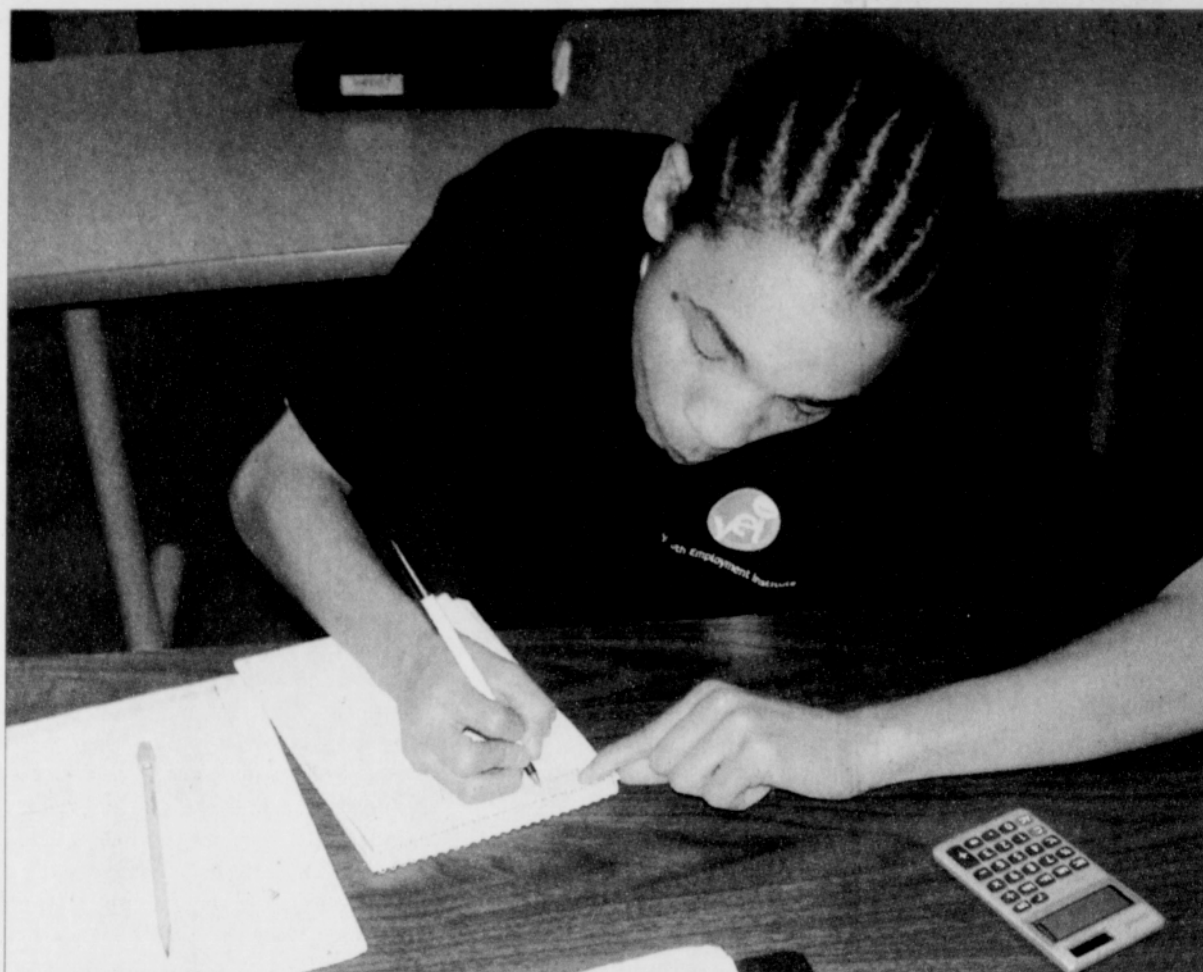


Employment Institute Seeks Larger Role

Daniel Binns works toward his mathematics GED at northeast Portland's Youth Employment Institute.

PHOTO BY
RAYMOND RENDEMAN/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



continued ▲ from Front

cares integrated into their lives.

"It's the one-on-one attention that a traditional high-school counselor just can't provide," Lynch says. Boggan adds, "There's a lot of work we need to make up for once we are able to engage these youth and get them coming and understanding what they need to do to better themselves."

