

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Community Meeting

Join community members and organizations to plan responses to the rising climate of racism demonstrated by the June cross burning, the First Methodist Church burning, the arson-caused deaths of immigrant families and the police murder of Salvador Hernandez. If you are concerned about the attacks on the Black and farmworker communities in Portland and surrounding towns, be a part of the solution by getting involved to stop the racism. Tuesday, August 27, 1996 at the First A.M.E. Zion Church, 109 N. Skidmore St., Portland. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by community organizations including Radical Women, PROYECTO and Freedom Social Party and is hosted by First A.M.E. Zion Church.

### CoHousing: Neighborhoods for People

A screening of the video "CoHousing: Neighborhoods for People" will be held Thursday, September 12th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Reedwood Friends Church/Ong Chapel, 2901 SE Steele. An introductory presentation about cohousing and Cascadia Commons' plans to create a cohousing ecovillage in Portland will follow the screening. Admission is free.

### Community fair

Peninsula Children's Center, a non-profit child care agency, will host its second annual Community Fair on Aug. 25th from 12:00 to 4:00 PM at its main site at 4720 N. Maryland Ave. For more details, please call Peninsula Children's Center at 280-0534.

### Art & Rubber Stamp Festival

Don't miss this Rubber Stamp Extravaganza! The Oregon Art & Rubber Stamp Festival will be held August 31 and September 1 at the Oregon Convention Center. This spectacular two day event will bring you together with many noted Rubber Stamp Manufacturers and Rubber Stamp Artist. You will be able to browse through thousands of art rubber stamps, enjoy the special Mail Art Exhibit "Stamp The Night Away", participate in Free classes and demonstrations, and most importantly, become inspired! The festival hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$4.00, 2-Day Pass \$5.00, and children under 12-Free. Mention this announcement and receive \$1.00 off the regular admission. Ample parking available, \$5.00 all day fee.

### Adopting babies from China

The Northwest China Council presents a seminar entitled Americans Adopting Babies from China: Process and Cultural Issues. on Saturday, August 24, 1996, from 1-4:00 p.m. in room 271 of Portland State University's Shattuck Hall, 1914 SW Park. The program features presentations by adoptive Portland parents on the procedures, problems and satisfactions of adopting a Chinese baby, and on larger social and cultural issues. Admission is \$15 per individual, \$25 per couple; children are free. Walk-ins are welcome; preregistration is encouraged because space may be limited. To register, call 503/725-4567.

### Apples-n-Honey

On Sunday, September 8, 1996, from 12:30-3:30 p.m., the 4th annual Pre-Rosh Hashanah community-wide extravaganza, "Apples-n-Honey", will be held at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. This community-wide gathering features the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of the Jewish High Holiday Season. Rosh Hashanah is the holiday celebrating the beginning of the Jewish Year. It's traditionally a time of reflection, prayer and family gatherings.

**SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if dated two weeks before the event date.**



America's first low floor car arrived earlier this month at Tri-Met's operations facility at Elmonica. Crews worked to move the care onto light rail tracks in order to pull in into the building. Next up is a month of testing inside the shop before the care moves out to test the track. The new MAX car features a short ramp that extends onto the station platform, providing easy boarding for people with mobility limitations. This is the first of 46 cars to be delivered. The next low floor car is scheduled to arrive in Portland in September.

## Magical nest on MLK

BY LEE PERLMAN

**T**he machines behind the counter grind, gurgle and hiss while patrons place their orders. They mingle, chat and eventually make their way to the back room, toward the sounds that drew them there—the sounds of live jazz.

It's a typical Sunday afternoon at Steen's Coffee House.

For the price of a cup of coffee, Steen's customers can listen to Portland's finest jazz musicians in a casual setting from 3 to 6:30 p.m.

"It's like listening to jazz in your living room," said Michelle Farrell, a regular face in the Sunday crowd. "I come here because I'm an avid jazz fan, and I like the homey atmosphere."

It's an atmosphere that owner Ron Steen worked hard to cultivate.

Once a boarded up old building on the corner of N.E. Martin Luther King and Russell, the year old establishment invites its customers to take a breather from their hectic lives. Its hard wood floors and brick walls give the space a solid, timeless feel.

The L-shaped room houses a coffee bar where historic photographs of Portland line the walls. Around the corner is a large seating area with ceiling-high bookshelves displaying local musician's compact disks and tapes.

