

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

Oregon Humane Society

The Oregon Humane Society hosts an adoption outreach event to bring companion pets into the community for adoption. The event will be at Nature's, 3016 S.E. Division on May 25 and at Petco, 10730 S.E. 82nd on Saturday, May 25, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 503-285-7722 or go online to www.oregonhumane.org.

OHSU on Women's Health

The Oregon Health & Science University's Center for Women's Health is sponsoring a brown bag discussion series on health care issues. The next one will be given by faculty member Anne Nedrow, M.D. She will be speaking on health problems that can be diagnosed and treated with both conventional and alternative forms of medicine. The talk will be given on Thursday, May 23, 1 p.m. at the OHSU Hospital, Room 8B-60. Call 503-494-0515.

Noon Time Rides

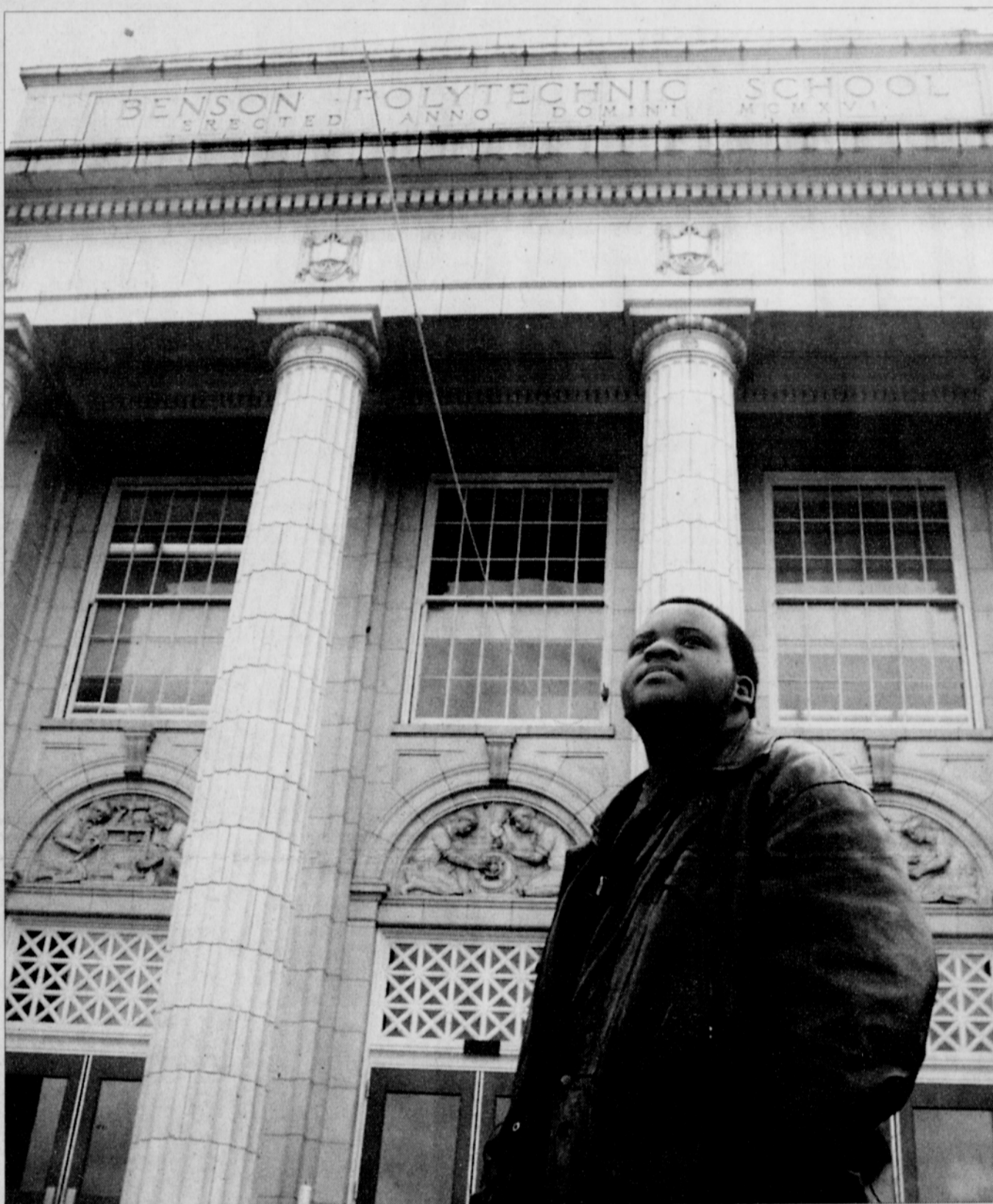
Portland noon time bicycle rides will be held every Mondays and Thursday, between noon and 12:10 p.m. They are fast rides with hills. To participate, meet at the S.W. corner of Pioneer Courthouse Square, between Yamhill and Broadway. Call Ray Thomas at 503-228-5222 with questions or meet at start.

