



PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Joanna Dyer shows how the old gets a new life at SCRAP. A CD case is made with old Apple computer floppy discs. A special garage sale takes place Saturday and Sunday at the recycling store on North Williams Avenue.

For the Crafty and Thrifty

SCRAP collects goods and a good feeling

BY NICOLE HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The School and Community Re-use Action Project at 3901 N. Williams Ave. is heaven for the crafty and thrifty. For others, SCRAP can be one man's trash and another's treasure.

You never know what you can find. Folks go to SCRAP for specific things but sometimes leave with items they didn't even know they wanted. Finding a good deal and helping the community leaves consumers with goods and a good feeling.

Joanna Dyer is the reuse and recovery director at SCRAP and has been involved with the organization for the last three years. Dyer previously was a volunteer through the Americorps program where she started the educational outreach with the goal to teach children about waste reduction.

At an early age a child will

understand that reusing and recycling can lead to a life long sense of responsibility for the planet, she said.

SCRAP's mission is to "keep reusable creative material out of landfills, provide these materials to the public at low cost and to promote creativity."

Recently, the group merged with Free Geek an organization that takes used computer parts and refurbishes them to sell back to the community. Volunteers have the option of earning a free computer.

SCRAP was the brainchild of "A Teachers Space" on Northeast Broadway Street, a collection of old materials from businesses that could be used as school supplies. It moved from North Mississippi Avenue to its current location two years ago. But with the larger space came higher utility costs and a finan-

cial predicament. A \$30,000 grant from the Collins Foundation was able to make ends meet.

A lot of materials SCRAP gets are on a trial basis because no one knows what they could be used for. Who knew that label stickers from milk cartons could turn into a stylist wallet?

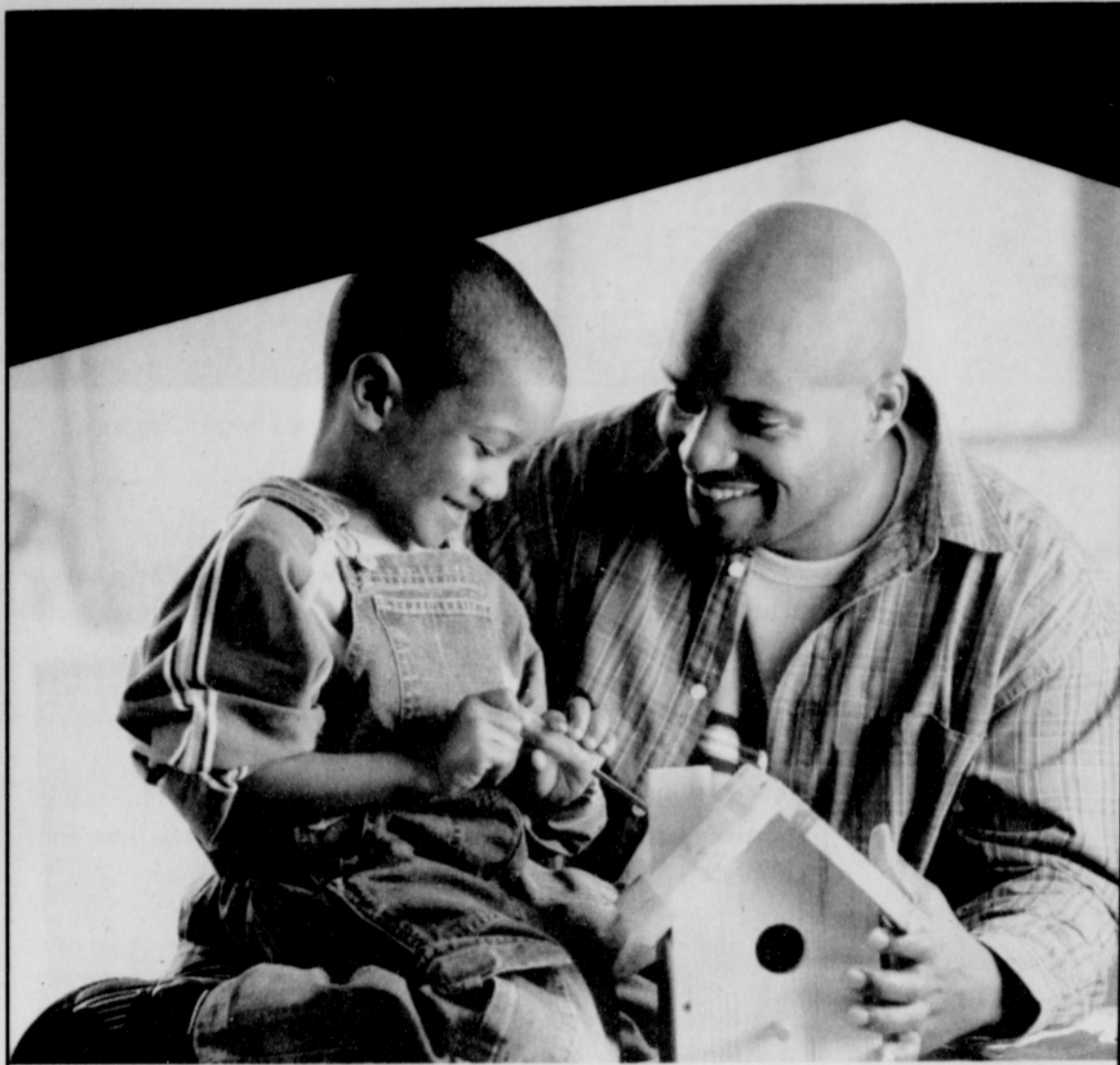
"We get things like adhesive labels and they'll sit on the shelf until someone comes up with an idea," Dyer said.

