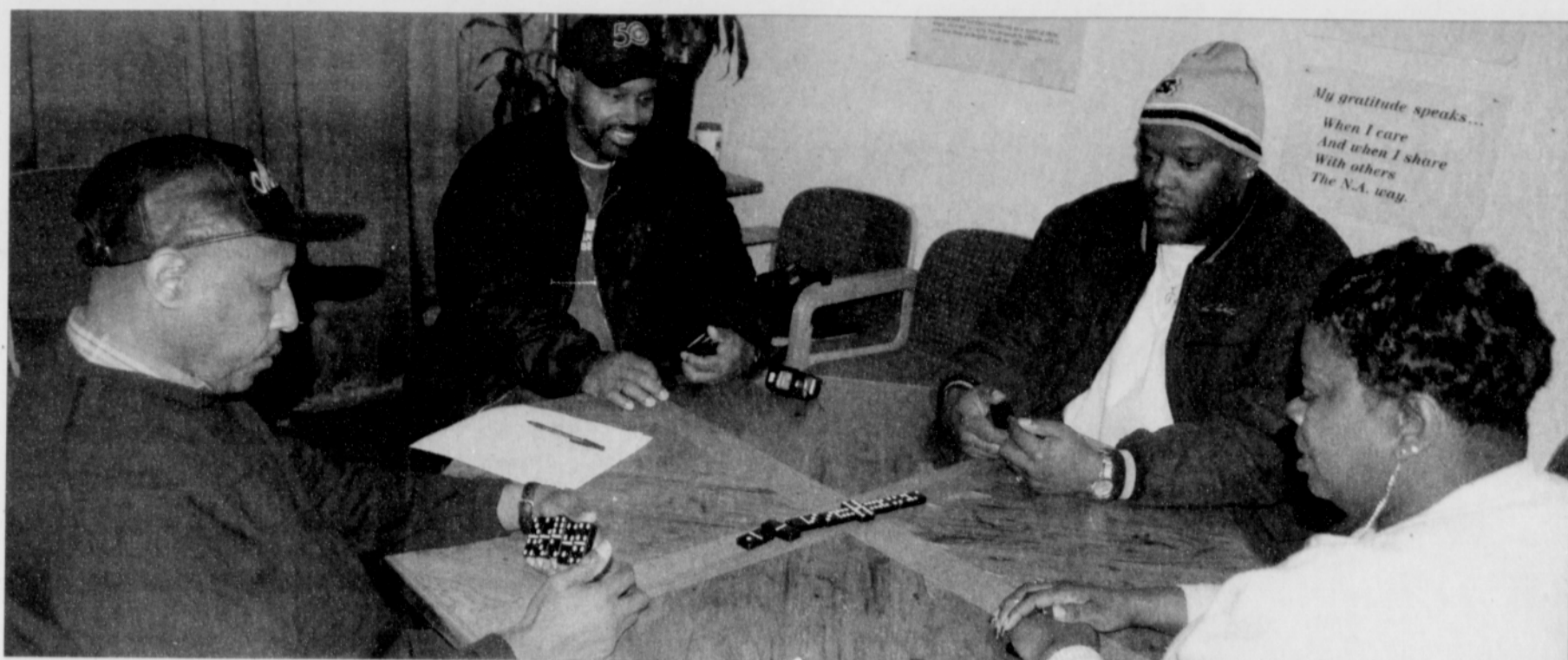


Miracles' Site in Jeopardy

continued ▲ from Front

"One of our main objectives is to become more fundraising-minded," he said. "We want to sustain the club more financially than it has been, so we'll have some sort of revenue to lean upon in case of these scenarios in the future."

Donations to help the club raise the \$500,000 down payment for their building can be brought to any U.S. Bank or mailed to the U.S. Bank branch at 5505 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Make the check out to Miracles Club or inquire at the bank branch.



It's not hard to find a game of dominos bringing people together at the Miracles Club. Pictured are Sam Brown (from left) Michael R. Booker Sr., Galen R. Harden Sr., and Sabrina Jenkins.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Passing Grade

continued ▲ from Front

all ready for me."

"I feel more comfortable in a uniform," he adds.

Some students may have felt embarrassed wearing uniforms at the beginning of the year but now they are singing a different tune.

Alberto Ruiz, an 11-year-old sixth grader, has been a student at Rigler since he started school. He's a fan of not having to wash a mountain of clothes every time the weekend comes along.

"I can be playing instead of washing my clothes," says Ruiz.

Kaczke believes that the only downside to the new policy is keeping up with the occasional kids that come to school without their uniforms. But as the year has progressed that has become less and less of a problem.

"The uniforms have been so successful that even my own daughter wants to wear a uniform to school," she says. "It's just so much simpler for kids to not have to worry about what they wear every day."

Amy Ridobock has been a teacher for the fifth and sixth graders at Rigler for

three years. She says the uniforms "calms things down a lot."

Mia Thomas is 10 years old and doesn't mind wearing her uniform to school but would definitely like to switch back to her regular clothing.

"It's nice to wear uniforms because other people won't comment on whether you're wearing the right thing or not," she says. "But when I see cute clothes at the store I get bummed when I know I can't wear them to school."

