

**Gospel Pioneer,
Edwin Hawkins, Revamps
"Oh! Happy Day" For
New Millennium**

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**41st Ebony
Fashion Fair
"Fashion to Love"**

See Focus



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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Palestinian Statehood

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, is nearing the final day to declare a state by May 4. Under an Oslo peace agreement with Israel, that is the day when a five-year transitional period of self-rule ends. Arafat has been pressured to postpone statehood from officials in America, Europe, Jordan and Egypt as well. The Palestinian leader may delay only until a new Israeli prime minister is installed who would reestablish peace negotiations with him.

Russian Prime Minister

Yevgeny Primakov, Russia's prime minister will be facing an important challenge of winning several billion dollars in credits from a skeptical International Monetary Fund. His mission is to gain world market respectability and restructure Russia's huge foreign debt. Primakov was installed as prime minister at a time when the ruble had crashed, inflation was soaring and harvest was a bust.

Cable Merger

Comcast Corporation and Mediaone are preparing a \$53 billion merger that would create the third-largest cable television company in the nation. They are the only two industries that have communication cables that pass almost every house and business in the country. Consumers to both companies will not see any increase in their rates as a result of the merger. The government will be deregulating the cable industry this year. Both companies are taking advantage of this by trying to entice customers with new, advanced data and phone service.

'Shakespeare In Love'

The movie, "Shakespeare In Love" was selected as best picture this year by the Academy Awards committee. Promoters of "Shakespeare In Love" received harsh criticism from Spielberg's Dreamworks company for spending millions of dollars on advertising the film in numerous Hollywood trade papers and newspapers. Spielberg received the Oscar for best director for "Saving Private Ryan", the favored winner for best movie.

Balloon History

Dr. Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones made history by flying nonstop around the world within 20 days. Both men completed the voyage with their Breitling Orbiter 3 by keeping an altitude of 36,000 feet and travelling about 130 miles an hour. Advanced computer modeling and satellite weather readings allowed ground controllers to track the balloon continuously and calculate the best altitude.

Medical Marijuana

The long-awaited Government-commissioned report on marijuana was issued recently. It was found that marijuana smoke was even more toxic than tobacco smoke. Nonetheless, the independent experts of the report determined that the drug is effective for treating pain, nausea and the severe weight loss associated with AIDS.

Nike's New Outlet Store



By LEE PERLEMAN

Nike is moving closer to building a new outlet store on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The athletic shoe and apparel company is undergoing city design review for a new 18,000 square foot building on the west end of the "Lampus Block," between Northeast Russell and Knott streets. The one-acre site has been vacant since a fire destroyed a warehouse there two years ago. It is four blocks south of Nike's existing 10,000 square foot store at 3044 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The Lampus family, which has owned the property for decades, will continue to do so, according to representative Jim Lampus. Nike would rent the space on a ten-year lease, with an option for renewal. Nike and the Lampus family have agreed to the proposal in principle, but have yet to formally sign an agreement, Lampus says.

The proposed design was endorsed by the Eliot Neighborhood Association land use committee last week, in part because of changes Nike made in response to con-