Children stop in on their way home from school and art teachers are constant customers.

Since many items aren't priced, the purchase can involve some negotiating.

This weekend, SCRAP will have their second garage sale on Saturday May 7 beginning at 11 a.m. and Sunday, May 8 beginning at noon.

For more information please call SCRAP at 503-294-0769 or visit www.scrapaction.org.



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Phillips to Meet with Parents

Community and Parents for Public Schools will be hosting its fifth annual Parent Leadership Conference on Saturday, May 7 from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Benson High School.

The centerpiece of the conference is an hour-long open dialogue with Portland Public Schools Superintendent Vicki Phillips, plus workshops and breakout groups focused on mean-



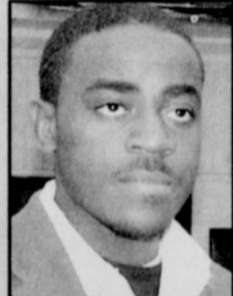
Portland Schools Superintendent Vicki Phillips

ingful parent involvement in creating stronger schools in tough times.

There will also be a panel discussion on state and local options for school funding.

The conference is free, but requires registration. To register online, go to www.pppsportland.org.

For more information, go to the website above, or call 503-220-0577.



Charles McGee

McGee Wins Endorsement

The Neighborhood Schools Alliance has unanimously endorsed Charles McGee for Zone 4 of the Portland School Board, citing the young African American for strong leadership and commitment to community involvement.

"We need candidates who don't represent the status quo. I trust Charles to look out for the interests of north Portland, as well as all our public schools," stated NSA member and Piedmont neighborhood resident Nicole Breedlove.

Trees for Mothers and Fathers

Instead of a coffee mug or a fluffy sweater, why not go for a more original approach this Mother or Father's Day and plant a tree in honor of your loving parents?

Friends of Trees' Natural Area Commemorative Trees cost \$25 for an individual tree or \$50 for a grove of six trees.

Friends of Trees inspires community stewardship of our urban forest by bringing people in the Portland-Vancouver area together to plant, care for, and learn about city trees. To learn more or to purchase your gift tree online, visit www.friendsoftrees.org or call 503-282-8846 extension 17.

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