

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Portland Board of Education meeting

The Portland Public Schools Board of Education is scheduled to meet in Executive session under provisions of ORS 192.660 (1)(i), on Thursday, April 24, 1997, at 5:30 pm, in the JDB Conference Room at the Robert Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street. If you have a disability or are hearing impaired and need assistance for this meeting, please make arrangements in advance by calling the board office at 916-3741. This notice is provided in accordance with provisions of the Oregon Open Meeting Law.

All Aboard SamTrack!

Beginning May 3 - Weekends - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, SamTrak, the open-air train pulled by "big Red," SamTrak's new 45 ton diesel electric engine, that takes you on a scenic ride along the Willamette River between Oaks Park and OMSI through the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge corridor. The six-mile round-trip takes one hour. Stop off and enjoy the sights at either end and take a later train back or just enjoy the train ride. Affordable family fun for only \$4.00, ages 5 and over, \$1.50 ages 1-4, and infants 0-1 ride free. Cupola seats \$1.00 extra. Boarding stations at Spokane Street, Oaks Park and OMSI. For schedule information call 653-2380.

PSU Panel Discussion Of the Death Penalty

Portland State University students against the death penalty present a panel discussing the issues. Tuesday, April 29, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 292 of Smith Center (1825 SW Broadway) panelists discuss "The Case Against the Death Penalty." Admission is free and the public is invited. For information call 234-0118.

CoHousing: Neighborhoods for people

A screening of the video "CoHousing: Neighborhoods for People" will be held Monday May 5th, at 7:30 pm at the Reedwood Friends Church/Ong Chapel, 2901 SE Steele, Portland. An introductory presentation about cohousing and Cascadia Commons' plans to create a cohousing ecovillage in Portland will follow the screening. The event is sponsored by Cascadia Commons. Admission is free. In cohousing communities, individual residences are clustered around a Common House which provides amenities such as shared meals and children's play spaces. Pioneered in Denmark, more than 100 cohousing communities are now being planned in the U.S. For more information contact Cascadia Commons at 650-7169.

Oregon Housing 97 Conference

Experts at Harnessing Tax Credits, Bonds and Other Creative Funding Mechanisms To Finance Affordable Housing in Oregon to Highlight Oregon Housing 97 Conference. In the wake of diminishing public resources and escalating construction costs, finding innovative and workable solutions is a must to house Oregonians in need. National and local affordable housing experts will congregate in Portland Thursday and Friday, April 24 and 25 at the Portland Hilton Hotel to share their wealth of knowledge with Oregon's housing community.

Fund-Raiser Set For Women's Shelters

A benefit baby shower acknowledging Roisin McAliskey, a 25-year-old Irish prisoner in London will help provide gifts to mothers in area women's shelters. Sunday, April 27, 1997, from 4 to 6 p.m. Duffy's 8203 North Ivanhoe St. John's District, Portland, Oregon.



Joan Lipis from NOVEA ministries (left) talks with the founder of "Women of Purpose," Dr. O. Virginia Phillips (right) during a recent buffet. The gathering celebrated the message of the "Women of Purpose" organization.

See related article on Religion, page.

Renaissance Market spreads the word

BY LEE PERLMAN

The Renaissance Market is doing well in its first six months of operation. Now its sponsors want it to do a lot better, in part by spreading the word of what they have to offer.

The market at 909 N. Killingsworth St., now run by Emanuel Temple, is attracting about 600 customers a week, the temple's Bishop Wells told the Northeast Jobs Committee last week. To meet its goals, he said, the market hoped to increase its customers and income by 50 percent.

To do so, he said, he hoped to do a better job of spreading the word of what the market

is, and is not.

At issue is a decision the market's managers made early on not to stock any alcohol or tobacco products. This may have led to a perception that Renaissance is a "church store" rather than a true supermarket, Wells said, and that it is "trying to tell people how to run their lives. It's not that way at all. We decided not to stock these items not for religious reasons, but because they are hazardous to health."

The decision has had positive effects, he said. "The area has changed drastically. Drug selling is down. We've gotten some outstanding letters from parents and students who say they feel safer there."

A big element of what the Renaissance hopes to offer is good customer service.

For their staff, they want people who "have the temperament to provide customer service," Wells said. "We need people who have the ability to be friendly and informative, and to do that while being efficient and moving people through the line." At the moment the market has six full-time and seven part-time employees with no immediate job openings. However, Wells added, "As they say, 'There are a lot of barbers in town, but there's always more room for a good one.'"

