

**Black History Month**

*The Mystical Temples along the Nile*



See Black History Month

**McMenamins Kennedy School**

*The school is host of 9th Annual Festival of African Film*



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# The Portland Observer

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## Child-Protective Services Director Kay Toran Announces Retirement

Kay Toran, the state's child protective services director since May 1994, announced Monday she plans to retire at the end of February.

Toran, who joined state government as a Portland State University assistant professor of social work, said she plans to pursue personal projects. She said she wants to write books, and she is expected to continue working with SCF through the balance of the 1999 legislative session.

"Kay's unselfish and energetic commitment to the welfare of abused and neglected children means Oregon's kids are better off than they were five years ago,"

said Gary Weeks, director of the Oregon Department of Human Resources. "Because of Kay's Oregon experience and expertise, I am asking her to work with us through the end of the legislative session."

Weeks said a decision about selecting a successor will be made in the coming weeks.

During her nearly five years as the state's top child-protective services administrator, Toran's achievements included dramatically increasing adoption of foster children into permanent families; developing community safety nets in local communities to serve children and teens who are at risk of being abused; improving the division's response to reports of child abuse and neglect; and strengthening families so children in state custody can be returned to their biological parents.

"SCF has made tremendous strides over the last few years," Toran said Monday in a

message to staff. "We continue with major changes that better serve the needs of our children and families."

Toran, 56, was chosen recently to receive the Urban League of Portland's Equal Opportunity Award for 1999, which will be presented in March. Donna Shalala, federal health and human services secretary, last summer named Toran to a national advisory panel on kinship care.

Toran was named administrator of the Old Children's Services Division in May 1994, and became director of the State Office for Services to Children and Families after the division's name and duties changed

following the 1995 legislative session.

Toran holds a master's degree in social work from Portland State University

and a bachelor's degree from the University of Portland.

SCF has a 1997-99 budget of nearly \$455 million and a statewide staff of about 1,580.

Kay Toran's Personal Comments to the Portland Observer: "I leave the agency with mixed feelings. Those of sadness for a staff that has become much like family to me - but with pleasure in the accomplishments which the department has made in creating a safety net for our most valued resources, 'our children'. I will always be an advocate for the protection and nurturing of the children of Oregon. I truly appreciate the support I have received over the years, that has allowed me to place our children higher on the conscience agenda of all Oregonians."

SEE MORE KAY TORAN ON PAGE A8



Kay Toran, Director of the state office for Services to Children & Families

## Bowman to Receive Elite Leadership Award



State Representative Jo Ann Bowman was named to the 1999 class of Fellows at the Flemming Fellows Leadership Institute, the Center for Policy Alternatives recently announced. Representative Bowman joins a diverse group of state legislators from across the country who were chosen for their leadership, dedication to public life and civil service and commitment to making government "part of the solution" to challenges facing our society.

"This Fellowship is designed to help state elected officials learn to find common ground with unlikely allies in order to make government work," said Institute Director J. Wesley Watkins. "These are leaders who will continue to have a significant impact on public policy in their official and private lives."

This is the fifth class of Flemming Fellows. Fellows participate in a series of retreats held throughout the year, at which they attend seminars encouraging creative and progressive problem-solving strategies that can be implemented effectively in their districts. Participants focus on how to develop a public decision-making process, what role government can effectively play in this process and how public leaders can help build and act on public consensus on policy issues.

## Row House Project Caught In Neighborhood Agency Feud

BY LEE PERLMAN

The once-strong relationship between the Boise Neighborhood Association and Housing Our Families have undergone a drastic deterioration in recent years.

This was revealed most dramatically by the neighborhood's reaction to the non-profit agency's latest project, the Fargo Street Rowhouses, a 10-unit development on a vacant 19,000 square foot lot at North Fargo Street and Kerby Avenue, immediately south of Boise-Eliot School. The three and four-bedroom units are designed by architects Jim and Martha Andrews, would be built by Thomas D. Walsh, and rented by HOF to families earning 60 percent of median income.

Boise has challenged the project. No land use approvals are involved, but it is receiving \$361,000 in federal funds, and Boise has convinced the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development, to put a temporary hold on the money.

Boise's objections are two-fold: that

the neighborhood already has more than its share of subsidized housing projects; and that Boise does not trust HOF to manage the project well, based on its recent track record elsewhere.

The second would have been unthinkable two years ago. HOF, run by and for women, once hosted Boise meetings. Its first project, the rehabilitation of a fourplex, was in Boise and named after longtime Boise leader Vesia Loving. It was hailed as a savior for turning around the drug-infested Colonial Apartments (now the Maya Angelou apartments). The two groups have participated together in several community betterment projects, including revitalization of North Mississippi Avenue. Boise leaders participated in the dedication of the flagship Betty Campbell Building on North Mississippi Avenue and Shaver Street, which houses the agency's offices.

