

# HOUSING The Portland Observer

## Fulghum and Habitat for Humanity

Robert Fulghum, one of America's most popular authors has teamed up with one of this country's best known nonprofits, Habitat for Humanity International. Fulghum's latest book, TRUE LOVE (HarperCollins: Feb. 14, 1997) is a compilation of stories told to and by him which relate to the mystery, confusion, elation and pain associated with the incredible experience of love. Fulghum has gone beyond writing about love, and decided to celebrate the spirit of true love by donating all net royalties from the sale of the book to Habitat for Humanity for its work.

In the introduction Fulghum writes, "To Habitat for Humanity, founded on the principal that the ultimate grace is found in the simple admonition, 'Love one another.'" About choosing Habitat for Humanity as his beneficiary, Fulghum states, "It is one of the two or three charitable organizations I most re-

spect. I especially admire former President Jimmy Carter's role with Habitat.

On writing his latest book, True Love, Fulghum found people were much more willing to tell their most personal stories when they found out the royalties were going to such a charitable organization.

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Habitat works in partnership with people in need throughout the world building simple, decent shelter that is sold to them at no profit, through no-interest loans. Funds, building materials and labor are donated by individuals, churches, corporations and other organizations who share our goal of eliminating substandard housing in the world.

Founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, Habitat has helped over 250,000 people in over 50 countries have a decent place to call home.

## Tips On Pest Control & Lawn Care Outfits

For many Oregon homeowners, time is at least as important as money. That's why they are willing to turn over such springtime household chores as indoor pest control and lawn care to companies in the business of taking care of it for the homeowner. Although there are many qualified and reputable businesses out there, the Oregon Department of Agriculture advises Oregonians to heed the two words that mean so much in the world of consumerism: buyer beware.

"Contracting with a pesticide operator or lawn care provider is becoming more common due to people's constraints on time," says Janet Fuels, ODA pesticide investigator. "A lot of people have reservations about handling pesticide products themselves and would rather leave that to somebody who does it as a profession."

Still, Fuels recommends that you don't automatically rule out doing it yourself.

"The first step for a consumer is

to determine whether they want to hire a company to perform the application and whether the application is really necessary," says Fuels. "Is the pest they are targeting a real problem? Is it something that can be controlled with another method other than applying a pesticide?"

If the consumer still wants to hire a company, then it's time to do some homework. Check with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to make sure the company or companies you are considering are licensed with the department.

All pesticide operators and applicators must be licensed-- which assures they have demonstrated at least a required minimum amount of knowledge and competency in using pesticides. If a company isn't licensed, don't hire them. Report them to ODA. Even if the company is licensed, the homeowner can check with ODA on any investigative or complaint history. Some may have a record of violations.

Next step: receive estimates from

multiple companies. There could be a wide range of opinions, options, and costs.

Now you may be ready to actually talk with a company representative about the specifics of what you want done. Just like your days in school, you are encouraged to ask questions if you don't understand.

"Don't hesitate to ask technical questions about the type of application you are expecting," says Fuels. "Ask about the specific pesticide products that are going to be used, their active ingredient, their breakdown potential. Ask to see a label of the product and a material safety sheet. All these bits of information will help in making your decision of who to hire and what they should be doing."

Failure or refusal to answer these types of questions should be a clue that the company you are talking to is the wrong choice.

"That's why you ask the questions," says Fuels. "As a consumer, you are not expected to know all the

answers. But they should."

So far, so good. But wait. Don't sign that contract just yet. Make sure you read it completely and understand all of it-- including the fine print. There are at least two issues that may come back to bite you.

"Number one, be aware that all the methods, products, and sites of treatment in your house or in your lawn may be checked on the front side of the contract," warns Fuels. "In the fine print somewhere, make sure they don't opt out on some of those things by indicating it is up to the discretion of the applicator to make a choice on which, if any, of those methods or sites will be treated."

"Secondly, if you have repeated applications on a monthly or bi-monthly basis--whatever you agree upon-- make sure that is something that is absolutely necessary. Make sure you aren't just receiving an application to your property at regular intervals whether you need it or not."

