

METRO

The Portland Observer

Local Youth Sets Track Record

Cameron Retherford competes at the Phoenix, Ariz. Invitational

See Sports, page B6



SECTION B

Community Calendar

Lents Resource Fair

Southeast Portland residents are invited to learn about home ownership opportunities, park improvements, street repairs and the future I-205 Max light rail line at the Lents Resource Fair, Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lent Elementary School, 5105 S.E. 97th Ave. There also will be special activities for kids, including free bike helmets.

Neighborhoods Celebrate

The Concordia and Fox Chase neighborhoods of northeast Portland present a street fair, Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Northeast 30th Avenue between Killingsworth and Jarrett streets. The 'Neighborhood Spring Thing' will include music, art activities, free bicycle helmets for kids, story telling, puppet shows and other performances.

Networking Skills

The function of networking for jobs and business opportunities will be explored during a Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs Coffee and Issues forum at 7 a.m. Friday, April 28 at OAME Cascade Plaza, 4134 N. Vancouver Ave. The one-hour session is open to the public and no registration is necessary.

Ceramic Showcase

The Oregon Potters Association hosts the nation's largest all-clay show May 5-7 at the Oregon Convention Center. The show includes information booths, children's areas and live demos. The last day of the show is free.

Brazilian Carnival

Join Portland State University on Saturday, April 22, in celebrating Brazilian culture with music, dance and capoeira performances, plus Brazilian cuisine from La Villa Restaurant. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show is at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$4 to \$10, available through TicketMaster or the PSU box office.

Nursing Mothers Classes

Nursing Mothers Counsel of Oregon actively seeks volunteers to help advocate a woman's right to breastfeed her child. If you have had at least six months breastfeeding experience, attend the free training on Saturday, April 22 at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Women of diverse ethnic backgrounds and bilingual women are in high demand. For more information, contact Rachel at 503-380-2308 or Rachel@nursingmotherscounsel.org.

Japanese Garden Plant Sale

The Japanese Garden will help you bring new life and color to your garden at its annual plant sale on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside the gates of garden in the upper parking lot. Admission is free.

