aid of the master wimp, President Bush, they are trying to pass a constitutional Amendment to guarantee a "Balanced Budget".

While we consider this ultimate expression of contempt for the taxpayers, let us explore some similar escape mechanisms we might employ in our personal finance. Why can't we go to court and get a Restraining Order preventing a husband or wife from spending more than the household budget each month? Let's print up some bumper stickers and let the banks know our credit cards are under control? Not a bit sillier.

And I see no reason why the congress should stop there. Why not a constitutional amendment to guarantee protection of the environment -- or to save the spotted owl -- or to control urban blight -- to prevent clear cutting or abortions -- and to banish drugs, crime or ill health? Why there is no end to the good that maybe accomplished by the employment of this newly discovered substitute for rational and intelligent performance by our lawmakers.

Before some impish reader suggests a constitutional amendment to

"guarantee happiness", let us consider what it is exactly that is being contemplated by these folks in Washington. These check artists presume us to be too stupid to perceive that if such a constitutional amendment were to be passed *Nothing At All Would Have Been Changed!*

This is because there would still be a need for a series of legislative bills to Implement the reduction of the budget overruns. Either taxes would have to be raised or decisions would have to be made to limit expenditures in the areas of defense, social security, medicare, Medicaid and other entitlements, education, space, agriculture support programs and so forth. Can you imagine the bitter fights and wrangling that would ensue; the turf battles over favorite boondoggles, bailouts?

But that is exactly where they are now, isn't it -- without a constitutional Amendment? How will this impasse be solved before the republic collapses around our heads and it becomes necessary to lease or sell off the remainder of our real estate and industry to Asia or Europe? None of the presidential candidates has advanced anything remotely resembling a solution, only more rhetoric. It seems that Shakespeare's character was quite right, "Life is a tale told by idiots".

In the meantime, the circus goes merrily along in the other two rings. To the tune of a budget shortfall of \$13,000

a second, the president cranks up "Air Force One" at a cost of \$5000 an hour and heads south to Panama and Brazil on a disaster itinerary. The Panamanians turn out to still be incensed about the outlaw invasion of their Country and the deaths of a still-unrevealed number of their citizens and the destruction of their homes and economy (Mr. Noriega Kidnapped and held in limbo, while the drug traffic goes merrily on).

The second leg of the journey brings the president to a confrontation in Rio that resembles nothing so much as a Gilbert and Sullivan comic Operetta. Here, at the Earth Summit, we find our "Environmental President" undercutting his EPA point man by refusing to support a number of key measures dealing with global warming and pollution ("I will not sacrifice America's jobs"). Now, he tells us after twelve years of republican destruction of the economy through deregulation of industry and banking that permitted the diversion of investment capital, that could have built industry, into financial manipulation and junk bonds.

And the third world countries stand accused of bringing the world to the brink of disaster by destroying rain forests to survive the consequences of 500 years of colonialism, Slavery and exploitation--accused by the greatest environmental polluters in the world who have destroyed the ozone level and have clear-cut whole continents.

OEDD Training Grant Assists State Financial Institutions

The Oregon Community College System and the Oregon Banking Association will benefit from a grant that trains banking personnel on the use of modern computer based financial analysis tools. The \$20,868 grant is from the Key Industry Training fund administered by the Workforce Development Section of the Oregon Economic Development Department.


The partnership, consisting of the Oregon Banking Association and the Oregon Small Business Development Network through Lane Community College, benefits Oregon financial institutions and small businesses through the utilization of a standardized method for analyzing loans. The method will include the use business software programs for analysis of loans on the banking side and for providing technical assistance to small businesses on loan preparation on the client side.

The key industry training grant will pay for instructional costs, travel, and materials for training banking personnel on the system. The grant is being matched on a three to one basis by the Oregon Banking Association

member companies. The training will take place in the host institutions of the 19 Small Business Development Centers in the following communities: Albany, Bend, Coos Bay, Eugene, Grants Pass, Gresham, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Lincoln city, Medford, Milwaukie, Ontario, Pendleton, Portland, Roseburg, Salem, Seaside, The Dalles, and Tillamook. A total of 50 training sessions will be offered quarterly to facilitate banker attendance. A total of 50 training sessions will be offered during a 12-month period from June 1992 through June 1993.

"This training program promotes the use of a standardized method of loan analysis statewide to insure consistent information dissemination and better access to loans for small businesses," said Steve Petersen, OEDD Director. OEDD's Key Industry Training Program awards grants to community colleges for developing and delivering training to two or more businesses in an industry, profession, or association. The program is funded by the Oregon Lottery.

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President Bush Policy On Haitians

Continued From Page 2
The President's callous indifference to the plight of the Haitians stands in stark contrast to his feelings for other refugees who have gained sanctuary here.

In the past few years, thousands of refugees from the former Soviet Union, Cuba, Vietnam, China and many other lands have been admitted to the U.S. and granted almost instant political asylum. And most recently, in the Persian Gulf, the President formed an international coalition of over half a million troops. He ordered U.S. intelligence to

help smuggle out refugees, and shed American blood to liberate Kuwait. All this was done, despite the fact the Sheik Jabar al-Ahmed al-Sabah of Kuwait, runs a repressive autocratic regime that regularly violates the democratic principles that Mr. Bush supposedly supports.

Mr. Bush's policy is indefensible. The refugees who are now fleeing are the core of the democratic movement. They look to the United States for democratic principles, moral leadership and safe haven. How can the President tell the world that he hopes to build a new world order based on democracy and self-determination, when he is willing to sacrifice thousands of innocent black people who are fighting for democracy in our own hemisphere?

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