Occasionally, picture day will come around and the kids will have a choice of what they want to wear.

"I was shocked the last picture day when kids came in wearing skimpy shirts and baggy pants with their underwear showing," says Kaczke. "It was really out there."

Since Rigler's switch to uniforms, three other schools have gained interest in the idea. The principal also believes the uniforms have calmed the kids, increased concentration on academics, and ultimately gave the school a better image within the community.

"I want people to walk into our school see our kids and say 'wow'," Kaczke says.

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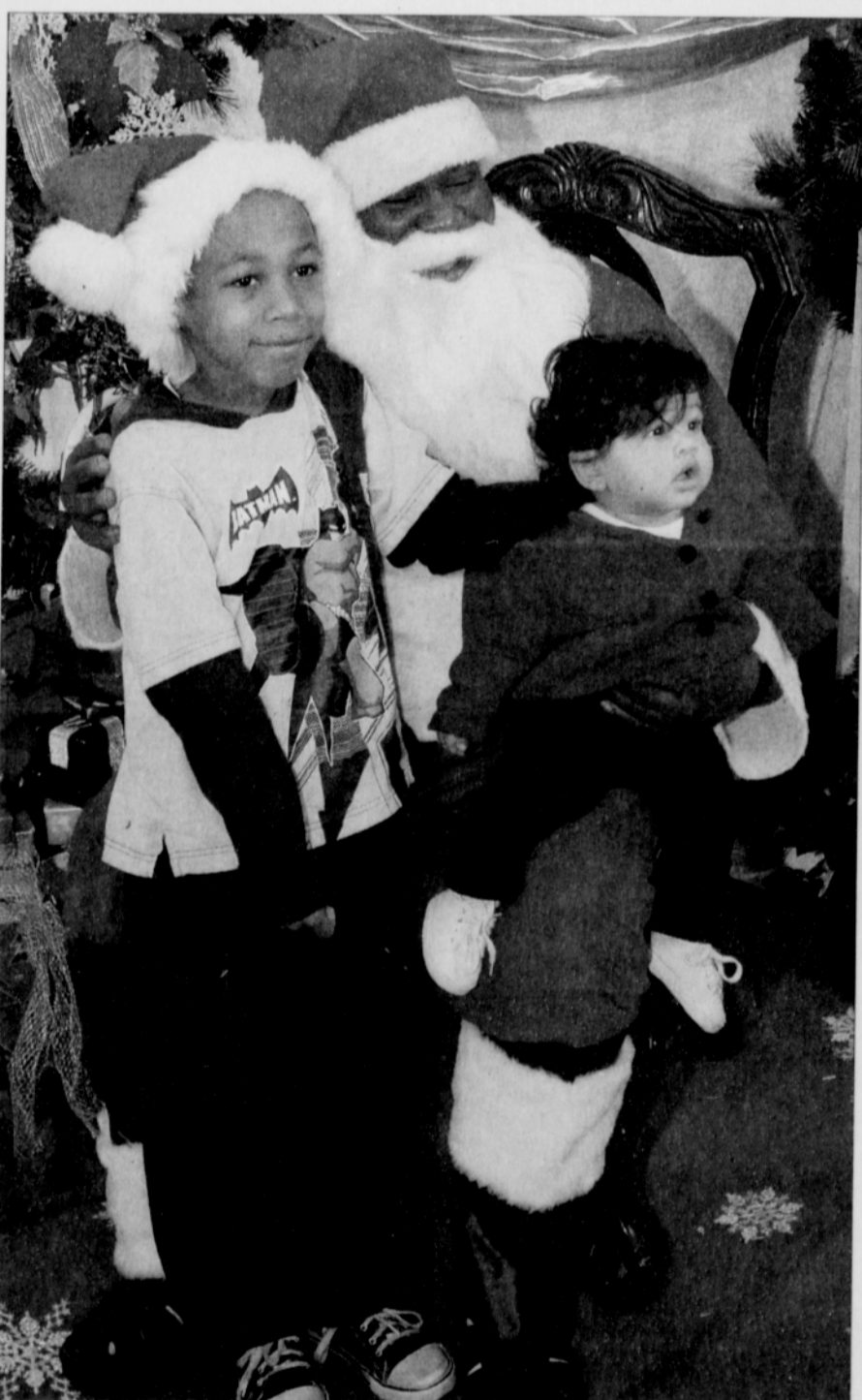
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Chocolate Santa poses for pictures with everyone in the community at Tracey's Un-4-Gettable Photography, and will appear at Tracey's again this weekend.

Chocolate Santa Encore Weekend

Stanley Williams returns at Chocolate Santa for his third Christmas season greeting children and adults at Tracey's Unforgettable Photography at Northeast Mason and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. We regret that the location was in error in last week's issue.

Tracey Stadamire offers a free gift with the purchase of any photo package with or without Santa, and on-site printing that takes five minutes or less.

Visit Santa this Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Tracey's Unforgettable Photography, 407 N.E. Mason St., Suite 8. Call 503-201-3312 for more information.

After a visit with Santa, studio owner