

Opinion

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Area Residents Deserve Affordable, Stable Homes

By Hop Hopkins
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF TENANTS

I'm working for the Community Alliance of Tenants here in Portland. We are a grassroots tenant-controlled, tenant-membership organization.

Our mission is to educate and empower tenants to demand affordable, stable and safe rental homes.

I am coordinating to Tenant Organizing Project which will operate in North and Northeast Portland. The neighborhoods where I will be working are the poorest and most highly populated by people of color in Portland.

These neighborhoods are encompassed in what has been designated as an Urban Renewal District and a portion of the com-

munity is preparing for the construction of a light rail system.

These neighborhoods are in various stages of gentrification and as rents and housing prices rise faster than incomes folks are being forced to leave. This effect is known as housing displacement. It is CAT's mission to mitigate this displacement.

Our plan is to door knock and survey four of the neighborhoods (4,500 doors) in imminent danger of displacement. We hope to gather information on the destructive results of this gentrification on the residents.

We hope to gain factual information that will move us beyond what some call "anecdotal stories" to more scientific information to support what we already

know.

We hope to identify and help develop the leadership already present in the neighborhoods, encourage and (with the help of our project partners) help residents buy their homes, help folks get food if they need it, educate folks (through Renters Rights forums) on how gentrification works and how to resist it, wage a campaign that highlights the racist and classist nature of gentrification.

We know that one project or one organization will not change all of this, however, some of what I explained are both short-term and long-term goals of this project.

Thanks for the help!

Hop Hopkins

Community Alliance of Tenants
503-460-9702 (work)

Jo Ann Bowman Secures New Party Endorsement

Portland New Party members voted unanimously last week to target volunteers and funds to Jo Ann Bowman's race for the Multnomah County Chair.

Bowman, D-Portland, served three terms as State Representative from District 19 and eight years as Staff Assistant to County Chair Bev Stein. Her opponent is former County Commissioner Diane Linn.

A tireless advocate for the poor and minorities, Bowman is well known and highly regarded by community activists.

"Jo Ann is always on the front

lines, organizing and agitating for justice for all. Her campaign will draw on a large pool of volunteers who trust her dedication and experience," says Cecil Prescod, Portland New Party chair.

Calling herself a "voice for the voiceless", Jo Ann Bowman is recognized for her high profile opposition to police abuse, mandatory minimum sentencing and overrepresentation of minorities in the criminal justice system.

She serves as first vice president of the local NAACP, on the Workers Rights Board of Jobs with Justice and as a board member of the Environmental Justice Action Group.

Bowman's government background is seen as a good fit for the County Chair position. Whether advocating for Multnomah County at the state legislature or with the governor's office, developing the County's Living Wage and Benefit Project, or negotiating County Sheriff to City Police transfers, Bowman has a track record of collaborative accomplishments within and between governments.

Jo Ann Bowman was a founding member of the New Party in 1997 and the first elected official to sign up with the fledgling politi-

cal formation.

Growing out of the Rainbow Coalition, the NP is an independent organization building power for low and moderate income communities. Other NP endorsed officials include Serena Cruz, Margaret Carter, Avel Gordly, Frank Shields, Geri Washington, Rex Burkholder, Lorenzo Poe, Marc Abrams, and Derry Jackson.