YEI has similar drop-out problems to other schools, but the difference is that YEI students often return to the program, according to Lynch, who says, "Some of the success that we've had with youth that haven't found success in traditional schools is that we keep it real here."

Boggan stresses each individual impact that YEI can have on young parents trying to improve their standing, saying, "What we really try and do is get these youngsters the opportunity to see that there are some folks who are compassionate and care about what it is they do with their

lives, so our initial strategy is to develop a genuine relationship with these kids."

Although Lynch recognizes that the facility is a "last chance" for many, she keeps disillusionment at bay by putting the students in control of their own destinies. "In this place they have the power, the power to choose to be here or not be here and the power to tell us what they want in their education," she says.

Students that want to work towards higher wages and a college degree can participate in the Commitment to Success program.

YEI currently has openings in the Teen Parenting Program, which offers comprehensive parenting services for pregnant or parenting young men and women ages 16-21. For more information about the program or any other YEI offering, contact J.J. Lynch, YEI employment and GED program manager, at jlynch@yei.org or 503-280-1058, extension 142.

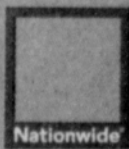
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NFL Star Dies after Shooting

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shooting following an argument at a Denver nightclub on Jan. 1. University of Miami defensive lineman Bryan Pata was shot to death in November 2006 several miles from Taylor's home in an unsolved killing.

At Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va., fans began a makeshift memorial by laying flowers on a field near the front entrance. Several people paid silent respects at Taylor's parking space, a reward he received as the team's defensive player of the week in a game against Philadelphia in September.

Doctors had been encouraged late Monday when Taylor squeezed a nurse's hand, according to Vinny Cerrato, the Redskins' vice president of football operations. But Sharpstein said he was told Taylor never regained consciousness after being taken to the hospital, and he wasn't sure how he had squeezed the nurse's hand.

"Maybe he was trying to say goodbye or something," Sharpstein said.

Taylor, the fifth overall pick in the 2004 NFL draft following an All-American season at Miami, was shot early Monday in the upper leg, damaging the key femoral artery and causing significant blood loss.

"According to a preliminary investigation, it appears that the victim was shot inside the home by an intruder," Miami-Dade County police said in a statement. "We do not have a subject description at this time."

The attack came just eight days after an intruder was reported at Taylor's home. Officers were sent to the home about 1:45 a.m. Monday after Taylor's girlfriend called 911.

Sharpstein said Taylor's girlfriend told him the couple was awakened by loud noises, and Taylor grabbed a machete he keeps in the bedroom for protection. Someone then broke through the bedroom door and fired two shots, one missing and one hitting Taylor.

A private man with a small inner circle, Taylor rarely granted interviews. But, behind the scenes, Taylor was described as personable and smart.

After Taylor was drafted, problems soon began. Taylor fired his agent, then skipped part of the NFL's mandatory rookie symposium, drawing a \$25,000 fine. Driving home late from a party during the season, he was pulled over and charged with drunken driving. The case was dismissed in court, but by then it had become a monthslong distraction for the Redskins.

Grant Advances in Football Playoffs

Grant High School has the team to watch out for after the Generals defeated Central Catholic 27-24 in the third week of Oregon's high-school football playoffs.

Grant overcame a 3-24 deficit to win on a field goal as time expired, scoring multiple times in the final minutes.

Two other Portland Interscholastic League teams fell short of this week's semifinal games. Lincoln lost 28-21 at West Salem, and Jefferson fell at undefeated Mountain View 27-12.

The Generals face Shelton on Friday at PGE Park. Shelton knocked off No. 1-ranked Lake Oswego 28-27 in overtime last week by blocking an extra point.

In Loving Memory

Funeral services for Edward Peterson Jr. will be held Saturday, Dec. 1 at 11 a.m. at Portland First Church of the Nazarene, 6100 S.W. Raab Road. There will be a fellowship afterwards at 2:30 p.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave.

Radio Deluxe with John Pizzarelli is focused exclusively on playing American standards recorded by a growing number of new performers, along with the "greats" who have influenced them. Saturdays at noon on 89.1FM



"We're not digging up old arrangements; we're creating new ideas. That's what's so beautiful about interpretation. This music, it's not about age as much as it is about style, and about always trying to move the music forward." John Pizzarelli