

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Babysitting tips

The Red Cross offers a babysitting class, an eight hour course for youth 11 and older, teaching the responsibilities of babysitting, job interviews, child development, infant care, accident prevention, first aid, and what to do in an emergency. For more information or to register, call 280-1440.

Student matinees

Weekday matinees introduce young people to the magic of live Theatre and the diversity of the world's cultures at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate. Upcoming productions include Vision del Jaquar, a bilingual musical tale of Mayan myth and history of the Guatemalan jungle, held Nov. 12 and Nov. 14 at 10 a.m.

Holiday bazaar

Over 85 tables of handmade and home-made items fashioned by seniors will be available at the annual "Home for the Holidays Bazaar" Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21 and 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department's Marshall Center, 10009 E. McLoughlin Blvd.

Seed the Future

Leaving a legacy of trees and stronger communities are goals of Friends of Trees and its current Seed the Future campaign. The second year of the campaign is kicked off Saturday, Nov. 15 at Columbia Park in north Portland.

Sugar addiction address

Author Nancy Appleton presents a public lecture about addictions to sugar and "how our diet affects our immune system" at the Ramada Inn Airport, 6221 N.E. 82nd Ave., Thursday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.

Snowboard, ski swap

Grant Community Snowboard and Ski Club hosts its second annual Snowboard and Ski Swap, Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Grant High Cafeteria.

Transportation talks

Traffic conditions and transportation options for the future are being discussed in public workshops by Metro's Discover the Choices series. Saturday, area residents will discuss the issues at the Oregon Convention Center beginning with registration at 9 a.m.

Osteoporosis study

African American women, 65 and older are needed for a study to provide answers to osteoporosis. It is now known that African American women over the age of 70 experience bone loss twice as fast as Caucasian woman of the same age, but researchers are unsure why this occurs. Call the Center for Health Research at 499-5571.

Truth to Power

Anita Hill will speak to her new book entitled "Speaking Truth to Power," and to sexual harassment on Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Portland State University's Smith Center Ballroom. Hill's lecture is a benefit for the Job Equity Project, sponsored by the YWCA of Salem.

Home buying advice

Unsure if you can afford to buy a home? Find out what it takes to buy a house by attending free classes about home loans, home buying and home ownership. Classes are held each month, designed for moderate income residents who are buying their first house. To register, call 282-7744.

Stay warm this winter

Don't wait until winter to weatherize your home. Attend a free workshop to learn how you can stay warm and save money this winter. Call the Community Energy Project at 284-6827.

SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if received two weeks before the event date.

Housing boom spurs people to action

Race, poverty scholar says wealth benefits neighborhoods, not the neighbors

By NEIL HEILPERN

A discussion about black economics at the Urban League offices may have triggered some people's increased involvement in their government.

"Portland has a greater accumulation of wealth than any other African American community in the United States," said visiting race and poverty scholar Prof. John Powell, who warned that "blacks are being pushed out as wealth is created."

"The wealth is benefitting neighborhoods and not the neighbors," Powell told a group of people representing organizations in Portland's Coalition for a Livable Future. He noted that land speculators are scouring north and northeast Portland, offering people lucrative payments for their homes.

He cited ads offering to pay cash for homes, where people are offered \$80,000 for a home they thought was worth \$40,000, and the speculators turning around to sell for \$120,000.

"It's a gold mine," he said, "with people preying on those who don't realize it."

Blacks in other cities have suffered when federal housing regulations encouraged the flight of whites to the suburbs, followed by the factories and the jobs, Powell said. This has not happened in Portland. "But, even though it has improved tremendously here, we need more."

Unless urban sprawl is controlled, you can't do anything about other issues like housing and jobs," said Powell. "Regional planning stops sprawl and directs resources back into the city."

"You still have a city where people are moving in and land is being used, because of the urban growth boundary," he noted, explaining that the issue can't be dealt with only as a neighbor hood problem, but as part of the overall question of regional urban sprawl and how it affects people.

Powell told how his hometown of De-



Race and poverty scholar Prof. John Powell (left) greets Robert Liberty of the landuse watchdog group 1000 Friends of Oregon.

(Photo by Neil Heilpern)

troit, Mich., was "more fragmented and more segregated," because each surrounding suburb and town had its separate policies and plans. Decisions, he said, were made to keep local tax bases protected and kept policies in place for uneven opportunities for people of color.

Powell also discussed practices like red lining neighborhoods, restrictive covenants, and various loan requirements which have limited opportunities for minorities.

He noted the importance of policies which

link housing to jobs.

"It is essential that you are in the discussion of zoning, and that you lead the discussion. If you don't lead, other people will direct your lives," Powell said.

Attendees seemed to agree that when local governments offer tax incentives to companies to locate in the city, those incentives should be coupled with requirements for local hiring and housing. This would allow people of color to keep their inner city

residences and have job opportunities.

One audience member pointed out that many decisions are made years in advance of the final action and people who are not active on an ongoing basis find out about those actions too late to make a difference.

Robert Liberty, executive director for 1000 Friends of Oregon, noted that "lobbyists for the homebuilders will be at the Nov. 13 Metro hearing on the regional framework plan," and urged people to attend.