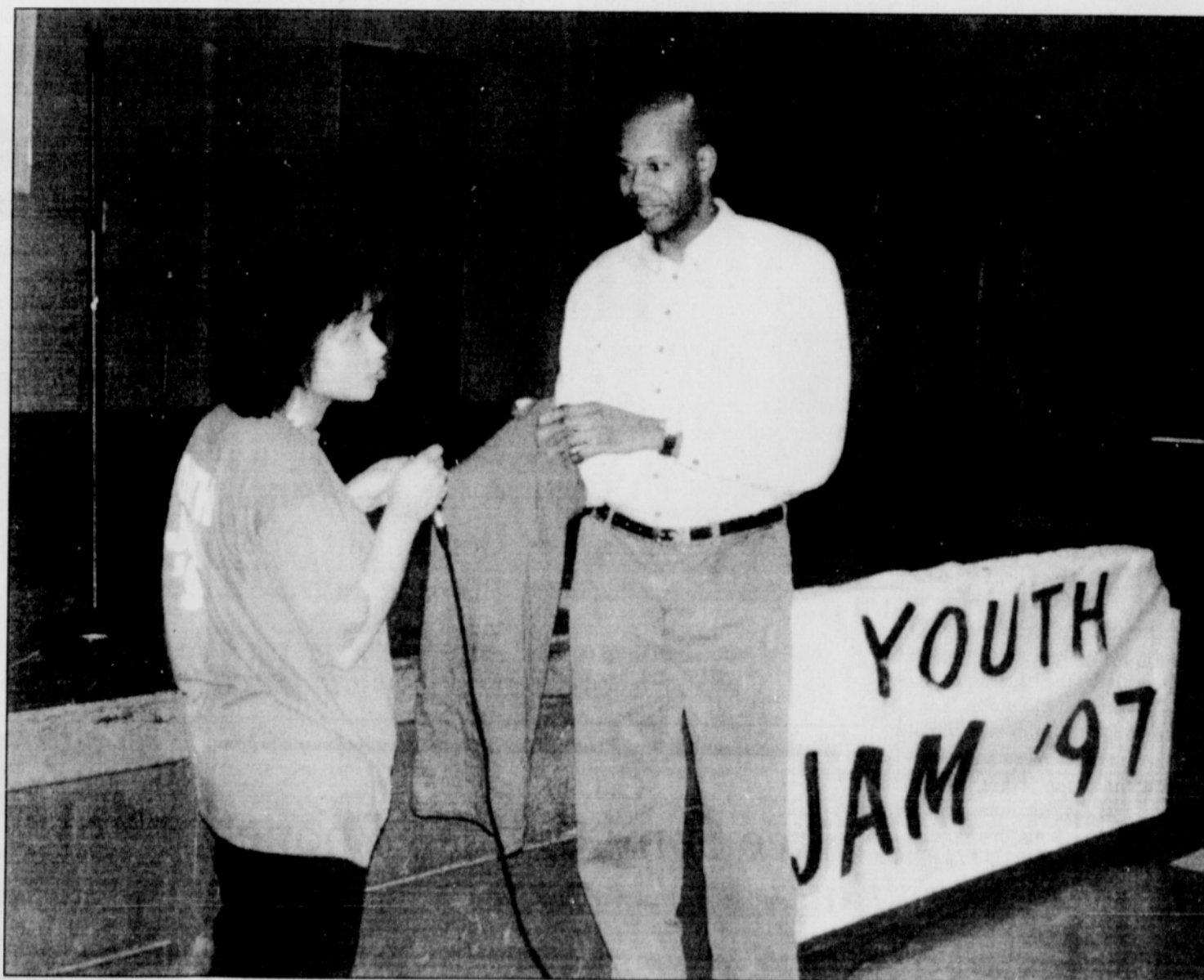
Bonnie McKnight of the Northeast Workforce Center suggested that the market

seek new employees "from the point of view of offering not just a job, but a chance to do community service. That will help you get the kind of people you want. You can't very well offer them a dollar an hour more than your competitors." She agreed on the need to get the word out. "Marketing is what people think of last, but if you don't do it you won't be in business long."

Some customers have complained that the market's prices are above those of other nearby food stores. However, customer services manager Mary Warren said the Renaissance recently compared its prices for 50 popular food items with those of its competitors, and found them "comparable."

Youth Jam "97"

Debra Young coordinator of the Youth Jam '97 presents keynote speaker Kermit Washington with a Youth Jam Tee Shirt. This was the second annual Youth Jam to be held at the Bagley Community Center in Vancouver Washington. The Community Mentorship and Youth Program was founded by Debra Young and the Community A.M.E. Zion Church in April of 1993. The purpose of the program is connect youths with mentors in the Clark County area. For more information call 1-360-695-5577.



City allocates urban development funds

BY LEE PERLMAN

The \$10 million federal Housing and Urban Development funds once slated for the Wieden and Kennedy project in northwest Portland may go to a mixed-use project in north or northeast.

Howard Cutler of the Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development, and Mark Clemons of the Portland Development Commission, made the announcement last week at a meeting of the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Action Committee.

They said the funds could be used to pay

for the commercial portion of mixed-use projects in the north-Northeast Enterprise Zone, and cited three possible examples:

- *Franciscan Enterprise's renovation of the former Texas Lounge Annex* on Northeast Alberta Street at 17th Avenue. The project calls for nine units of low-income housing above a restaurant and other retail outlets.

- *Housing Our Families' Alberta Simmons project*, a four to five story building on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at Dekum Street with 74 low-income housing units above ground floor retail. Director Gretchen Dursch said her

agency already has funding for the residential portion of the project, but that "most banks aren't interested in commercial development as part of mixed-use."

- *Bill Reed's Standard Dairy project*, which would include 64 market rate rental housing units, 6,000 square feet of retail and 6,000 square feet of storage on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at Graham Street. The project received city design and land use approval in 1995, but has languished because of a lack of funding.

The city originally sought the \$2.5 million grant and \$7.5 million low-cost loan package to help the Wieden and Kennedy

advertising agency renovate and relocate to a vacant building at 1227 N.W. Davis St. in northwest Portland's Pearl District. The city received widespread criticism for using funds meant to combat urban decay to help an established business build new office space in what is already one of the city's hottest development areas. Wieden and Kennedy later decided to pursue the project without federal funding.

Cutler later told the Observer that HUD had already approved the grant portion of the funding package. He says the city can expect a decision on the new application in six to eight weeks.