

# News Around Town

## LAWMAKERS ASK GOVERNOR TO INVESTIGATE AFS WASTE

SALEM - The governor should order an investigation into the spending of the state's Division of Adult and Family Services according to several members of the House of Representatives. "Reports this week that \$450,000 has been spent on staff trips to Oregon's finest and most expensive resorts, including state paid boat trips, and 'morale boosting' gifts to Adult and Family Services staff, such as \$195 leather bound, gold-embossed personalized notebooks to the top managers are deeply disturbing," the three stated in a letter to the governor. "Information we have from sources within the agency lead us to believe that the initial reports of waste are just the tip of the iceberg."

Representatives Bill Markham (R-Riddle), Ray Baum (R-La Grande), and Beverly Clarno (R-Redmond) requested that the governor should order an immediate investigation into the agency. "The average welfare mother of two receives \$420 per month, plus \$200 in food stamps," Markham stated. "The leather notebooks that the state purchased to 'increase employee performance' would have provided food stamps for nearly 20 families for a month."

Baum said that he was very concerned about the waste in the Eastern Oregon Division which is headquartered in Bend. "We've been hearing reports for months about money wasted hotel rooms at fancy resorts and the nearly \$30,000 that was spent last year chartering jets," Baum said. "We are talking here about money that should be going to hungry children and homeless families. If there is any agency in the state that should be run with a lean administrative budget, it's this agency."

Clarno said that she has discussed this matter with AFS staff in her district. "Staff morale on the front line is extremely low," Clarno said. "It's really tough to have to tell people you don't have money to help them feed their hungry children when you are looking at a new marble top desk and expensive silk decorations in the office."

"We request that you order an investigation into AFS spending," the letter to the governor concluded. "We owe it to the families in need and to the taxpayers who are providing money for assistance, to make sure that every dollar in the AFS budget is wisely spent for services that benefit the poor, not bureaucrats."

## NORDSTROM TO HOST CAREER OPPORTUNITY SEMINAR AT WASHINGTON SQUARE

Portland, Or. -- Join us April 15 at 8:00 am for a complimentary career seminar at Nordstrom, Washington Square and learn about career opportunities in retail. Plus, meet Nordstrom Buyers, Store and Regional Managers.

Our guest speakers will discuss their successful career paths at Nordstrom, as well as answer any employment questions.

For further information and to make reservations please contact 620-0555 ext. 205. Seating is limited.

## PCC SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR MINORITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Portland Community College is seeking applicants for 15 scholarships available through the college's Ethnic Minority Education Assistance Award program.

The program, now in its second year, offers required academic courses for the first two years of a bachelor's degree program and a two-year tuition waiver for each student selected, said Nick Barnett, PCC Director of Minority Recruitment.

PPC began the program last year in cooperation with the Portland Public Schools and Portland State University to encourage minority students to enter the field of education, where their number are shrinking.

"The current shortage of ethnic minority teachers will become a significant crisis unless many more African-Americans, hispanics and Native Americans become professional teachers," Barnett said.

Persons who want to apply for the grants should pick up application forms from PCC Admissions offices at Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St.; Rock Creek campus, 17705 N.W. Springville Rd.; Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave.; or Southeast Center, 2850 S.E. 82nd ave.

Application deadline is 3 p.m. Monday, April 10, in Barnett's office on Level B of the Student Center at Cascade Campus.

Contact person; Nick Barnett, Director of Minority Recruitment, 244-6111, ext. 5291.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER CELEBRATES FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The St. Vincent de Paul Child Development Center will welcome the community to the center Tuesday, April 11 at 10:00 am in honor of its 50th anniversary. According to Tom Tison, director, "This anniversary celebration is not only to recognize the center and its contribution to the community, but also to acknowledge the many volunteers over the past fifty years whose commitment to children has been so strong." The St. Vincent de Paul Child Development Center provides quality day care to low income Portland families.

The anniversary celebration, kicking-off with a student band with rhythm instruments in hand, also will feature tours of the center, a display of historic and current photos and a student art exhibit.

The center, initially called Blessed Martin DePorres Day Nursery, was located at N. Victoria and Broadway. Later it was moved to the corner of N.E. Williams and Graham and renamed St. Martin's Day Nursery. The center in 1973 moved to its present location, the old Immaculata Academy at 44 NE Morris. On its inception, the center was the first interracial day nursery in the state.

## COMING SOON! FASHION FAIR (FASHION SEDUCTION)

The 31st Annual ebony fashion fair will appear in Portland at the Earle A. Chiles Center, University of Portland, on Friday, April 21, at 8:00 pm. This famed traveling fashion show is produced by Ebony Magazine and is sponsored by the Portland Chapter of Links, incorporated for the benefit of Links' educational and scholarship fund.

Mrs. Eunice W. Johnson, producer and director of the show, personally selects fashions from the exclusive collections of famed designers such as Frank Compto, Bill Blass, Bob Mackie, Giorgio Sant'Angelo, Fabrice, Patrick Kelly and Bruce Oldfield.

Mrs. Johnson is meticulous and thorough in purchasing the most spectacular fashions available for Ebony Fashion Fair audiences.

