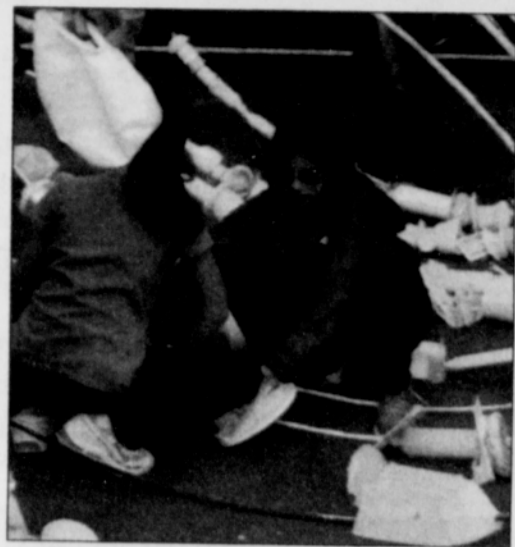




The



**Earth Day
Cleanup**
Main Street
group plans
event
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**Boogie-
Woogie Queen**
Blues artists join
in benefit for
music education
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Portland Observer

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Established in 1970
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A Family's Anguish

'Where is she?' – There's
hope someone will talk

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Where is she? Yashanee Vaughn's family and community want her home. As frustration and anguish builds, the face of Yashanee Laface Vaughn appears on hundreds of reward flyers posted by her family and friends who desperately continue the search for their 14-year-old girl that went missing nearly one month ago, presumably killed by her teenage boyfriend, Parish Bennette Jr. "We will continue to paper the town to keep our baby girl's face out there until we bring her home," Reynelda Hayes, Vaughn's grandmother writes in a disclosure attached to a "Have You Seen Me" titled reward flyer. Last seen waiting for the #72 bus on Northeast 82nd Avenue, the 5 foot 3 inches tall, 110 pound girl was last seen wearing a yellow sweat suit with the letters P.I.N.K. and a green 86 on the leg, a white v-neck t-shirt, a black leather jacket,



Yashanee Vaughn

and a red and black fitted beanie.

On her right leg, Bonnie B is tattooed in Chinese lettering. She also has a mole over her left eye and piercings on the left side of her nose and belly button.

Within the past few weeks, massive searches have failed to find Vaughn's body or any evidence that may lead to her whereabouts, and so the hunt continues with hopes that someone out there who knows where Yashanee Vaughn is will speak up.

Crime Stopper's is offering a \$1,000 cash reward for information that assists police in Vaughn's case.

Arrested in connection with Vaughn's disappearance, 16-year-old Parish Bennette was indicted by a Multnomah County Jury on April 8 on murder and first-degree manslaughter charges.

Prosecutors believe that Vaughn was with Bennette on

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Breathing Life into Bronze

Local sculptor has the right touch

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

According to ancient mythical traditions, a long time ago God breathed into clay and created life. Today, one local artist, Jim Gion, plays God from his studio in Northeast Portland. Sculpting in bronze, he brings alive portraits of people, animals, and other things.

His process is unique, and one that produces not just a portrait in dead likeness of his living subjects, but a representation true to their life, spirit, and character.

"A completed portrait becomes a touchstone for the past and a foundation stone on which future tradition will rest. It provides a sense of continuity that serves as an anchor to future generations giving them an animated sense of the character and spirit of their ancestors," Gion writes

on the philosophy of his work.

For portraits of people, Gion likes to arrange a few sittings with his models that last about 1 to 2 hours each. Unlike some sculptors that might demand subjects to sit perfectly still in the same stance for hours, Gion will engage with each person and create a mutual, conversational atmosphere where he is able to capture the shape, feeling, and personality of his subject. In such a way, a person's natural liveliness is infused into the sculpture.

What Gion cannot absorb through memory, he takes away with photographs. If the subject is unable to be present live, Gion requests photos taken from several angles, which he then uses for details during the long sculpting process.