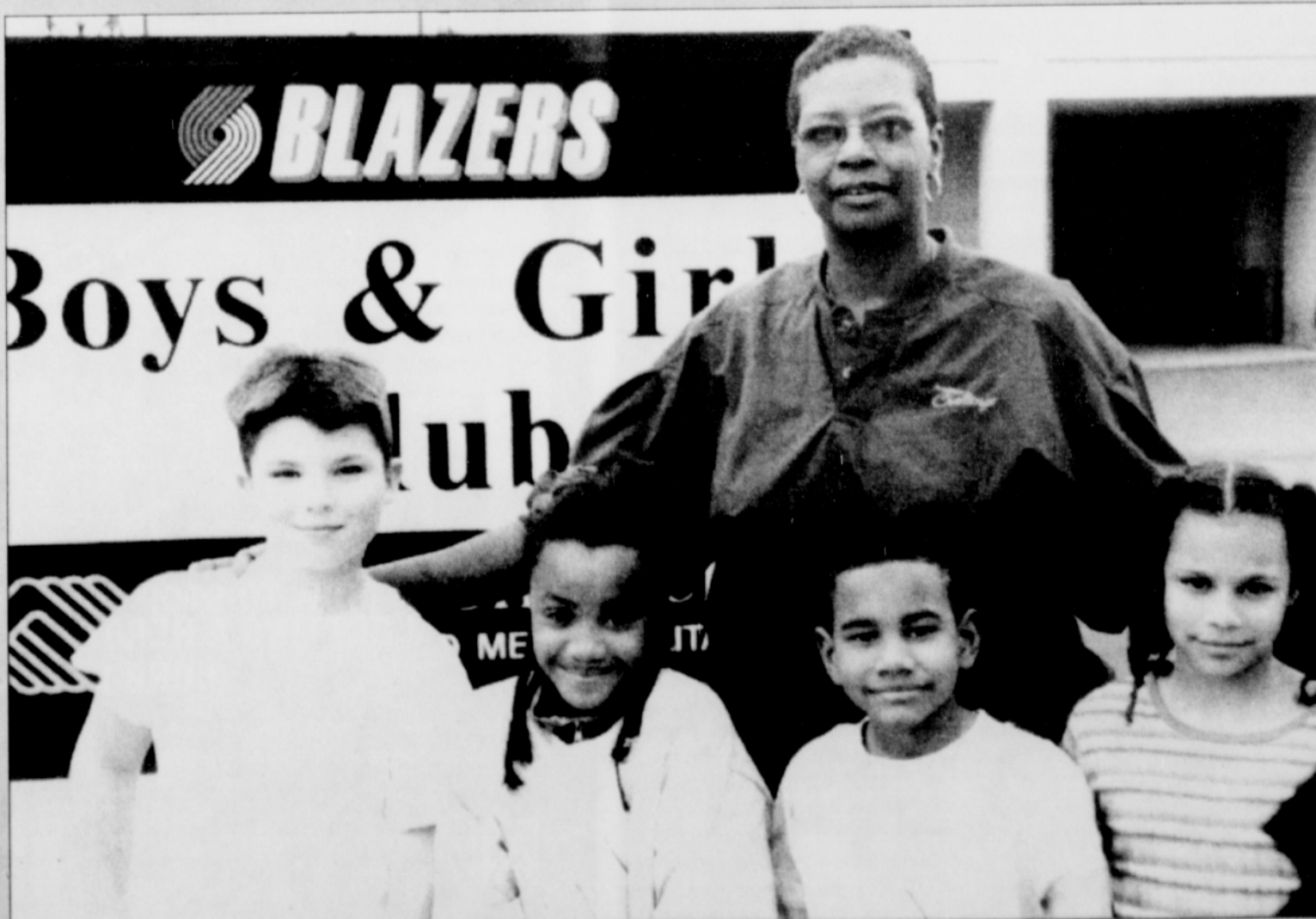
cerns voiced at an earlier meeting. To encourage pedestrian use and pedestrian safety the brick structure will have its only entrance on MLK. There will be extensive windows along the boulevard, as well as along Knott Street and the south side of the structure, the path from the parking lot to the front door.

The parking lot, part of which will front on the boulevard, was the most contentious issue for Eliot. Several residents said that the street already had too many parking lots on it,

and suggested a "false wall" or some other device to screen the cars.

Others said that if the lot were obscured from sight, it might become a scene for illegal activity. Nike is proposing extensive but low landscaping, plus five brick and metal columns that will provide seating, lighting and rain shelter. Nike rejected a request that they recess their front door to break the monotony of the front facade, saying this would interfere too much with their retail space.

Blazers Boys & Girls Club Gears Up For Spring Break



Linda White, Executive Director, Blazers Boys & Girls Club, goes over the rules and activities for the week with local area participants.