

Bill Supported

Continued from front

The committee took testimony last week on a bill that would establish a \$1,000 per year tax credit to employers of youth who have been certified by a community organization to be either gang-affected or at risk of becoming involved with gangs.

The credit would off-set up to \$1,000 or 50 percent of the wages paid to the young workers and could be renewed for a second year.

Carter said Joe McHenry, assistant director of Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center and David Allen, director of Youth Employment and Empowerment Programs, testified in favor of the tax credit.

Carter said during the 1993 session, Schoon sponsored a similar tax credit bill as a pilot project paid for with \$80,000 of general fund money. Budget cutters, however, axed funding and the bill died.

Noting that many legislators view getting a job as a key deterrent to crime, Schoon said he couldn't think of a more appropriate use of tax cred-

its than in encouraging employers to hire more youth.

Allen told the committee that his organization had placed 300 young people in jobs during the past year and that "we have 96 kids waiting for placement. If we had that extra carrot of a tax credit to sell to employers, I think a lot of them would go ahead and hire those kids right now."

A work session will be held before a vote can be taken, but Schoon expressed cautious optimism that the votes exist in committee and on the House floor for passage. Schoon, however noted that there may be resistance in the state Senate.



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Correct Number For Albina Youth Fund

Donations to a PaineWebber Scholarship Fund to benefit the Albina Youth Opportunity School can be made payable to the AYOS Benefit Scholarship Fund (account number: FR 36465-17). The number was incorrect in our Feb. 22 edition. We regret the error.

School Board Candidates Endorsed

The Portland Rainbow Coalition has endorsed Susan Hagmeier, Marc Abrams and Joseph Tam as candidates for the Portland School Board.

Tam is the education committee chair for the coalition and is running unopposed. Hagmeier is a former chair of Portland Citizens for Oregon Schools. Abrams is a member of the Multnomah Education Service District Board.

"We see the opportunity for a more responsive board with these three and Lucious Hicks," said Rainbow co-chair Jan Mihara. Hicks, the school board's only African American member, was supported by the coalition in his successful 1993 race.

Airport Use Continues To Rocket

Portland International Airport continues on a record-breaking pace for passengers and cargo.

The airport handled 748,458 passengers in January, a 15.5 percent and 100,000 increase from last January, which was the previous record for the month. And the mark was the 33rd consecutive month that the airport has set a record.

On the cargo side, 16,179 tons of freight moved through the airport during the period, eclipsing the previous January record of 13,698 set in 1994. Cargo growth was 18.1 percent for January 1995 over 1994. The airport now has a streak of 43 consecutive monthly cargo records.

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The Portland Observer

Entries Open For Willamette Photo Contest

Interested professional and amateur photographers can win \$250 by submitting favorite pictures of Portland's Willamette River in a photo contest, sponsored by the city's environmental services bureau.

The event is the kickoff to the city's Clean River Works project, which includes educating the public on ways to keep the river healthy for generations to come.

Photos should be black and white prints or slides in a horizontal format. Twelve to 15 photos will be selected for use in promotional materials. Photographers can call Cathy Boyce at 222-4117 for additional information. Photo entries are due by 5 p.m. March 15 at The Ad Department Inc., 215 N.W. Park Ave. Portland, OR 97209.

Georgia Store Lifts Ban

Nearly 500 people marched through Union Point, Ga. recently to celebrate the lifting of a ban which barred 21 blacks from shopping in most of the town's stores.

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