



ride with
Radio Cab
your
#1
choice
227-1212



Emily Simon

620 SW Fifth Ave., Ste. 1204
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 241-1553
(503) 241-2587 FAX

Emphasizing
representation of the
accused in all
misdemeanor, felony,
traffic and DUI actions
in state, federal,
juvenile courts and
administrative actions

WHEEL ALIGNMENTS & TIRES

Ferguson
AUTOBODY

(503) 232-3600

2454 E. BURNSIDE • PORTLAND, OR 97214
Family Owned & Operated Since 1952



BERNADETTE BREU
ANTIQUES & ORNAMENT

214 SW Stark Street Mon - Sat 11am - 6pm
Portland, OR 97204 (503) 294-1812

PARKING AVAILABLE

**NO
CRUISING
ALLOWED
9PM-5AM**

DRIVING A VEHICLE THROUGH THIS TRAFFIC
CONGESTION THOROUGHFARE MORE THAN TWO
TIMES SHALL BE A VIOLATION OF CITY CODE
SECTION 16.70.740.

VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED FOR
A SECOND VIOLATION

Break the Rules.

The Portland Area Business Association (PABA) invites you to come cruising with us aboard the *Portland Spirit* on Monday, May 13.

Dine like royalty on a sumptuous buffet aboard the *Portland Spirit*. Drink in the verdant scenery along the Willamette river as you hob nob with the coolest of Portland's business community. Swing to uptempo jazz tunes, and saddle up to the no-host bar. All this for only \$25 per person,



if you order your tickets by April 15 (it's \$30 after that, but be sure to order by May 3). To purchase tickets, send your check to: Cruise/PABA, PO Box 6344, Portland, Oregon 97228 or stop by Brian Marki Framing, 2236 NE Broadway, Portland. Call (503) 241-2222 for more information.

Board at 5:30 AM., return at 8:00 AM. Board *Portland Spirit* at SW Front & Salmon, near Salmon Springs Fountain in Portland. Your tickets will be held for you at the site.

local news

Out of the pan

Maker of a popular veggie burger product comes under fire from farmworkers union

by Inga Sorensen

A Pacific Northwest farmworker and treeplanter union is calling for a national boycott of Portland-based Wholesome and Hearty Foods Inc., producer of the "Original Gardenburger," a popular vegetarian patty sold in supermarkets, food co-ops, restaurants and establishments specializing in organic, health-oriented products.

Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmers United, or PCUN) is calling for the boycott due to WHF's failure to commit to cutting ties with NORPAC Food Sales, a company PCUN describes as the "exclusive sales agent" of NORPAC Foods Inc., a separate Oregon-based food processing, grower-owned cooperative, which the union has been boycotting since 1992.

PCUN is upset that WHF, a company that claims to pursue "visionary ideas that [help] to sustain the health and integrity of our planet" and strives to "promote harmony in the world by working to develop our dream of a healthy and balanced planet," has contracted with NORPAC Food Sales to bolster sales of WHF products.

PCUN says by "targeting Wholesome and Hearty Foods and their relationship to NORPAC Sales, [we are] increasing the pressure on NORPAC Foods to negotiate. NORPAC Food Sales enhances the earnings of NORPAC Foods member growers by contracting with other companies such as Wholesome and Hearty Foods."

PCUN's Erik Nicholson says the union began boycotting NORPAC Foods Inc. four years ago, when Kraemer Farms, a member and co-owner of NORPAC Foods Inc., allegedly refused to discuss worker concerns and fired at least 21 workers who participated in a 1991 strike.

PCUN says it approached the two processors that purchase the bulk of Kraemer produce, NORPAC Foods Inc. and Steinfeld's, and asked them to "exercise their economic influence over the Kraemers and either pressure them to negotiate or to sever ties to them."

PCUN, which maintains that sales to the two processors generate the majority of Kraemer's income, says both companies refused to take action.

In a March 15 letter to PCUN, Matthew J. Palmer, WHF's executive vice president and corporate secretary, said his company had "no business arrangement with either Kraemer Farms or NORPAC Foods Inc. We do not purchase products from either company. As such, we have no influence over the policies of these companies."

"We do have a business relationship with NORPAC Food Sales, but that is an entirely different business from NORPAC Foods Inc. NORPAC Inc. is a farmers' cooperative, whereas NORPAC Food Sales is actually Robert Arneson Sales Agency, doing business as NORPAC Food Sales. Robert Arneson simply uses the NORPAC name because NORPAC Foods Inc. represents its single largest contract," Palmer wrote. "However, Robert Arneson acts as a sales agent, for other companies, including Wholesome and

Hearty Foods. As such, there is no reason whatever to believe that consenting to your request would improve the conditions of Oregon farmworkers. It is clear, however, that refusing to do business with NORPAC Food Sales would immediately undermine our company's ability to deliver healthy, meatless food products to consumers who rely on them to meet their dietary needs and could very well negatively impact on our workers."

Nicholson was not satisfied with Palmer's response.

"I think it's highly ironic that Wholesome and Hearty Foods, whose mission statement claims to 'promote harmony,' would be using the same distributor that NORPAC Foods uses. [WHF] says NORPAC Sales is a different company. We

understand that, but we feel that NORPAC Foods benefits from the effort of NORPAC Food Sales, which also contracts with companies like Wholesome and Hearty Foods."

Nicholson says if WHF "can provide [PCUN] with documentation which establishes that NORPAC Inc. derives no economic benefit from its relationship to NORPAC Food Sales, we will reconsider our boycott of all Wholesome and Hearty Foods products."

Nicholson says a community food store in Ashland, and a food co-op in Olympia, Wash., have expressed interest in the WHF product boycott. He says a Montana co-op was the first to honor the boycott, when it agreed in late March to remove WHF products.

Additionally, PCUN has launched a national letter-writing campaign to let WHF "know that by continuing to do business with NORPAC [Sales], they will lose a considerable portion of their clientele. In addition, farmworker supporters will be conducting informational leafleting about the boycott in front of stores and restaurants in Oregon, Washington and other states nationwide."

"We have talked to NORPAC Food Sales and they assured us in writing that there is no relationship issue [with NORPAC Foods]. They are not the same company," stresses WHF's vice president of sales, Charles Monahan. "We don't buy food from NORPAC Foods Inc., nor would we do that. [PCUN] is trying to draw some real fuzzy, indirect line between all of us."

He adds: "We're not going to sever our ties with NORPAC Food Sales and, quite frankly, this is not our fight. I had never heard of PCUN or Kraemer Farms before all of this. It's not that we aren't involved in the community. We do things for the community. We're involved with the POZ Life Expo [a national consumer exposition for people impacted by HIV and AIDS, to be held in New York City from May 31 to June 1]. We do walk the talk, but we have to pick our issues."

In addition to its Gardenburger, WHF produces, among other products, GardenSausage, GardenDog, Gardenburger Vegan and GardenSteak. NORPAC Foods Inc. markets its frozen fruits, vegetables and juices under the Flav-R-Pac label, and its canned fruits and vegetables under the Santiam label. Steinfeld's produces pickles, relishes, and sauerkraut under its own name.

