

**School's Out For Summer**

The Boise neighborhood, Housing Our Families and the Portland Parks Bureau help find summer activities for kids.

See Metro Page.

**Free At Last, Free At Last**

'Juneteenth' is a celebration of the end of slavery in the United States.

See Page C5.

**Finding Jobs, New Careers**

Scholarship students in mathematics, engineering and science are embarking on new careers.

See Special Section C.

**Beaverton Set For Entertainment**

A 'Taste Of Beaverton,' is set to begin. The Rose Festival event features foods, music, arts and crafts.

See Page B3.

# The Portland

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Secret Files Must Open**

A federal judge has ordered a Mississippi agency which engaged in campaigns against the civil rights movement to open its secret files. The Sovereignty Commission was founded in 1956 to combat the civil rights movement. Before it was disbanded in 1977, it reportedly gathered files on 250 organizations and over 10,000 individuals. The actions consisted of infiltrating civil rights groups and planting false stories in a bid to create conflict among black groups. For example, in 1964 the commission planted a false story that slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was linked to the Communist Party. The state wanted the files sealed until 2027 but Judge William Barbour ordered the files opened immediately.

**Jails Fill At Record Pace**

Figures by the Justice Department show prisons are being filled at a record pace and dis-proportionately among young blacks. According to the figures, America jails a higher proportion of its citizens than any other nation. The U.S. incarceration rate stands at 455 of every 100,000 citizens. South Africa is second with a rate of 311 per 100,000 and Russia is third. But black males have an incarceration rate seven times greater than any other group. Their rate stands at 2,678 per 100,000. This compares to 372 per 100,000 for white males; 143 per 100,000 for black females and 20 per 100,000 for white females. The incarceration rate is expected to rise even higher as a result of new anti-crime legislation working its way through