## Norwest stock soars

Norwest Corp said on Monday its board of directors authorized the company to acquire up to two million additional shares of common stock, giving the company a total common stock repurchase authorization of 5.1 million shares.

The financial services company has 374 million common shares outstanding.

The shares will be used for ac-

quisitions, benefit plans, conversion of convertible securities and other corporate purposes, the company said.

"The buyback program will continue to be managed in a manner that will not prevent Norwest from using pooling of interests accounting for acquisitions," said John Thornton, chief financial officer.

Norwest shares were up 3/4 at 50-7/8 Monday.

## University of Texas joins elite schools

NORDX/CDT Inc. announced the awarding of an IBDN Certification to the University of Texas, EDS Financial Trading & Technology Center.

The University of Texas at Austin has been proudly awarding degrees and certificates in its School of Business since 1921. This time, however, it is the School of Business itself that will be receiving the certificate, specifically, an IBDN Certification.

Acquiring a NORDX/CDT IBDN Certification means that the school has a written assurance that all IBDN components, installation and design will carry not only the signals of today, but also those of the future. This certificate will position the school's recently opened \$9.0 million EDS Financial Trading & Technology Center among an elite group of state-of-the-art data and telecommunications installations that have acquired NORDX/CDT's IBDN Certification. It will be awarded by NORDX/CDT (the former Nortel cable division) on behalf of its leading partner in the south central region of the U.S., Data Connection of

Richardson, Texas.

Data Connection was selected by NORDX/CDT in 1993 to market, design, install and maintain the company's IBDN portfolio of products as a Certified System Vendor (CSV). Since then NORDX/CDT has become one of the largest structured cabling manufacturers in the world.

**PDC**  
PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**COMMISSION MEETING**  
Date: March 14, 1997  
Place: PDC  
1900 SW Fourth, Suite 100  
Portland, OR  
Time: 8:00 a.m.

Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC or by calling 823-3200. Citizens with disabilities may call 823-3232 or TDD 823-6868 for assistance at least 48 hours in advance.

PDC is the City of Portland's urban renewal, housing and economic development agency.

## Kafoury Announces Homeless Fund Grants

On Monday, March 10th, Portland City Commissioner Gretchen Miller Kafoury held a press conference at Turning Point Family Shelter, 6552 SW 19th Ave., to announce that \$58,866 raised through the Bottles and Cans for the Homeless Fund campaign will be awarded to programs fighting homelessness in the tri-county area.

Sue Damewood, a former participant in Multnomah County's homeless family services program talked briefly about her experiences and how she was able to make a successful transition from life in a temporary shelter to permanent housing.

The program, which allows shoppers to donate their returnable plastic bottles and cans to help area

homeless people, is making its first grants since it began two years ago. Albertson's, Durst's Thriftway, Food 4 Less, Fred Meyer, Haggen Foods, Kienows, Nature's Fresh Northwest, Plaid Pantry and Safeway stores have all participated in this drive.

"We are excited to be able to get the money to those who need it most," said Commissioner Kafoury. "This program has shown that people can make a difference to an individual or family by taking the simple step of donating bottles and cans." Kafoury continued.

Bottles and Cans for the Homeless Fund was the brainchild of Commissioner Kafoury, former Mayor Bud Clark, Sally McCracken and other homeless advocates as a way to raise

much needed funding for the programs which help homeless people move off the streets and into permanent housing. The money raised will go to programs in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties to help people pay rent or deposits; provide case management; and help families to improve their economic self-sufficiency by providing funds needed for expenses incurred when moving into permanent housing. A combination of the FEMA formula and the money collected in

each County was used to calculate the allocations to each County. Multnomah will receive \$40,793, Washington \$9,035 and Clackamas \$9,037.

The Homeless Fund is a fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. The Advisory Board which manages the fund includes: Commissioner Kafoury, Sally McCracken, Bud Clark, Vern Ryles, Greg Wentworth, John Eskeldsen, Chris Maletis, and Don McClave.

The Program will continue to operate at participating stores.

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