

HOUSING

The Portland Observer

6th Annual Walk for Humanity Celebrates Community Transformation

On Saturday, May 2, community residents, employees and volunteers will celebrate the redevelopment and improvement of more than 70 Northeast Portland properties at the 6th annual Walk for Humanity.

The Walk for Humanity begins with registration at 9:30 am at Irving Park, NE 7th Avenue and Fremont Street. Before setting out on a 5-mile walking or 10-mile bicycling tour of sites improved by event host Portland Habitat for Humanity

and 17 other Northeast nonprofits, participants will have an opportunity to sample the ac-

struction experts David Ewing of Ewing Design Concepts and Scott Hanley of Scott Contractor

ing and raising eight walls for Habitat homes. Wall-building will take place between 9:15 am and 9:45 am. The Walk ends with a free lunch for participants at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 NE 7th Avenue; and an Alberta Street Fair, on Alberta between 15th Avenue and 33rd Avenue from 11:30 to 6 pm.

For more information about the Walk for Humanity, please contact Coordinator Darcy Varney at PortlandHabitatforHumanity:287-9529.



tivity the Walk celebrates: con- Services will lead others in build-



Express your love for Dad on Father's Day by placing a personal announcement in the Portland Observer. Call Tony or Mary at 288-0033. (Deadline: June5)

Poor Can't Find Affordable Rent

By LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON

A record 5.3 million American families with low incomes have been bypassed by the booming economy and face a crisis of unaffordable rent, according to a report issued recently by Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo.

Cuomo will try to use the report's findings to persuade Congress to approve President Clinton's pending budget request for hundreds of millions of dollars in additional housing assistance.

"The report makes it clear that the federal government must significantly enhance its efforts to create more affordable housing opportunities," Cuomo said. "The strong economy that has brought prosperity to millions of Americans has not reduced the affordable housing crisis for millions of others."

Cuomo said the 5.3 million low-income households represent some 12.5 million people who are eligible for HUD-subsidized housing but can't get it because of lack of financing.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's report found:

While the overall U.S. economy was good and getting better, American households with acute housing needs grew by nearly 400,000 over five years to 5.3 million in 1995. It has held steady thereafter.

The number of affordable apartments for people with very low incomes fell by 900,000 from 1993 to 1995.

The number of poor, working families needing housing assistance increased by

265,000, or 24 percent, from 1991 to 1995.

The number of suburban households with serious housing needs increased by 146,000, or 9 percent, from 1991 to 1995.

The Clinton administration is asking Congress for \$585 million for 103,000 rental assistance vouchers; \$135 million for expanded homeless grants; \$11 million for a new HOME bank to finance affordable housing and an expansion of the low-income housing tax credit.

Seafirst Rated "Outstanding" for Community Reinvestment Activities

For the fourth consecutive time, federal banking regulators have given their highest rating — an "outstanding" — to Bank of America NT&SA for its success in meeting the credit needs of low-income communities.

Bank of America recently released its performance evaluation by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), one of several regulatory agencies that evaluate bank compliance with the 1977 Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). BofA received its last evaluation in May 1995. The OCC's current report evaluates the bank's performance from January 1996 through June 1997.

The Comptroller's Office gave its highest CRA rating not only to Bank of America NT&SA, but also to the bank's operations in California, Washington, and the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan service area. Together, these

three territories account for over 80 percent of BofA's U.S. lending activities.

The bank received "satisfactory" ratings in Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and the Las Vegas metropolitan service area.

Declaring that BofA "continues to demonstrate its commitment to lending, investing and servicing all segments of the states in which it does business," the OCC commended the bank's record of providing "an excellent level of all types of credit to low- and moderate-income applicants."

The regulatory agency reports that BofA made 363,000 loans for almost \$3 billion to low- and moderate-income borrowers. It also credits the bank for making 265 community development loans worth nearly \$462 million.

In addition to its lending per-

formance, the bank invested \$406.7 million "for the capitalization of loan pools, community development corporations, syndicated community development participations, government subsidized programs, municipal securities financing affordable housing, tax credits and the support of nonprofit developers, social services, and support groups."

Finally, the bank received high marks for an extensive branch and ATM network that helps meet the financial needs of its entire service area, and for its expanding telephone and personal computer delivery capabilities.

"Coming on the heels of a rigorous six-month evaluation process, the OCC report confirms our determination to build economic opportunity," said Donald A. Mullane, Bank of America's executive vice president of corporate community development.

"By increasing production levels, expanding delivery capabilities and effectively managing risk, we continue to find profitable ways to meet the credit needs of underserved communities."



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Multnomah County, District 2
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Portrait and photo by the Commission to Elect Pam Arden - 1117 S. Washington - Portland, OR 97217

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<http://PortlandObserver.net>

North Portland Bible College

"It's more than just a Bible School"



It's a community resource, developing new ways to deliver the education and skills people want and need in North/Northeast Portland.

We are developing summer and fall classes in computer keyboarding in Windows and Word software, and in basic English language skills. Contact our office for more details.

