

PORTLAND NEIGH

'Energy house' offers mod

By JANET GOETZE
of The Oregonian staff

After three years of work, the Eliot Energy House is virtually complete, and the sponsors of Northeast Portland's model for urban energy conservation will celebrate Saturday with a "Moon Dance" at the Neighbors of Woodcraft Hall.

However, the rhythm-and-blues fund-raising event with Sheila and the Monarchs won't celebrate the end of one project so much as it will the start of several more aimed at conservation education and better living in the city, said Lynn Vanderkamp, project director for the Eliot Energy House.

Responsible Urban Neighborhood Technology is the non-profit group of Portlanders who chased out the pigeons to create the energy house at 3116 N. Williams Ave.

Using the acronym RUNT, the group has become parent organization to the Community Energy Project, which has received grants to hold conservation workshops in a five-county area, Vanderkamp said. RUNT also is the parent group for a garden across the street, where neighborhood residents grow their own produce.

The group's plans include workshops for city gardeners and home conservation remodelers this summer, Vanderkamp said, and a puppet show with conservation themes to play in local schools.

The parent group, working with RAIN, another conservation organization, also plans to open a farmer's market and urban gardener's exchange this summer on land donated by Emanuel Hospital, she said.

The energy house's reference library on organic gardening and conservation will be expanded next month with the donation of 1,100 books from Portland Sun, another resource-saving education



READY TO ROLL — Eliot Energy House, above, 3116 N. Williams Ave., is virtually complete, and its sponsors plan to expand conservation education programs. To raise funds, a

group, Vanderkamp said.

In addition, she said, the solar greenhouse built in the energy house's south-side attic has become both a teaching tool and a producer of seedlings that may form the basis of a cottage industry to help support educational programs.

By the end of May, a caretaker will move into the Eliot Energy House to

provide additional security and to conduct tours for those interested in seeing what conservation features can be used in other Portland homes.

These include an enclosed front porch to prevent winter heat loss, a "cold cupboard" in the kitchen's north wall to reduce refrigeration by electricity, and ducts from the attic greenhouse

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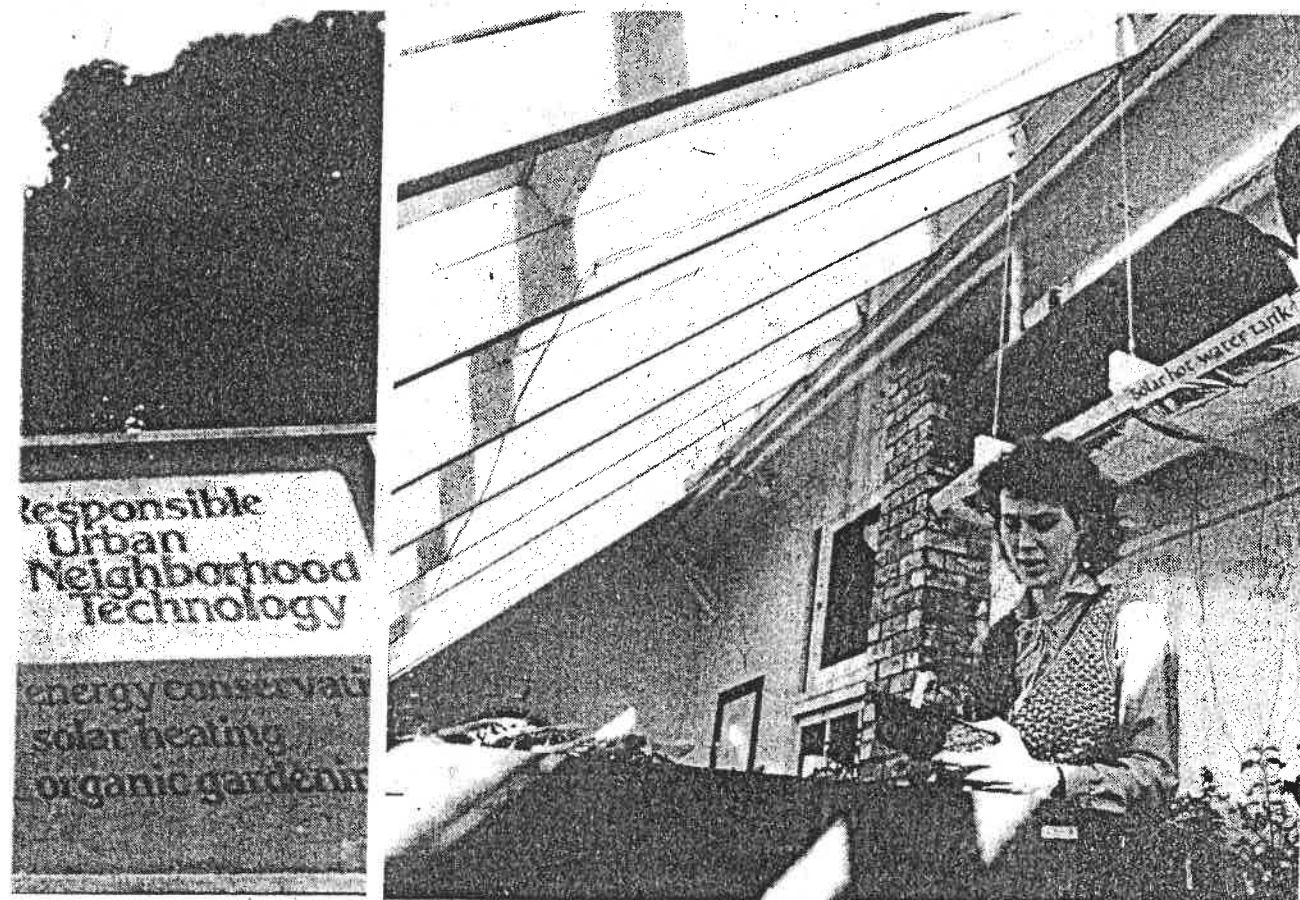


Photo by GEOFF PARKS

ce" with Sheila and the Monarchs is planned Saturday. Project director Lynn Vanderkamp checks tomatoes in the house, right, which provides heat for water and

downstairs rooms as well as seedlings for gardeners and a learning center for Portlanders studying energy-conservation adaptations to their own homes.

for warming both water and downstairs rooms.

Adaptations for bathrooms, window shades and a back porch recycling area also are among the house's features.

"Edible landscaping" of grapes, blueberries and other food-bearing shrubbery will be planted later this year, she said, and miniature gardens in

containers, probably with salad greens, will grace the back deck this summer.

While funds from foundations and federal self-help grants have supported individual projects, Vanderkamp said, no money is left for house materials or for day-to-day office operations.

That's one reason the organization has planned the Moon Dance, which

will also have music by The Rhythm Method, she said.

Tickets purchased in advance of the 8 p.m. event will be \$5 at the Eliot Energy House, Meier and Frank, GI Joe's, Music Millenium and Everybody's Records. Tickets will be \$6 at the door. No minors will be admitted because a bar will be set up, Vanderkamp said.