Fitzpatrick, a leader in finding solutions

Executive has seen worse and dealt with it

By LEE PERLMAN

Portland's inner-city housing crisis? Maxine Fitzpatrick has seen worse and dealt with it. That's why she was recruited to find solutions here.

As executive director of Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Fitzpatrick oversees the management of 244 properties, most of them single family homes, purchased by the city from the Dominion Capital Corp. in 1993.

Among other things, the company sold homes to low-income people under contracts with hidden clauses that made the purchase almost impossible; Dominion could then foreclose and regain its house.

PCRI, a non-profit corporation, was created by the city, principally commissioner Gretchen Kafoury, to manage the property.

The owners of Dominion Capital were later convicted of fraud.

Fitzpatrick was recruited to head the new agency, after a national search by S. Brooks and Assoc., based on her work as director of a housing development agency in Milwaukee, Wis.

"There are issues and problems there that far exceed what we have here," she says.

Commissioner Eric Sten, who served on the PCRI board as a Kafoury aide, says that the first time it tried to hire a director the board rejected all the candidates. On the second attempt, Fitzpatrick emerged as the outstanding candidate.

"She's a unique person and was uniquely qualified for this job," Sten says. "She's smart, energetic, personable, and has been involved with housing her whole adult life. She's done everything from being a low-income tenant herself to managing a

major agency."

PCRI's units rent for from \$250 to \$700 a month depending on their size, considerably below the prevailing market rate.

Fitzpatrick notes that a PCRI house on Northeast Schuyler Street rents for \$200 a month less than a comparable structure across the street in much worse condition.

The agency sold 83 houses to occupants who had contracted to buy them from Dominion Capital. It brought the remaining properties up to code, in some cases spending so much the houses could not be rented at below-market rates. Last summer its board voted to sell 20 such houses.

There may be other sales in the future but, if so, PCRI will buy other properties to replace them, Fitzpatrick says, for the need is greater today than it was four

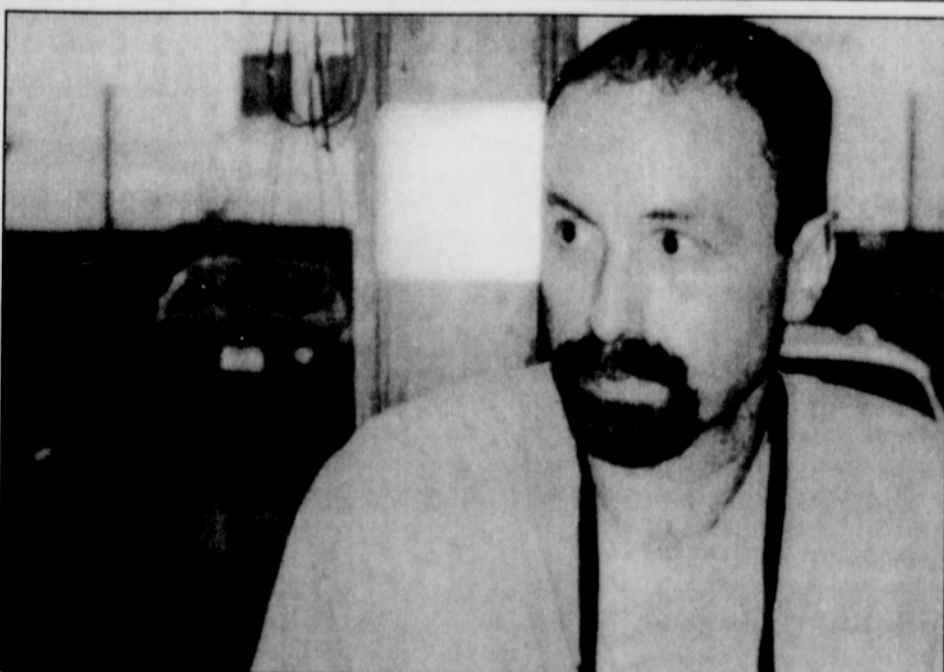


Maxine Fitzpatrick

Russell Clinic offers dental care as part of HIV study

The Russell Street Dental Clinic has a long history of conducting clinical research. Recently, the research focus of this Oregon Health Sciences University Clinic has been on oral health protocols for HIV-positive patients. These studies have produced exciting, new information of use to dentists and their patients throughout the United States.

Most recently, the clinic has received funding from the National Institute of Den-



Dr. Laine Rich of Oregon Health Sciences University will lead new dental research at Russell Street Clinic.

(Photo by M. Washington)

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Urban League adds to board

The Urban League of Portland has elected Dr. Daniel Bernstine, Harry Hutt, Gary Tipton and James Winters II as new members of the board of directors.

Daniel Bernstine is the new president of Portland State University and the former dean of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Harry Hutt is senior vice president, marketing operations for the Portland Trail Blazers and Oregon Arena Corp.

Gary Tipton is site operations manager for Hewlett-Packard company's printer manufacturing facility in Vancouver.

James Winters II is president of United Energy, the largest minority-owned business in Oregon.