



'City of
Roses'

The Portland



Diversity

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Portland Observer

Established in 1970

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www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • August 18, 2010

Volume XXXX, Number 33

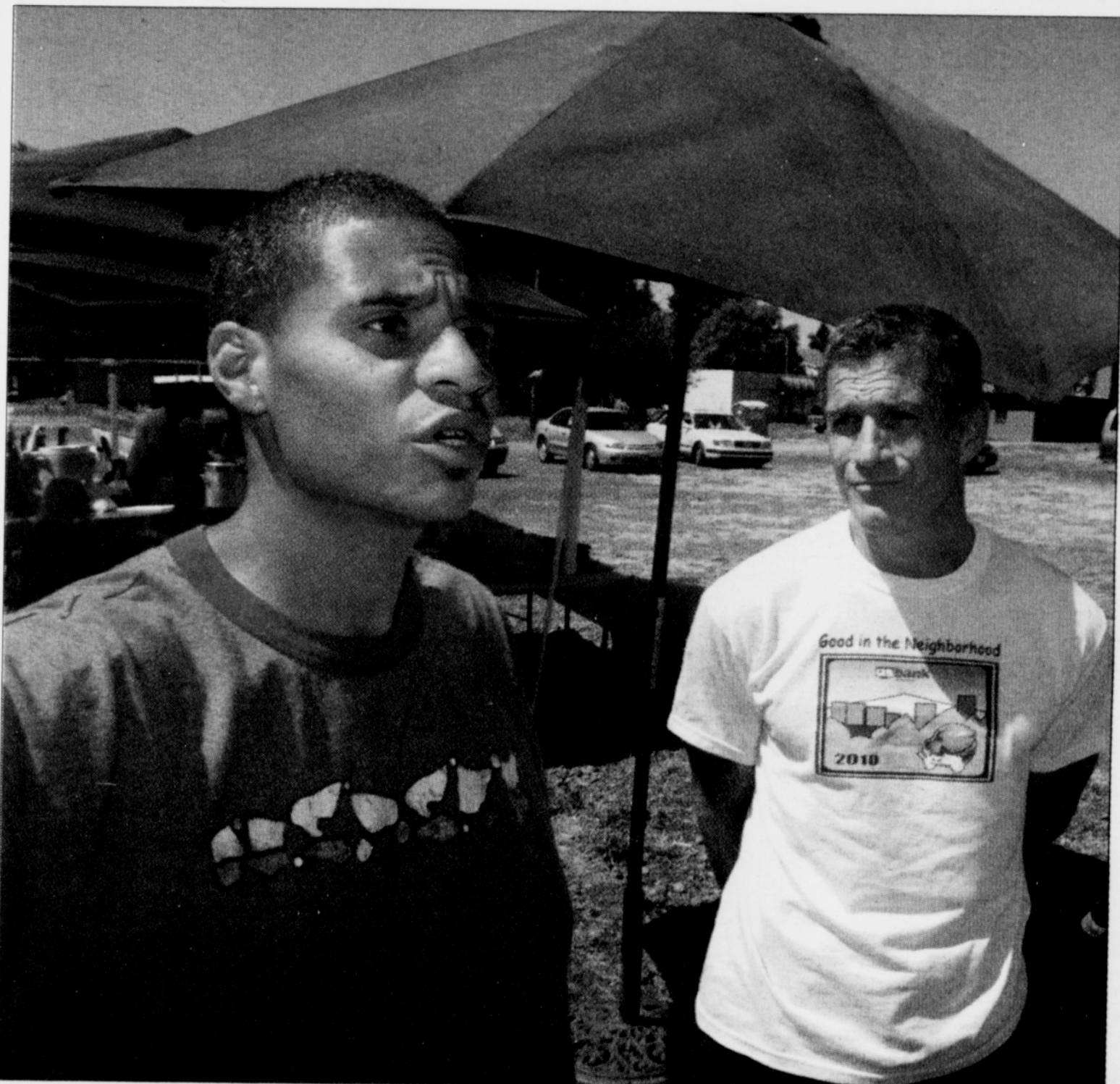


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rahsaan Muhammad (left) and Spencer Burton are working to build community across cultural lines at the new Boise-Eliot Outdoor Market at Northeast Fremont Street between Williams and Vancouver avenues.

Bridging Cultures

Boise-Eliot market weaves common threads

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In north and northeast Portland there is no shortage of vacant lots. Some are overgrown with foliage. Some are littered with rubble. But many are were once businesses, homes, and community institutions that were steadily swept away with the tide of gentrification that has washed over the area, leaving it socially shaken.

But a group of neighborhood activists see a potential in at least one of these lots to bolster community ties and the local economy.

Rashaan Muhammad, a local community activist, and Spencer Burton, a one-time City Council candidate, launched the Boise-Eliot Outdoor Market on a typically vacant

lot sandwiched between Williams and Vancouver Avenues with Fremont Avenue bordering it on the south.

For about the last month, about 15 to 20 vendors have gathered at the lot every Tuesday and Saturday, selling goods including coffee straight from the Sidamo region of Ethiopia, fried cat fish, tarot readings, local produce, clothes, and gluten-free cornbread.

Burton, who works as a stone mason, moved from northwest to north Portland last year and saw the potential for a market on one of the area's many vacant lots that could help bridge social divisions, and give locals the chance to pull in some

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Cox & Cox Property Sold

Developer plans to build new homes

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A housing developer has applied to subdivide the property of a former northeast Portland funeral home serving Portland's African American community and develop the building's parking lot into new residences.

The former Cox & Cox Funeral Home site at 2736 N.E. Rodney St. would accommodate six new owner-occupied homes, according to a proposal by Richard Kassebaum of Oregon City and his Bluestone Homes Company.

The mortuary building ceased

being used as a funeral home after a family dispute with the prior owners. Zoned for commercial use, it was purchased by Bluestone and is currently on the market.

Kevin Partain of Urban Visions, a Bluestone company spokesperson, presented information on the re-development during a recent meeting of the Eliot Neighborhood Association Land Use Committee. According to Committee Chair Mike Warwick, those who attended were favorably impressed with drawings showing the type of construction proposed.

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A developer proposes subdividing a parking lot at the former Cox & Cox Funeral Home at 2736 N.E. Rodney St. for six new homes, leaving the existing building for future use.