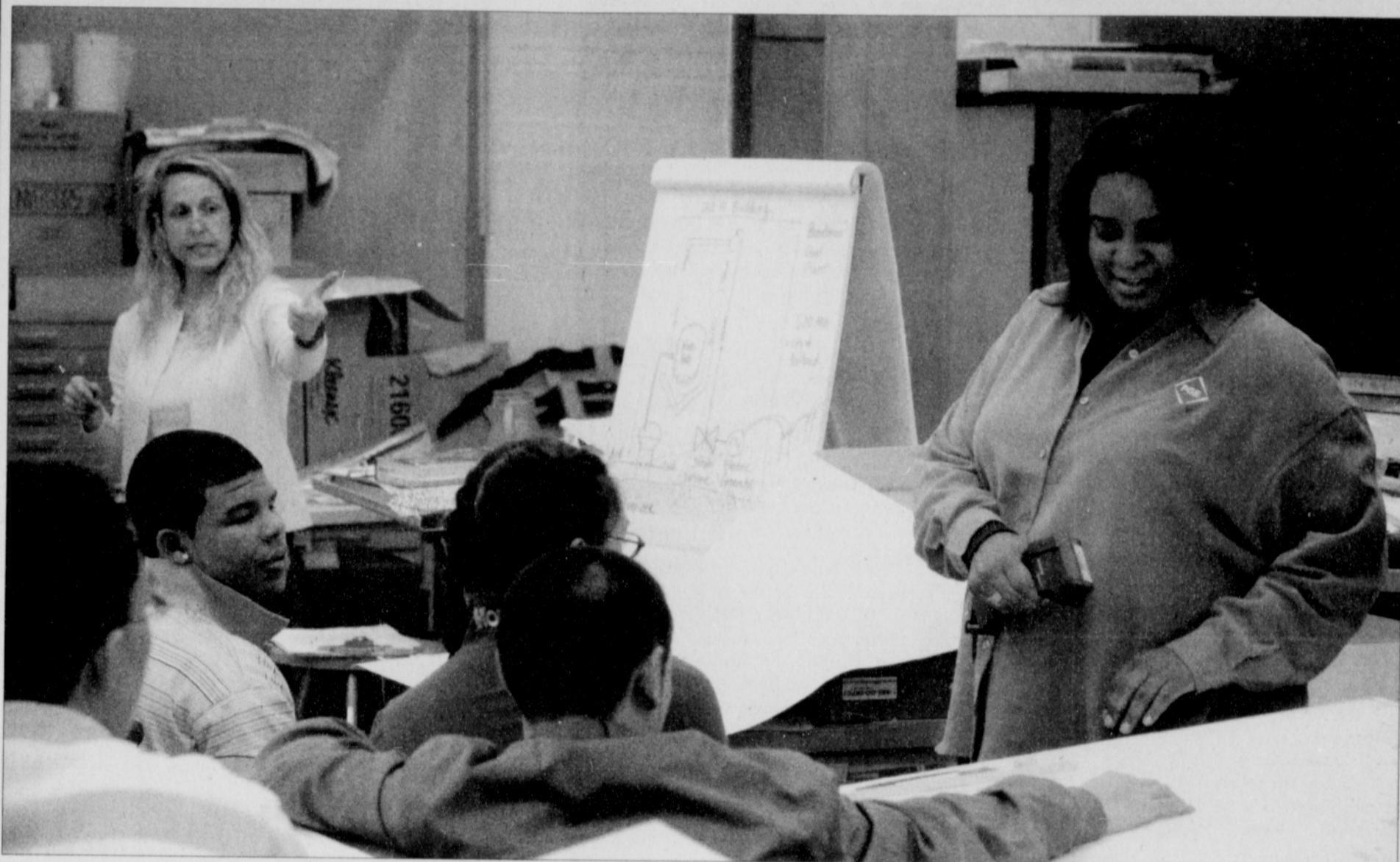
Welcome Spring at PCC

Portland Community College hosts the second annual Beltane Festival at Cascade and Southeast campuses, Monday, May 1 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy music as well as drumming and dancing.

Family fun at WoodFest

The World Forestry Center hosts the first annual WoodFest on Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See an all-wood Ford Roadster, participate in family activities, music, Native American storytelling, food and more. For more information, call www.worldforestry.org or call 503-228-1367.

36
years of
community service



PGE engineers Kelley Reid and Janet Gulley introduce Benson High School students to options in engineering and skilled trades.

PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

SKILLED TRADES Open to Women

Industries shed old norms, restrictions

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As baby boomers reach retirement, skilled trades workers are increasingly in demand. But fields like engineering and technology

harbor a little secret: they're disciplines very slow to welcome minorities and women.

Fortunately, opportunities are out there for those who don't fit the "typical" description of skilled tradesperson. Young people preparing to enter the job market can forget donning a blue collar or white collar and try on a gold collar for size.

Gold collar workers are defined as highly

skilled individuals who know a great deal about several areas of their company's work. Simply put, they're multi-faceted workers who solve the problems, push the buttons and work up a sweat.

And they are hot commodity right now. Portland General Electric is following the change in workforce demographics, and cite a study predicting 2.5 million new skilled trade workers needed over the next eight years.

To fill this gap, PGE has launched campaigns to encourage and educate students about trade careers. Further more, they're a proactive force in recruiting minorities and women for their nearly 3,000-member workforce.

Enter Janet Gulley and Kelly Reid — two

female PGE engineers who sometimes stood alone in their pursuit of engineering degrees. What threatened to stand in their way was the lack of peers within their chosen fields

"I've definitely seen a shift," Gulley said.

"It's blooming every single year."

Reid and Gulley enjoy their jobs, and go so far as to say they have fun learning something new everyday alongside talented coworkers. So the pair visits high schools, like Benson's junior and senior mechanical engineering classes, and spread the word of opportunities many may not have known existed.

"These jobs can be overlooked by students," Gulley said. "We're trying to get the

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College scholarships are celebrated by members of the Jefferson Dancers at the National High School Dance Festival in Miami. Pictured are Kelly Ann Barton, Lex Dones, Olivia Ancona, Viktor Usov, Andrew Smart, and Leah Rothlein.

PHOTO BY DEDE PRIEST

Dancers Earn Gateway to College

Spring Concert next for Jefferson troupe

The Jefferson Dancers have just returned from the National High School Dance Festival in Miami where the troupe earned the rare honor of performing in two gala concerts before packed houses at Miami's Gusman Center for the Performing Arts.

The successful conclusion to three days

of student performances, master classes and auditions for college scholarships and summer dance programs is testament to the quality of the choreography of Jefferson Dancers instructor Steve Gonzales and the technical ability of the Jefferson dancers themselves.

Next up for this talented group is the Jefferson Dancers Spring Concert, a series of four performances May 10 through May 13 at the Newmark Theater at the Portland

Center for The Performing Arts. Tickets are available at the box office or through Ticketmaster outlets.

In Miami, Jefferson proved again that it has one of the elite dance teams in the nation. Ninety high school dance programs from the United States, Australia, and Canada were represented in the competition.

Jefferson Dancer Kelly Ann Barton was

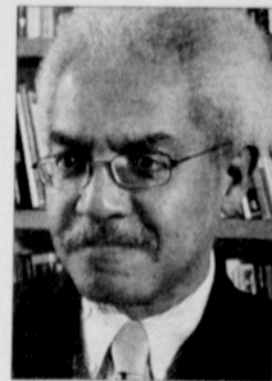
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WSU Vancouver Hosts Expert on Equality Issues

One of the nation's leading scholars on issues of equality and justice will speak Sunday at the Vancouver campus of Washington State University.

Manning Marable will give the keynote lecture during a "Justice in Education, Educating for Justice" conference at 4:30 p.m. in Room 110 of the Student Services Building. His topic will be "Diversity and Democracy in American Education: Making Multiculturalism Work."

Marable, a professor of history, public affairs and political science and director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at



Manning Marable

Columbia University, is the author and editor of some 20 books and 200 scholarly articles.

He will speak to both of the conference themes: creating an equitable and just education system and exploring the role of educators, students and academic institutions in promoting social justice. Panels, roundtables and workshops exploring specific aspects of the justice issues will take place throughout the day.

WSU Vancouver is located at 14204 N.E. Salmon Creek Ave., east of the 134th

Street exit from either I-5 or I-205.