More recently, however, there have been complaints of drug dealing in both the Betty Campbell and Maya Angelou. Acting director Barbara Willer says it took time to legally evict a problem tenant from the Betty Campbell, and there has been trouble

locating the source of the problem at the Maya Angelou. She readily admits that "communication has broken down" between her

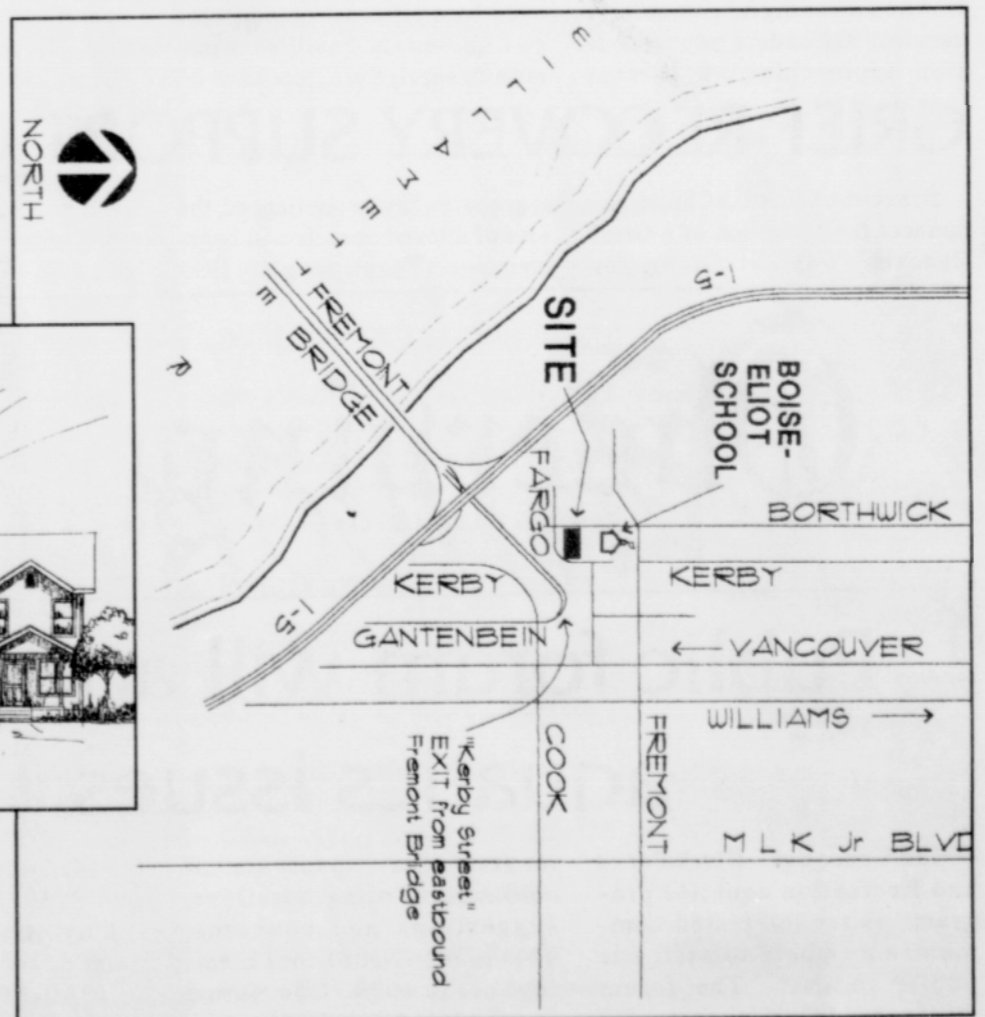


agency and the Boise Association.

Boise co-chair Chris Brown is not satisfied with this explanation.

"The lock on the front door was broken for six months," he says. "People were throwing drugs down from upstairs windows, it was so blatant."

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# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### \$1.7 Trillion Budget

President Clinton will soon release his \$1.7 trillion Federal budget blueprint for the year 2000. Under this new plan, he hopes to win the bi-partisan support. His proposal will appeal to liberal and middle-class constituencies with his domestic programs and Republicans with an increase in spending on the military, local police and small businesses.

### Calling On Witnesses

House prosecutors in the Senate announced their brief list of potential witnesses. The three main ones are Monica S. Lewinsky; Vernon Jordan, the Washington lawyer who sought a job as Ms. Lewinsky, and Sidney Blumenthal,

a White House adviser to whom Clinton gave a false account of the relationship. The witnesses would first testify in private with lawyers before appearing in public.

### Presidential Apology

White House lawyers issued a statement of regret to Monica Lewinsky from the President for the disruption to her life and to her family. Nicole K. Seligman read her an apology for her ordeal as a year of investigations. For four hours, Lewinsky underwent questioning before a group of prosecutors at the 10th floor Presidential Suite of the Mayflower Hotel about her alleged affair with Bill Clinton.

### Airlines Raising Fares

Large domestic airlines, industrywide raised their fares again. There has not been an across-the-board increase since 1997. Usually, fares have just risen on individual routes. The new rate increase is expected to bolster industry revenue by 1.5 percent this year.

### Time Warner Joins AT&T

AT&T Corp. and Time Warner Inc. joined forces to sell local telephone service over Time Warner's Millions of cable television lines. This new venture could provide consumers with a good alternative to the Baby Bells and GTE Corporation within a few years. Through this deal, AT&T could offer

local phone service to more than 40 percent of the United States' homes.

### Chimpanzee AIDS Carriers

An international team of scientists traced the origin of the AIDS virus to a subspecies of Chimpanzees in Africa. Researchers determined that the simian virus carried by the animals was closely related to HIV-1, the type of AIDS virus that has spread the disease worldwide. There are now 30 million people with AIDS. Studies will be done to determine why the chimpanzee's immune system appears to resist the AIDS virus while the human's is incapable.