Portland Farmer's Market

The Wednesday Portland Farmer's Market calendar will grow by three weeks this season, running throughout the summer until Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. This bustling mid-week market, located in the Park Blocks near the Portland Art Museum, treats Portland's business community and downtown residents to just-picked edibles for lunch and other treats.

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Student Named Board Representative



Benson activist assumes duties on policy-making panel

Johnell Bell, a junior at Benson High School, has been named Student Representative on the Portland School Board for the upcoming year.

Bell is no newcomer to student activism.

He became the first student member of the Citizens Budget Review Committee earlier this year. He was also in charge of the communications system for the most recent Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

Bell will take over the non-voting board position from Jennifer Lewis of Madison High School who graduates in June. Lewis and two previous student representatives are creating a book to help Bell and other future board members navigate the board territory and new responsibilities.

A district wide student advisory council named Bell board representative.

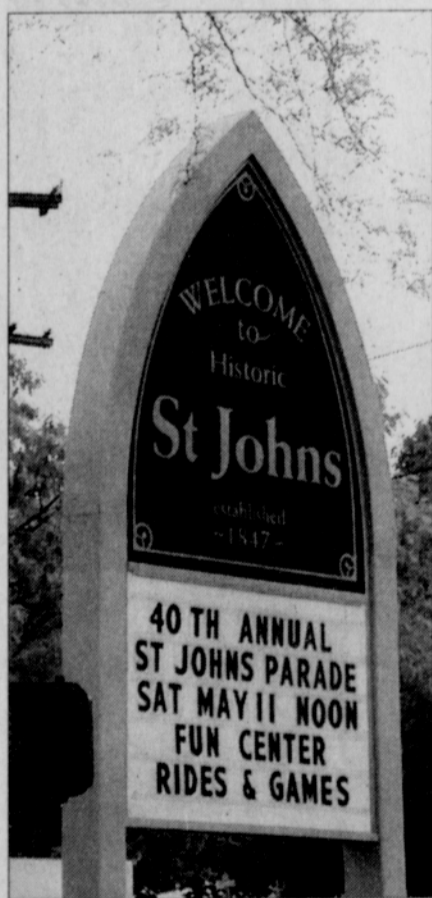
He and other applicants for the position faced a series of questions ranging from their views on school budget priorities and how they would represent the district's 54,000 students and parents.

A confident Johnell Bell of Benson High School puts his leadership skills to the test as the next student representative on the Portland School Board.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Planning a Future for St. Johns Neighborhood

Improvements sought for beloved neighborhood and Lombard corridor



Traffic enters the St. Johns community of north Portland from the majestic St. Johns Bridge.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The city is beginning a planning process for St. Johns and North Lombard Street, prompting community reactions that range from "at long last!" to "so what?"

The plan will cover the central St. Johns business and residential district, just east of the Willamette River, and a long swath along North Lombard to North Woolsey at Columbia Park.

Work on the project has been ongoing, with two open houses earlier this year drawing 175 people. The city has also sponsored a series of recent walks to allow people to observe existing conditions firsthand and make recommendations about what should be done to improve them.

St. Johns is one of the last communities in north Portland to receive this detailed planning work. The Albina Community Plan of 1994 took in several north Portland

communities, but none west of North Chataqua.

According to city planner Barry Manning, the St. Johns plan likely will deal with strategic development opportunities and the scale and character of new development.

Other issues that have surfaced are the need to strengthen small businesses along Lombard, to make it more pedestrian friendly, and to make downtown St. Johns a more viable gathering place and shop-

ping location.

Steve Weir of the North Portland Business Association and Patt Opdyke of the Community Association of Portsmouth have similar goals, although they have a different emphasis.

Weir would like to see "constructive rezoning" of the Lombard corridor, and "infrastructure improvements" in the form of better streets, sidewalks, lighting and new crosswalks.

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Mt. Hood Jazz Fest Ends 20 Year Run

Organizers hope popular event will return after debts paid

(AP)—For the first time in 20 years, there won't be a Mount Hood Jazz Festival this year.

The festival's board canceled this year's event after months of trying to wipe out its \$169,000 dollar debt.

Organizers say they still hope a grant from a charitable foundation will help them re-employ artistic director Bill Royston, who was laid off last year. Royston could help the festival find new sponsors and grants and organize fund-raisers to pay creditors.

"I'm still keeping my fingers crossed," said board member Wayne Thompson of Portland.

Creditors range from the company that sold the souvenir posters and T-shirts to the company that built the stages.

In the meantime, a group of Gresham area music fans led by festival board member Sue O'Halloran plans to plug the gap with a concert in Main City Park this year. The concert would be held the first weekend in August — the jazz festival's normal berth on the calendar.

In its early years, buoyed by jazz headliners such as Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie, the festival could sell out the Mt. Hood Community College football stadium and make hundreds of thousands of dollars for its non-

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