In the back rests an old upright piano, and Steen's drum kit and stool. It's the throne from which this nationally known Portland-native holds court each Sunday.

With a boyish grin and charming wit, Steen emcees the proceedings--first playing with his trio, then calling up a cadre of local musicians one by one to join in the fun. All while teen-agers, the elderly, parents with their young children, and people of all backgrounds listen.

"It's a smoke-free, alcohol-free environment, it's an opportunity for families to stay together and not have to spend lots of money to have a good time," said Steen.

It's also an opportunity for younger, less experienced musicians to play with seasoned



Ron Steen (left) welcomes his culturally diverse patrons to Steen's Coffee House where jazz melodies perpetually fill his MLK Blvd cove and ensure feel-good, lazy days.

veterans. Steen sees his jam sessions as a way to cultivate young talent, pass on a decades old tradition, keeping the art-form of jazz alive in the process.

"It's a workshop, a place to learn for both the audience and the musicians," said Steen. "It's great music, but because it's not rehearsed, people sometimes hear the rough edges as the music comes together. And when younger musicians work with older more experienced players, it raises the level of the younger ones' playing."

Musicians perform at Steens four to five afternoons a week. Paintings and tapestries by local artists are also displayed at the coffeehouse.

The arts are a big part of the venue's appeal -- along with the coffee, said co-owner Bob Orians.

"There was no coffeeshop in the neighborhood. We're one of a kind thing, the music, the artwork, it's a good part of what we're doing here," said Orians. "It appeals to everybody."

The first year of business was a bit of a struggle financially, said Steen and Orians. A 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. schedule was cut back by three hours after a few months because there just weren't enough evening customers to justify the expense. But the owners said each month the coffee house's profit margin improves.

"It's been a challenge. We still have a ways to get to where we want to be," said Orians. "We're obviously pioneering. We're in what was a dilapidated old building. But as the neighborhood comes up, our business will improve."

## Death in the hood

"I am tired of young Black men killing each other," said Lanita Duke, Producer of Grassroot News, who developed the concept of a video focusing on youth violence and Black-on-Black violence in Portland.

The video is entitled "Death in the Hood" and will premiere Thursday, Aug. 29 at Portland Community College (Cascadia Campus), Terrell Hall, Room 122.

"We will premiere the video and solicit comments from the audience to incorporate into longer versions of "Death in the Hood", said Duke. "We are focusing on Black-on-Black youth crime and how our community responded to it."

"Death in the Hood" looks at Youth violence from a law-enforcement, Social Services and youth perspectives.

"In our research we found the level of violence in our community rose within a very short time. And we have accepted this. It is not suppose to be like this," added Duke.

"We have discovered a well of despair and grief in our youth as they react to the deaths of their peers. As adult's we are too dismissive of their grief. This video allows them to mourn," said Duke.

"Death in the Hood" is funded by Multnomah County Juvenile Justice, Self-Enhancement, Inc. Yaun Youth Center, Mult. County Health Department, G.I.F.T. and the Private Industry Council.

For more information contact 287-9074.

## Attorney hired for Metro environmental issues

**M**etro has hired Marvin D. Fjordbeck as senior assistant counsel. Fjordbeck will focus on environmental issues and also will advise Metro on general legal matters.

He comes to Metro after 12 years in the private sector as a lawyer and partner in a major Northwest regional law firm.

Fjordbeck was a partner in the Portland

law firm Lane Powell Spears Lubersky, where his emphasis was on administrative and regulatory law; railroad, utility and telecommunications law; environmental law; legislative affairs and lobbying.

Being hired by Metro marks the first time that Fjordbeck, 38, has worked in government. In addition to his experience as an attorney in the private sector, Fjordbeck has

a diverse background that includes having worked as a newspaper reporter and as a press aide for the 1980 Ted Kulongoski for U.S. Senate campaign.

He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Oregon in 1979 with a degree in journalism. He also attended the University of Oregon School of Law and graduated in 1983 in the top 20 percent of his class.

In Metro's Office of General Counsel, Fjordbeck will concentrate primarily on environmental and solid waste issues associated with the Regional Environmental Management Department.

The Office of General Counsel is an independent office that provides legal advice both to the elected Metro Council and to the elected Executive Officer.