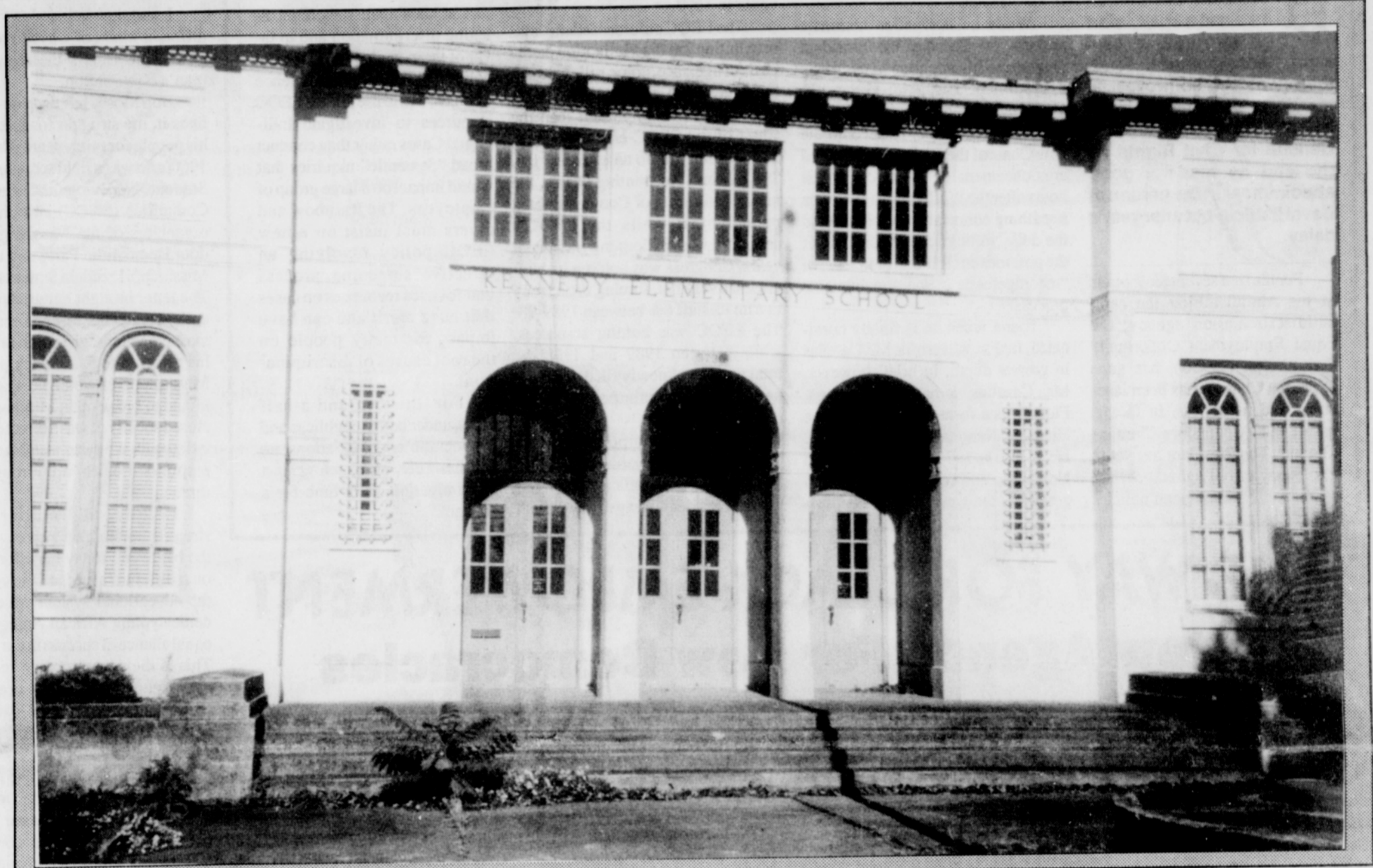
**Repair Your Credit Profile**

You Can Get Credit Again is the title of a new manual designed to repair negative past credit and build new credit profiles. Author James Nathan says, "You do not have to live as a second class financial citizen. Triple-A credit can be restored in a matter of months." The manual is distributed by the non-profit black self-help group The Better Life Club, P.O. Box 28422, Washington, D.C. 20038. Interested persons are asked to include \$4 to defray postage and handling costs.

**Jackson Rallies Against Violence**

Political leader Jesse Jackson is on a seven state tour to rally support for predominantly black congressional districts and to campaign against black-on-black violence. Most of the new black districts created in 1990 to improve the chances of blacks being elected to Congress are threatened by a recent court ruling which suggests the districts were drawn up in such an irregular manner that they discriminate against whites. Jackson says the challenge to such districts and black-on-black crime are related. He explained, "We have to have politicians in office to protect us from the crime of the crime system. He also charged that fighting crime is "diverting our attention" from political and economic parity.

## Kennedy School Use Considered



Historic Kennedy School sits vacant and idle while community leaders in Northeast Portland try to build a consensus on what should be done with the old school house. The building was used to teach area children for 64 years before closed by the Portland School District.

**R**esidents are invited to attend a public workshop on Wednesday, June 29, to offer ideas and opinions on what should be done with the vacant Kennedy School on Northeast 33rd, north of Killingsworth.

The workshop will begin at 7 p.m. in the community room of the new Northeast Police Precinct, 449 N.E. Emerson and Martin Luther

King Jr. Blvd.

Kennedy School, located in the geographic center of the Concordia Neighborhood, was built in 1916 and last used in 1979. The building, once slated for demolition by the Portland School District, was saved by active neighbors who convinced the city of Portland to take control of the property and give the neighborhood time to propose a development plan for the school.

On behalf of the Concordia Neighborhood Association and the Kennedy School Committee, a consultant team, lead by Donald Be Genasci and Association, a Portland architectural firm, has been retained by the Portland Development Commission to prepare a master plan which will identify the best and most feasible ways to utilize the school and its site.

The purpose of the first public workshop is to review information about the site, discuss possible uses and development options, and

identify neighborhood concerns.

