

Siblings Split on Future of King Center

Ailing mother cannot respond

(AP)— Two children of Martin Luther King Jr. said Friday they will fight any sale of the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change to the National Park Service, pitting them against their two younger siblings.

Bernice King said she and Martin Luther King III believe the sale - which the center's board voted to pursue earlier this month - would compromise the center's indepen-

dent voice.

"Our father challenged our nation. He challenged the use of violence. If the King Center is sold to the government, our nation will lose that important legacy of challenge, equality and independence," she said outside the center.

All four of King's children are board members. Martin Luther King III said Friday that he was replaced as its chairman by his brother Dexter King earlier this year, and that Bernice King was removed as secretary earlier this year.

Their mother, Coretta Scott King,



Martin Luther King III

who founded the center shortly after the civil rights leader's death in 1968, is recovering from a stroke she suffered in August and cannot verbally respond to the conflict.

Board members who support the sale - including siblings Dexter King and Yolanda King and former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young - have said the transfer of power would let the family focus less on grounds maintenance and more on King's message of nonviolence.

A Park Service report issued last year estimated that the King Center needed \$11.6 million in repairs. The

report cited leaks in the reflective pool, collapsed drainage pipes and problems with loose and exposed wiring.

The National Park Service already owns the King National Historic Site across the street and maintains Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King preached from 1960 to 1968, as well as the King birth home and the visitors' center.

The King Center holds documents from the civil rights movement and the tomb of the Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Martin and Bernice King said Friday their mother expressed her

opinion on a possible sale earlier this year.

"She felt at some point that it may, in fact, end up with the government, but she never envisioned that in her lifetime," Bernice King said.

Martin Luther King III said Friday he had neglected his board duties over the past decade but was ready to step up now.

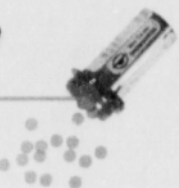
"The board of directors has been remiss in providing sufficient oversight regarding important governance of operational and program issues," he said. "I take responsibility for my own failure."

NEW SEASONS MARKET

Pharmacy AT ARBOR LODGE

New pharmacy customers! Transfer a prescription & get a \$10 gift card. *One gift per customer please.

Meet your Pharmacists, Melinda Butler and Todd Martin.



Yes! We are a regular pharmacy!

- ✓ We fill prescriptions - including antibiotics, high blood pressure medications, anti-depressants, birth control, and more.
- ✓ We have knowledgeable, friendly pharmacists who have the time to share information.
- ✓ Our prices are competitive. We accept most insurance plans and are adding others as requested.
- ✓ We specialize in custom compounding.

YOUR LOCALLY OWNED, NEIGHBORHOOD PHARMACY AT ARBOR LODGE
N INTERSTATE AVENUE & PORTLAND BLVD
503.467.4848 • WWW.NEWSEASONSMARKET.COM
MON-FRI 9am-7pm • SAT 9am-6pm • SUN 10am-4pm

Students Line Up for Financial Aid

Help day scheduled at 4 PCC campuses

Portland Community College will host a bigger and better Financial Aid Day this year, spanning the college district and attracting more than 1,000 current and future students. The day of help will take place Saturday, Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at four campus locations: Cascade, Rock Creek, Sylvania and the Southeast Center.

For Lisa Hummel, last year's Financial Aid Day at PCC gave her the information she needed to successfully earn scholarship money for school.

"I really needed help," said Hummel, a resident of southeast Portland. "I didn't know how to apply for scholarships. But I was able to learn and find out more information. What they offered at Financial Aid Day really benefited me. I found out where the scholarships were and I ended up getting Portlandia Club, Danish Sisterhood and Ford scholarships."

At the upcoming sessions, PCC advisors will provide personalized assistance to future college students with completion of their Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA). There also will be scholarship workshops throughout the day to help students find dollars for school.

For Hummel, who graduated from the college's Project Independence program, which serves women who



Lisa Hummel

are transitioning to school or the workplace, help from last year's financial aid event benefited her enormously.

"I definitely didn't know the first thing about FAFSA when I started school," said Hummel. "I wished I had the help when I first started three years ago because I didn't know what I was doing. I had to struggle with it at home."

Hummel plans to continue her studies with a bachelor's degree in human services and master's degree in art therapy from Marylhurst University.

"Just the other day I found a student filling out a loan application," she said. "I asked them if they knew that they could probably qualify for a scholarship or federal financial aid. They had no idea. I just cringed when I heard that. Going through Financial Aid Day gives you the confidence. I feel that everybody needs to try."

For more information, visit www.pcc.edu/finaid or contact PCC Admissions Coordinator Roberto Suarez at 503-978-5291.

A gambling problem leaves its mark on everyone it touches.



If someone you care about has a gambling problem, call:

877-2-STOP-NOW

Treatment is free, confidential and it works.

No Smoking on School Grounds

A new mandatory policy took effect on Jan. 1 that prohibits students, staff and visitors from using any tobacco product at any time on school property in Oregon.

State public health officials said the new policy marks an important step toward protecting Oregon kids from the health risks of tobacco.

"Every day in Oregon 20 kids start smoking. One-third of them will eventually die of a tobacco-related disease," said Dr. Mel Kohn, state epidemiologist. "Most adult smokers started using tobacco before they

turned 18, which underscores the significance of this new policy."

Kohn said that tobacco-free school policies are an important tool in keeping kids away from tobacco and the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

"The idea that tobacco use is normal and that it is socially acceptable because respected adults and others do it encourages kids to pick up the habit," said Kohn. "Tobacco-free school policies are helping change the perception that smoking and chew are okay."

in diversity Print



To contact The Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033 ads@portlandobserver.com