



The leaders of the March on Washington meet President Kennedy: (in front) Whitney Young, Martin Luther King, Jr., Rabbi Joachim Prinz, A. Philip Randolph, President John F. Kennedy, Walter Reuther, and Roy Wilkins. Vice President Lyndon Johnson behind Walter Reuther.

MHRC Offers Dynamic Differences Workshop

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission will offer a free diversity training workshop, "Dynamic Differences," on Wednesday, January 22 from 12:00 Noon - 2:30 pm in the 7th floor conference room of Interim City Hall (1400 SW 5th).

"Dynamic Differences" examines the theory of oppression, addresses the "goodness" within all people, and identifies action steps that lead to partnerships with diverse communities.

Participants will engage in small group exercises that increase awareness of prejudice and oppression -- exploring how it feels to be the victim of oppression and identifying situations of being the oppressor. Dynamic Differences workshops are open to the public, but are not designed for mandated training.

To register, call Linda Hunter, 823-5284 (TTY). If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodation, please call at least 48 hours in advance.

YouthBuilders

by Danny Bell

YouthBuilders is a program that encourages young people from the inner cities to take more control over their lives, by learning basic construction skills while at the same time offering them an opportunity to acquire their high school equivalency diploma. The program is modeled after the first YouthBuilders program established in East Harlem, New York in 1978. YouthBuilders began in Portland in 1993 when 22 member coalition, consisting of community organizations, government agencies, representatives from the private sector, and interested citizens, came together to advocate for YouthBuilders program. After two years of collaboration and intensive planning in 1995, YouthBuilders became a nonprofit agency. 28 very low-income residents of North/Northeast Portland, ranging in age from 16 to 24 were recruited to participate in the program. These youths do not have their high school diplomas. The project's curriculum last for 12 months of full services and a period of 12 months of follow-up support services.

Participants are divided into crews of 7 people. Crews spend alternating weeks in the classroom and on the construction sites.

Participants are paid a regular stipend and bonuses for excellent performance.

Through an arrangement with Portland Community College, participants earn college credits as well as receive a full range of GED preparatory and high school course work for classroom and construction site work.

Program participants work at low-cost housing properties owned by such agencies as Franciscan Enterprises, The Portland Community Reinvestment Initiative, Northeast Community Development Corp., and the Housing Authority of Portland.

They learn extensive building trade skills by doing hands on work. Another aspect of YouthBuilders is its leadership development component. Participants are provided with opportunities to develop leadership skills and assume increasing levels of responsibility for themselves, their families, the program, and the community. Program design includes a partnership between staff and participants in making program and policy decisions.

YouthBuilders also stresses community service. As an Americorps program, participants spend extensive time performing volunteer and community service work. YouthBuilders

is not for everybody and candidates must pass a battery of test to become involved in the program, including alcohol and drug screening. However, according to Michael Cruse, an Urban League diversion counselor,

"I feel it's an excellent program. They take a lot of kids and take them off street. It's helping the youth of Northeast Portland strive to do something positive with their life."

Ray still pleads innocent

James Earl Ray, the assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., was back in a Nashville hospital in fair condition last week, hospital officials said.

Ray, 68, returned to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Nashville from a prison hospital where he was moved last week after emerg-

ing from a coma.

His family has said Ray suffers from cirrhosis of the liver, though he never drank, and that his liver and kidneys are failing.

Ray confessed to the 1968 slaying of King in Memphis, although he later recanted and claimed he was set up.

We salute
Martin Luther King, Jr.

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