Citizen input, along with work already completed by the school committee, will guide the consultant's initial investigation into different options. Subsequent workshops will be held in the fall to evaluate development options.

Project updates will also be a regular agenda item at the general meetings of the Concordia Neighborhood Association held the first Tuesday of each month at Englewood Christian Church, 3515 N.E. Killingsworth.

## Let's End The War Against Our Children

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN  
**EVERY DAY IN UNITED STATES, 12 BLACK CHILDREN ARE KILLED AS A RESULT OF VIOLENT ACTS.**

The senseless killing and injury of Black youth has become one of the worst crises facing our community since slavery. Today guns serve as judge and jury for the most minor of disagreements. Some of our children seem to believe that if they are armed their problems can be solved. All of our children are increasingly fearful.

The Black Community Crusade for Children recently conducted one of the most comprehensive polls ever of the African American community, including responses from children and the adults who love and care for them. Both adults and children are unified in their concern for the future of violence overshadowing all others. Of the Black adults surveyed, 83% say these are "Really bad times" or "Tough times" for Black children and many worry that their children will not live to reach adulthood.

A full 64% consider violence and 72% consider the presence of guns to be very serious problems in the communities where they live. This fear of violence and guns affects the outlook of parents and youths in all

education levels, races, and economic groups.

No one should underestimate the impact of epidemic poverty, unemployment, and homelessness on the spiraling violence in our community. And it will take time to turn around these problems that trap our children. But we can and must do it. We need to reinforce our children's hope and idealism and teach them that many of the disputes that provoke violence can be resolved without the loss of lives. What has happened to us when we resort to violence and killing over mundane things like traffic altercations, minor school yard disagreements, love triangles, and misunderstood glances?

Have we as community moved so far away from the core of our moral and spiritual values that we don't care that seeking to solve problems or seeking retribution through violence often leaves not only grieving families, but also a community where the safety of all is at risk? And what is left for our children's future? With the presence of guns, drugs, and gangs it may well be a future they won't live to see.

Many parents who were polled feel it is only a matter of time until their children become victims. One father from Georgia said, "It's dangerous out there, and maybe one day someone will call and tell me my child got shot." A mother from Illinois said, "I hope my

child lives to become an adult." Let's save our children before time runs out. Here are 10 steps we can all take to stop the war against our children:

- Make sure as parents, teachers, and religious or civic leaders that we do not engage in violence or teach children by word or deed that violence is the way to resolve conflicts.
- Remove guns from your home and encourage others to do the same. Urge President Clinton, Congress, and state and local officials to regulate nonsporting guns and ammunition as dangerous products.
- Fight racial discrimination and hate crimes that contribute to community violence and division.
- Create safe houses, safe corridors, and "peace zones" to protect children in and near schools.
- Provide children and youths with safe, positive alternatives to the streets. Summer, weekend, and after-school programs to keep children safe and connected to caring adults should be an immediate priority for every community. The Black Student Leadership Network at CDF can help in organizing local efforts. (1-800-ASK-BCCC)
- Help create youth jobs and training opportunities to provide young people with

legitimate routes to success. Tell decision makers that creating a job is a lot cheaper than building a new prison cell.

- Support or help launch a parent education or family support program, or get involved in efforts to help prevent teen pregnancy.
- Get your congregation to participate in the CDF-coordinated national observance of Children's Sabbaths on Oct 14-16, 1994. Call for materials to help your church conduct study groups, prayer circles, teach-ins, and worship services on violence and learn about promising ways to address the problem. (1-202-662-3583)
- Inform yourself and others first-hand about the violence against children in your community and what can be done about it by participating in a Child Watch, a guided tour of hospitals, schools, family support programs, and other places that serve children and families. (1-202-662-3582)
- Join the Black Community Crusade for Children to Leave No Child Behind and to ensure that every child has a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, and a Safe Start in life.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children, and a leader of the Black Community Crusade for Children.

EDITORIAL

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HOUSING

CAREER MONTH

CLASSIFIEDS

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