



HOUSING *Special Edition*

Upward Bound Fights Bounce Out

Anti-poverty program faces Bush cut

continued ▲ from Front

is a non-partisan issue." "I feel we're really making a difference," he said. "One question I ask every student is 'If you were to apply for a job, what would be your most positive skills?'"

He said students have a hard

"They help you step by step," said Abel Kahsay, also a senior at Benson High School and second year student at Upward Bound. "Before, I would occasionally do homework. I didn't know the process of getting into college. Without it, I'd probably be a lot of steps behind, scrambling to get my grades

"I don't know what I'd do without it. They teach me how to teach myself."

— Hanibal Gebremedhin, Benson High School senior

time finding their strengths, but by the time they graduate from his program, they're able to sit in front of a college acceptance committee and tell them exactly why they should be there.

"We give them the ability to express who they are," Dirks said. "It's amazing that students can go from having few abilities to becoming lawyers, doctors and teachers. We're in the business of pulling dreams down into reality."

Hanibal Gebremedhin, a senior at Benson High School and third year student with Upward Bound, is alarmed at the thought that the resources he's had to help him college could be eliminated for future students.

"What're they gonna do? Where are they gonna go?" he asked. "It motivates me. It keeps me on track. I don't know what I'd do without it. They teach me how to teach myself. I want them to have the same path I did. It's a good place to go to."

up, to get my classes done." Amanda Martinez-Tellez, a sophomore at Franklin High School, said that coming to Upward Bound has helped her raise her grades in her toughest subject — math.

"It's a place to work other than home," Martinez-Tellez said.

A sophomore at Jefferson High School, Quai Baker said Upward Bound has helped her raise her grades in her toughest subject — math.

"I can come here and get help. I know I wouldn't have a good grade in math without Upward Bound," Baker said.

In addition to helping out students, mentor programs benefit the tutors as well.

"It feels good. I'm helping them out," said Jesse Elizondo, a PSU senior. "After awhile you feel like you're making a bit of difference. You can watch them improve and get better at dealing with new, con-



PHOTO BY KATHERINE KOVACICH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jefferson High School sophomore Quai Baker (left) asks Upward Bound mentor Theresa Logan about a school project she's working on.

ceptual things which is important with life skills."

Theresa Logan, another PSU senior and tutor said she can relate to her Upward Bound students.

"Recently I've been working intensively on helping them write college scholarship essays," she said. "I'm taking them through and helping them through the process of writing. They've written some really good essays."

"You can come in here and get one-on-one help, which a lot of them need," Logan continued. "The kind of help I can give them is not

something they can get somewhere else. It provides after school activity. Having adults take an interest in your academic career is really important. A lot of kids might slip through the cracks, but if you have people who are always on you, it makes a huge difference. They give kids lots of opportunities with internships and camps. They open their eyes to what else is around them."

For more information on the Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search programs at PSU, call 503-725-4010.



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Construction Underway on the Strand at Riverplace

Construction has begun on a \$110 million mixed-use development that will enhance the RiverPlace community and play a key role in the redevelopment of the North Macadam Urban Renewal Area.

The Strand will feature 222 condominium units in three glass and steel towers with ground-level townhomes scaled to match the existing neighborhood. In addition, the project will feature a destination waterfront restaurant, retail and work space, and a 100-space parking garage for the public.

Prices will begin at \$190,000, with a square foot price of \$350.

The property is next to south

Waterfront Park on southwest River Drive between southwest Montgomery and River Parkway.

The Strand is the largest redevelopment project on PDC property since the Pioneer Place retail center in downtown Portland. Construction is set to be completed by early 2007.

PDC Chairman Matt Hennessee said development of The Strand will continue redevelopment long envisioned for Portland's downtown waterfront, and will support future investments in infrastructure, jobs, open space and a mix of housing in the North Macadam Urban Renewal Area.



Property Tax Deferrals for Seniors

Deadline April 15

The Oregon Department of Revenue reminds taxpayers that April 15 is the filing deadline for the Disabled Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program and the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program.

Both deferral programs allow qualified taxpayers to defer payment of their property taxes on their homes. The state pays the taxes to the county, maintains the account, and charges 6 percent simple interest, which also is deferred. The deferral account balance is generally due when the taxpayer receiving the defer-

ral dies, sells the property, permanently moves off the property—other than for health reasons—or if the property changes ownership. However, a surviving spouse may qualify to continue the property in deferral.

To qualify for either program, the property must be the taxpayer's principle residence and must have a deed or recorded sales contract. Total household income must be less than \$34,000 for the year before application. Participants may remain on either program as long as their federal adjusted gross income does not exceed \$34,000. If a participant's income exceeds the \$34,000 limit,

part of the taxes still may be deferred.

In addition to meeting the income limitation and property ownership requirement, disabled persons must be receiving or be eligible to receive federal Social Security Disability benefits to qualify for the Disabled Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program; senior citizens must be 62 years old or older by April 15 to qualify for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program.

Applications and information are available by calling your county assessor's office or the Department of Revenue at 1-800-356-4222.

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