Are you looking for continuing education workshops, to equip you for excellence in serving God in your church and community? Then don't miss the **Albina Christian Workers Conference, on May 16 (Saturday), 8:00—4:00, at Berean Church, 4822 N. Vancouver Avenue, sponsored by NPBC.**

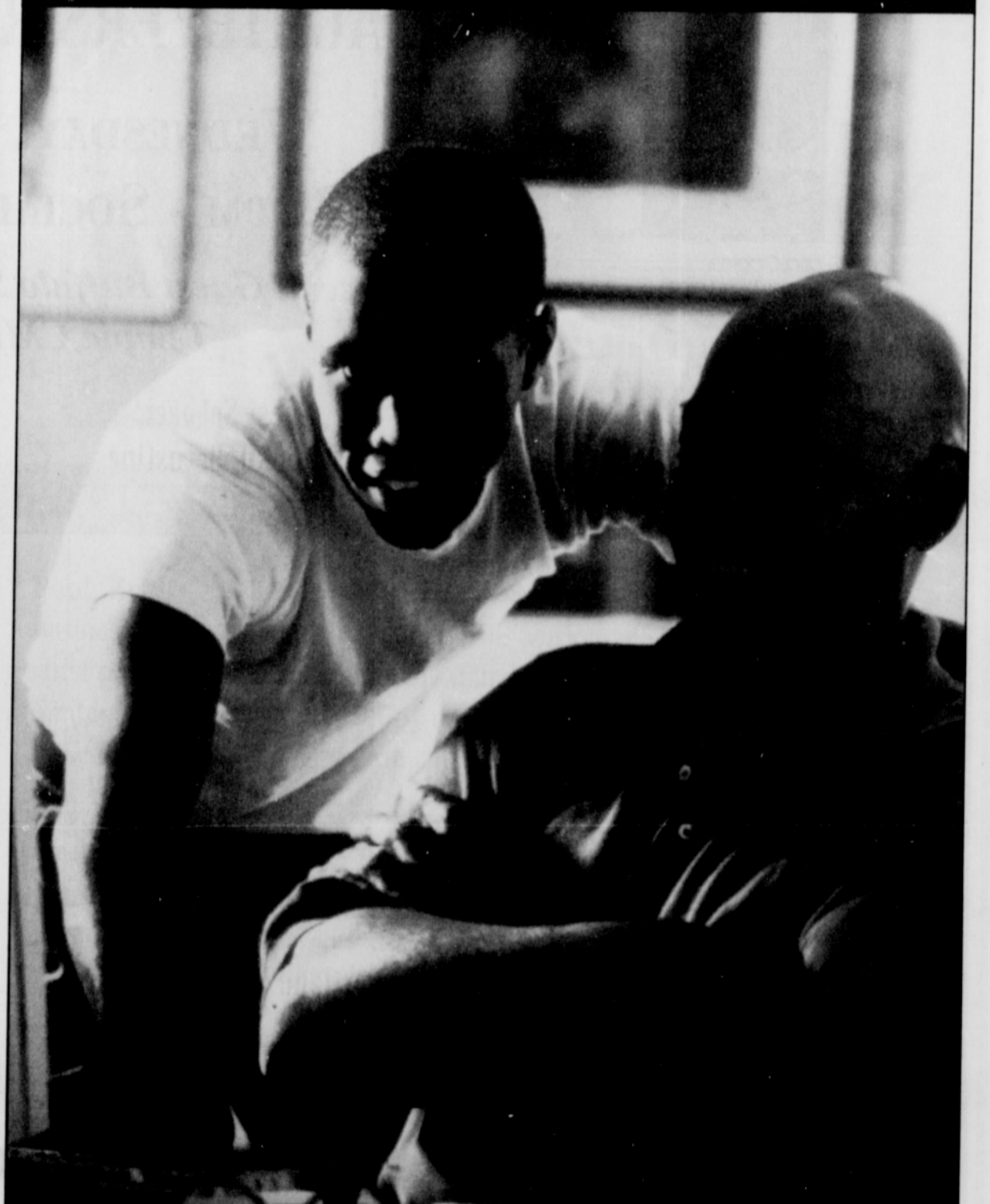
We will feature workshops on conflict resolution, Sunday School innovation, understanding Jehovah's Witnesses, beautifying the church worship center, keeping your youth walking with Christ, and finding multicultural materials for teaching tools. All taught by qualified Christian workers. Registration is only \$15 in advance, including a wonderful lunch. Call now and register.

We also offer a **Marriage Enrichment Seminar on Saturday, May 23, at the NPBC campus. Free and open to all, the seminar is taught by Dr. Otis F. Brown, our president, and Dr. Johnnie Brown, his wife, well known conference speakers.**

Are you looking for answers concerning the future, from the Bible? Then sign up for our summer course, **NT141: The Revelation.** It starts August 4, and is available for credit or personal enrichment.

Don't miss the opportunities in your community! North Portland Bible College, 4905 N. Vancouver Avenue, phone 288-2919.

When our youth come home excited about achievement, we all win.



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Urban League of Portland

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