Jo Ann Bowman



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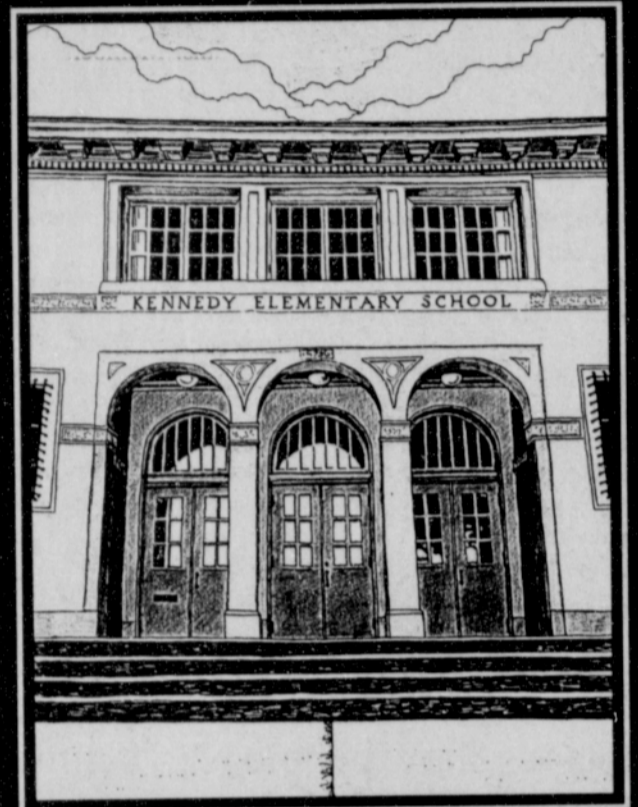
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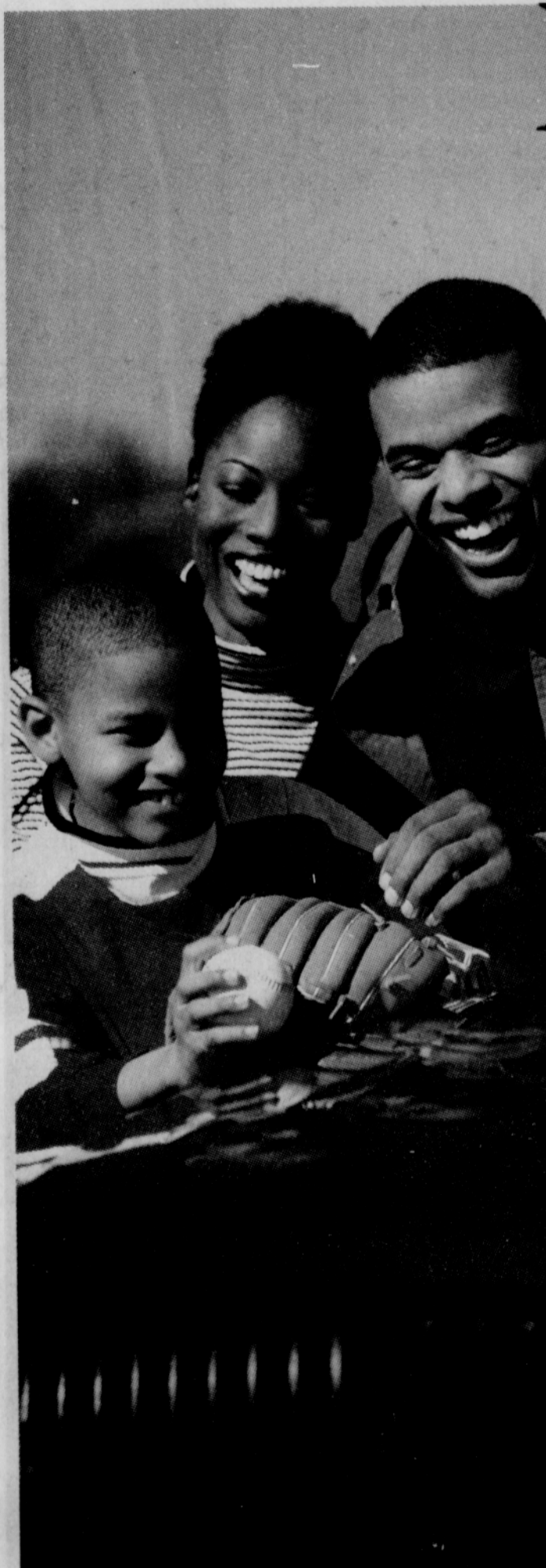


CLASS BEGINS WITH A HEARTY BREAKFAST

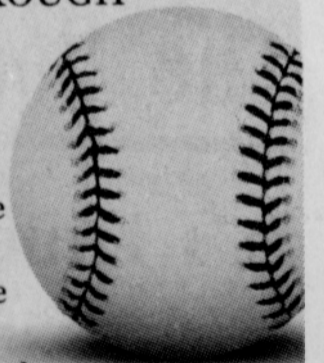
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