More than 200 exquisite garments complete with the latest accessories, 10 female and 2 male models, commentator, music director, stage and business managers, and wardrobe staff travel from coast to coast on a special chartered Greyhound bus. Because of the unprecedented demand for sponsorship of the show by charitable organizations around the country, Ebony Fashion Fair now tours two seasons - the east and midwest from September through December and the southwest from January through May - appearing in more than 191 cities.

Mrs. Clementyne Guy, General Chairperson of the benefit performance indicates ticket sales are going exceptionally well and expects an even larger attendance than last year. Tickets may be purchased at Mrs. C's Wigs (707 NE Fremont), House of Sound (3606 N. Williams Avenue), and Earle A. Chiles Center, University of Portland (5000 N. Willamette Boulevard).

Proceeds from previous shows made it possible to make contributions to many local charities such as: POIC (Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center); NAACP locally and nationally; St. Vincent DePaul Child Development Center; Volunteers of America Day Nursery; Black Educational Center; Portland Art Museum; Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund, Portland State University; Multnomah Association for Retarded Children; United Negro College Fund - locally and nationally; American Cancer Society, Oregon Division; Kidney Association of Oregon; U.N.I.C.F. Ethiopian Aid (Africare, Inc.); American Heart Association, Oregon Affiliate, Inc; Kerr Young Parents Program and many other groups and organizations.

## PEGGY HOUSTON SHIVERS TO APPEAR IN CONCERT

Noted artist Peggy Houston Shivers will appear in concert at Allen Temple C.M.E. Church 4222 NE 8th Ave. The event is



scheduled for April 9th 4:00 pm. A Donation of \$8.00 is requested

## PORTLAND CABLE ACCESS TELEVISION

### PCA INVITES YOU!

WHAT: Video Showcase  
WHEN: Friday, April 7, 1989 7:30-9:30 pm  
WHERE: Portland Cable Access 2766 NE Union Ave. Portland, OR 97212

## Perspectives



by McKinley Burt

## Urban Innovations From Africa; I

Following along with our descriptions of the great African administrators and engineers ("Chief of Works"), the following quote on an ancient achievement is offered from page 1 of Smith, A History of Dams, Citadel Press, 1972.

"...Architectural historians have written a great deal about the building skills of ancient Egypt (and Ethiopia)... but failed to mention one of the oldest civil engineering structures in the world, and the oldest known dam. Almost 5000 years old and twenty miles south of Cairo, this remained the world's largest earthenbuilt dam for thousands of years". That title, "the largest," passed to the Teton Dam in northern Idaho, built by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the 1970's.

This American dam collapsed in 1975 with a disastrous loss in life and property (see current television ads of U.S. West Telephone Company). But, after 40 centuries, the African dam was still standing in 1885 when rediscovered by G. Schweinfurth, the German archaeologist. Sort of reminds you of Napoleon's comment to his soldiers lined up before the Great Pyramid (1803), "Forty centuries of greatness look down upon you!"

In an earlier article I described the urban and social planning associated with the comfort and amenities of the 14,000 man workforce of an African Shipyard. The following quotation even further puts to lie the racist tales of whip-driven and maligned slaves being used to create Africa's architectural wonders. This passage is cited from Segal, City Planning in Ancient Times, Lerna Pubs, 1977.

"To everyone's surprise, the town of Kahun turned out to have enough houses for only a few thousand workers, a far lower number than anyone supposed. The old theories according to which hundreds of thousands of slaves labored under terrible conditions to build the pyramids - were, to some extent, disproved. The workers' houses, while

not luxurious, were still spacious and comfortable, each consisting of a small central courtyard surrounded by two or three bedrooms and a small storeroom. At one end of the town there was a group of luxurious buildings, quite different in size and appearance from the workers' modest houses. Each of these houses was built around a large courtyard bordered on one side by a row of columns. Living rooms were arranged around the courtyard, and the bedrooms contained raised platforms for the beds. These houses, which even had guest rooms and bathrooms, doubtless belonged to the engineers and foremen who supervised the work of constructing the pyramid. Once the pyramid was completed, Kahun was abandoned and the town was soon buried in the drifting desert sands."

Pretty nice Housing Projects for any era of civilization, I'd say. You will never find these facts in American high school or college texts - nor the following from Sewell, Egypt Under the Pharaohs. "It appears that villages and workmen's dwellings were very similar to those of present-day Egypt (and the Sudan): small-roomed, one storey houses with a terrace facing north to catch the breeze... A typical richman's house... would be surrounded by a brick wall and a large garden, although his townhouse would have two and sometimes three storeys." If you have always wondered where the Romans and the Medieval builders got their designs and building codes-now you know!

Next week we will take a look at the African architecture and icons found around Portland, Oregon - most of which is passed off as being in the Grecian or Roman mode. And we will do an assessment of Solomon's Temple and The Tabernacle. It is no wonder that when I did a workshop on African contributions in 1978 - including those of the African-American inventors - a white engineer in the audience rose and said plaintively, "We didn't do anything did we?"

## N.W. AFRIKAN AMERICAN BALLET IN CONCERT



SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1989  
8:00 P.M.

TICKETS: \$10, \$12, \$15  
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## MEETING NOTICE

DESEGREGATION MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL  
5405 SE Woodward  
Portland, OR 97206  
Cafeteria  
Phone: 280-5140