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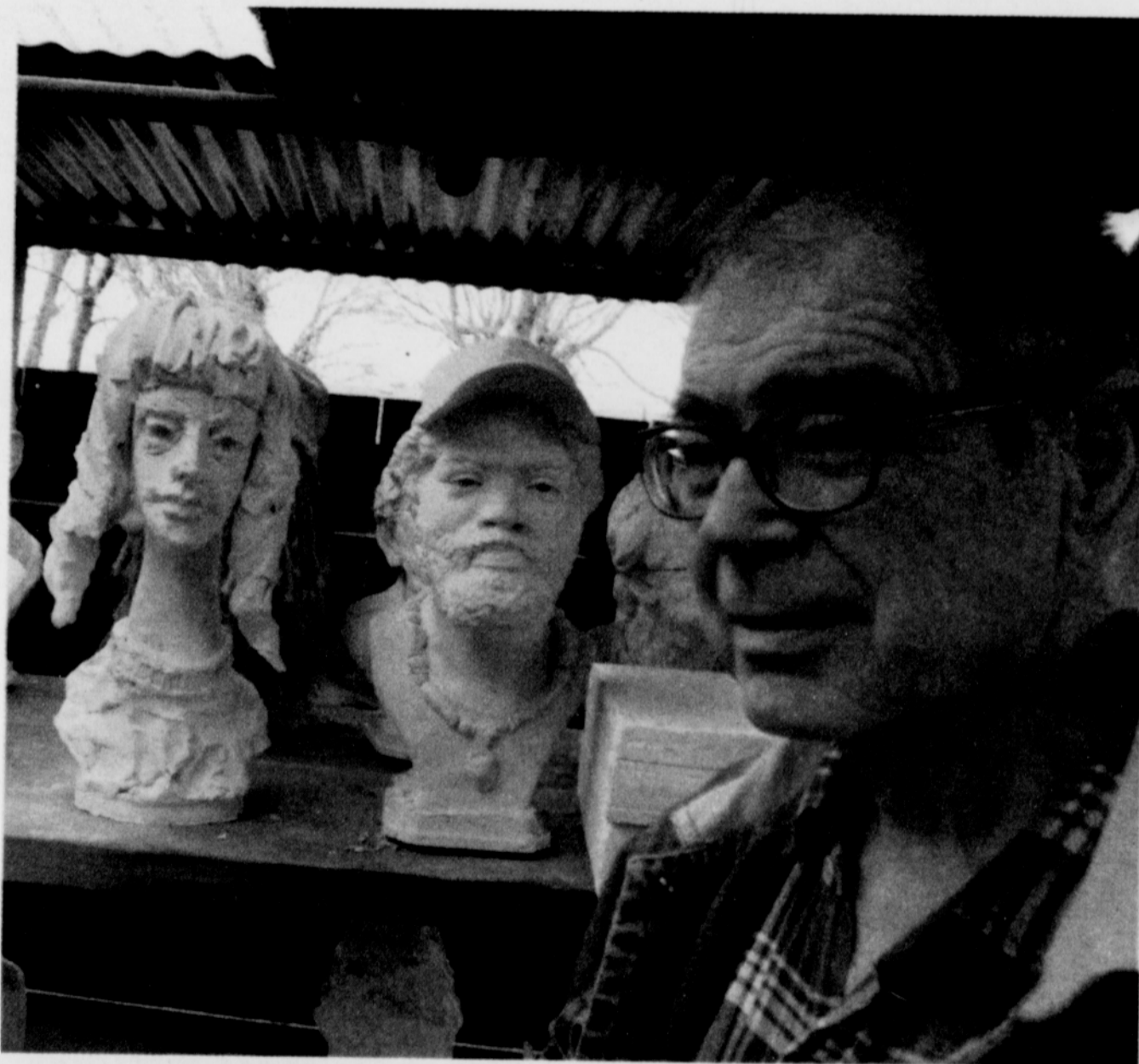


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Jim Gion molds clay from his northeast Portland studio to create bronze statues with life, spirit and character.