

METRO *Life*

LIFE IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

The Gladys McCoy Academy: A Study In Commitment



When Michael "Chappie" Grice called a simultaneous meeting with Becky Black and Marcy Bradley, who had not previously met, and failed to inform them that in the middle of the meeting he would have to run off to catch a plane, yet insisted they continue to talk, nei-

ther Becky nor Marcy knew then that their meeting would eventually result into the McCoy Academy, named in honor of the late Multnomah County chair, Gladys McCoy. Did Michael know what he was doing when he left those two alone? Of course he did! Michael Grice is that kind of guy!

Oh yes, I almost forgot. Michael did make his plane. Knowing Michael, I think he knew all along something good would come from their meeting.

Something good did indeed come from the meeting. In less than one year and a great deal of sacrificial hard work by Becky and her staff, including Marcy Bradley who became the principal, the Gladys McCoy Academy opened for business in May of 1993. The

school is located at 3802 NE MLK, Jr. Boulevard. The school has an enrollment of about 100 students. Half of them are enrolled at the McCoy and the other half are distributed throughout the various satellites: House of Umoja, Yaun Youth Center, King Facility, Bethel AME Church, and Southeast Juvenile Justice Division.

The McCoy Academy is unique in several ways, but one of its most unique features is that it brings together the partnership of three agencies under one administrative roof. Those agencies are Yaun, Oregon Outreach and Mainstream Youth Program. The partners believed if they could drop their guard of being concerned with "my program," they could create an environment where kids could

get all of their educational and personal needs met. Some of these needs are academics, employment readiness and placement, general and crisis counseling, substance abuse treatment, and various other services related to their personal well-being. And above all, these services are provided under one roof! All the kid has to do is come to school with a willingness to learn and administrators, teachers, counselors, volunteers and parents are committed to assisting him/her in meeting their goals. If the McCoy School attendance record is any indication, a lot of these young people have a "willingness" to learn. That fact is particularly gratifying when you consider that some of these kids have not attended school for two to three years.

It turned out that Becky could not have found a better choice for principle than Marcy Bradley. Ms. Bradley not only loves the kids with great affection, she is concomitantly a very competent and able administrator. Bradley holds a B.A. in English from the University of Maryland and a master degree in Education from Boston University. Boston University is also known for another very famous alumni, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Before taking the job at McCoy Academy, Marcy worked for the Private Industry counsel and coordinated the STEP program at the Jefferson site. Among Marcy's many admirers is Tony Hopson, president of Self En-

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Community Calendar

National Council Of Negro Women

4th Annual Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast, Sat, Feb. 19, 9am to noon, Shenanigans Restaurant, Swan Island 4575 N. Channel. For ticket info. Call 282-2789 or 282-6731.

Public Educational Program "Am I Crazy Or Is This Menopause?"

Tues., March 1, 6:30 to 9:30pm, Eugene Hilton, 66 E. 6th Ave. for more info. call Win at 686-7272.

Free Tax Help Available

On Sat, Feb. 12, 10am to 5pm, at Eastport Plaza, Beaverton Mall, Jantzen Beach Mall, and Mall 205.

Coming To Powell's Books

1005 W Burnside, Purple Room, Mon., Feb. 14, 7:30 Jenny Joseph and Sandra Martz.

Tell Tri-Met What You Think

Community Workshops are scheduled throughout the tri-county area. They will convene at 7pm. Call 238-4834 for more info.

Make A Difference

Volunteer for the family nursery, one-on-one, for more info. Call 235-3907.

Calendar Info Must Be Dated 2 Weeks After The Portland Observer's Current Publication Date

Sharon Mitchell Anchor Woman Community Highlighter!

BY NOAH JACKSON

We caught up with Sharon Mitchell at Me'Rae's on 42nd. Sharon took time for her apparently busy schedule to grant us this interview.

It's been seven months since Sharon's resignation at Channel 8, which came after months and months of soul searching in order to be sure of her decisions to leave the station.

When we reach the maximum upgrades or promotion some of us will become complacent with our progression and not even look back from where we came. Oh no not Sharon. When she reached that point and the people who were supposed to evaluate the station as a whole with intuitive foresight fell incredibly short in their critique. She knew it was time to move on and move a little higher.

We all know what it's like to have to leave those who are very close to us. Or to leave anything you've been attached to for years. Well it was no for Ms. Mitchell. Thru the seven months transition you might have noticed how she increased her community involvement



Sharon Mitchell

ranging from hosting the UNICEF Telethon to moderating a fashion show at the Brothers From The East recent cabaret dance and fashion show.

Yes even tho she is not anchoring news broadcasts, she still maintains being a viable part of the Portland community in so many ways.

It's kind of hard not to be in the mainstream when you've been use to it for so long. One of the most disturbing things Sharon mentioned about the Portland community, was the vast amount of apathy she says I couldn't understand it's profound presence here.

Sharon's mother said to her "you get your education, you go and secure a good job, and most of all you do the right thing!" Sharon's childhood at Jefferson High was rough because she was recently from Minneapolis MN, and talked with regionalism and most kids didn't understand she was just being herself, like will all have said one time at another "This is who I am". Thus she found herself begin alone but still reaching for the goals that we have been blessed to witness and be a part of!

The Sharon Mitchell that sits before me, gleams with pride, with confidence with absolute security. Young ladies should look to Ms. Mitchell as an undeniable mentor and role model she is truly a lady, a lady among women, a real class act. Sharon, anchors aweigh, your ship sails to stronger seas. The rose city will be your shipmate.

1994 US West Outstanding Teacher Program

For the seventh consecutive year, an Oregon Teacher will be honored through the US West Outstanding Teacher program.

The program recognizes exceptional teachers at the elementary and secondary school levels in each of the 14 states served by US West Communications.

Each of the outstanding teachers will receive a \$15,000 cash award to pursue projects to improve education in their communities.

Chuck Lenard, Oregon Assistant Vice President for US West said the company will seek teachers who "reach beyond classroom walls." "We're looking for teachers whose commitment to students and to their communities is truly noteworthy.

Information available from the US West Foundation, Suite 300, 7800 E. Orchard Road, Post Office Box 6508, Englewood, Colorado, 80155-6508, or by calling Brenda Villella at (303) 793-6321. Completed packages must be postmarked by March 31, 1994.

The US West Foundation is one of the largest corporate foundations in the western United States. The Foundation manages charitable contributions and grantmaking programs on behalf of US West, Inc., and its family of companies. In 1993, the Foundation disbursed more than \$25 million.