

## Higher Tuition

The State Higher Education Board this month approved a 7.2 percent increase in average tuition fees for Oregon public universities after reviewing tuition proposals, discussing budget allocations approaches and hearing a research report from the Coalition of Communities of Color.

Portland State University will raise their tuition prices by 9 percent, which increased the annual tuition for resident undergraduate students taking 15 credit hours from \$5,648 to \$6,156.

Before the board approved the tuition rate increase, Katie Markey, PSU's former student body president, explained students understand the need for tuition increase, and they were included in the decision-making process.

PSU, Oregon Institute of Technology, and the University of Oregon had the highest increase.

## SCRAP Summer Camp Begins

SCRAP's annual summer camp is a place where children's imaginations are encouraged to run wild.

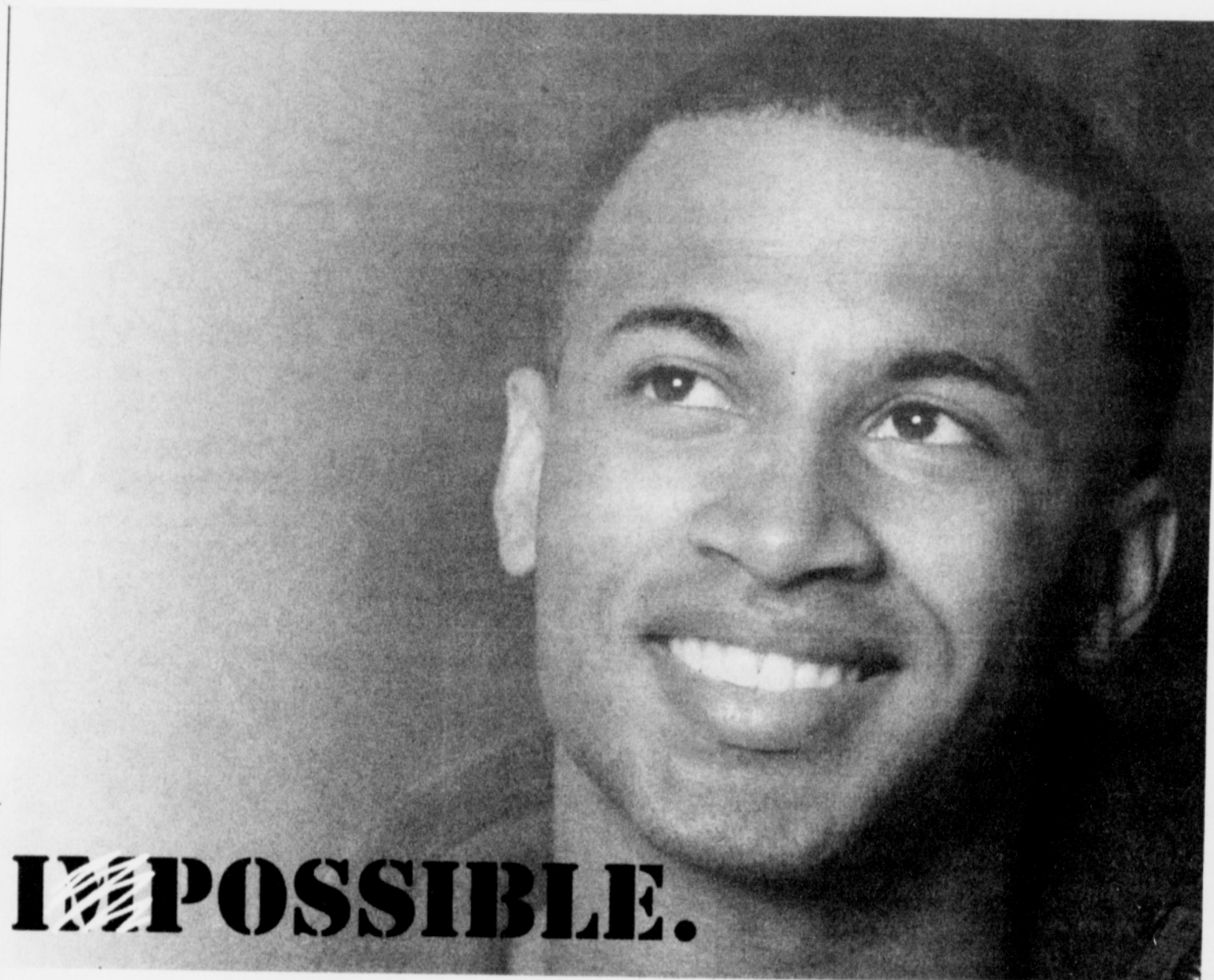
In five one-week sessions, children ages six through 12 learn about creative reuse while creating many different scrappy works of art, such as a tie-dyed towel, unique yard art, sewing projects, redecorating bags, art for local community gardens, and much more.

Campers participate in group challenges, science experiments, read-alouds and open-ended play with re-purposed materials. Also included are lunch trips to nearby Irving Park, mini-trips to local places of interest, guest artist talks, and a healthy snack option each afternoon.

Camps are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at SCRAP, located at 2915 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Register online [scrapaction.org](http://scrapaction.org).



Camp SCRAP helps local kids make works of art and learn how to protect the environment.



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career goals can, at first, seem a little unrealistic. But now it's easier than ever to get started. That's because there are counselors available to assist you with everything from the process of enrolling to financial aid options and career guidance.

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## PDC Executive

*continued* ▲ *from front*

be an expectation," Quinton says. "With a scarcity of dollars we have to make choices, and we have to emphasize job creation impact."

Quinton is uniquely qualified for his mission. A PDC employee since 2008, he took over the agency's business and industrial development section the following year. He wrote the city's first Economic Development Strategy in 15 years, and he was the chief author to a Neighborhood Economic Development Strategy recently adopted by city council.

He said the neighborhood document was "meant to articulate our plans for neighborhoods outside downtown, and outside urban renewal districts as well. We need to create jobs close to where people live."

Some critics have said that PDC subsidies have become so critical to economic development projects that such ventures are unlikely to occur without taxpayer money, or outside the urban renewal districts where such subsidies are available.

"All real estate dealings have become challenging," Quinton says. "The financing that was available a few years ago was an aberration. We need to adapt to the new reality. We also need to be concerned about tilting the market in certain directions, about unintended consequences."

The agency's actions have earned it opponents over the years. Older residents still remember the wholesale removal of communities in downtown's South Auditorium area, the Emanuel Hospital campus and the Rose Quarter.

Others complain that PDC-

funded improvements, while creating some prosperity in poor communities, directly or indirectly caused social and economic displacement.

"We have to recognize the missteps of the past, particularly in north and northeast Portland," Quinton says.

Some criticisms are more recent. PDC utilizes Urban Renewal Advisory Committees to help provide community input into local policies and programs. However, at its June meeting, advisory members accused PDC of simply presenting them with decisions already made, rather than engaging in a collaborative process.

Quinton calls this an unwarranted "generalization."

"Our process isn't perfect and things come up," he said. "Sometimes we have the time to talk about it, and sometimes things have to be acted upon immediately. People tend to focus on the exceptions. During our budget process people have plenty of time and advance notice to be involved."

How do ordinary people know what is happening so they can become involved?

"We're trying to provide information through a variety of media," Quinton says.

In addition to notices in publications such as the Portland Observer, he says, information is available on Twitter and other social media, and the agency is revamping its web site to make it more "user-friendly."

If you have a specific question, he says, "You can start by contacting our staff. There is at least one person who can fill people in on what's happening in a given area. You shouldn't have to work hard to find out."