

Dazzling Tap Dancer Joins Oregon Symphony

Fred Strickler will headline the Oregon Symphony starting April 18-20. See Entertainment, page B3.



The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe

Children's Theater Presents this spectacular play, April 26th - May 3rd at the Portland Civic Auditorium. See Metro, inside.



POPEYES
See Popeye's Coupon's Inside!

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Ford To Have Side Air Bags

In a first for a major American automaker, Ford said it plans to offer side air bags on all its cars and will start by making them standard equipment on its luxury models. Ford Automotive Operations President Jac Nasser said that all Ford car models will have the air bags within three years. The side air bags would be built into the outer side of the driver and front passenger seats, inflating on impact to protect an occupant's head and neck. The bags inflate parallel to the rider, instead of toward him or her.

Israeli Envoy Heads to Washington

Israel took a step forward in talks on the country's withdrawal from the West Bank by sending a senior adviser to Washington. The United States is pressing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to withdraw from 12 percent to 15 percent of the West Bank in the next pullback phase, but Netanyahu has said he cannot yield more than about 9 percent. The Palestinians have said they expect far more than 15 percent in the next withdrawal, but privately have signaled they would accept the American plan.

Asian Recovery Not Expected Until 1999

Economic recovery in Asia isn't likely to begin until next year, and serious reforms are necessary before investors regain confidence in the region, a study said. The slump has depreciated currencies and slashed prices on share markets, shrunk economies and weakened bank balance sheets, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said. Credit is tight, inflation is rising and investors are unwilling to commit money despite an apparent easing of the crisis, OECD said. Earlier today, Indonesia and the International Monetary Fund appeared to have reached a compromise on the \$43 billion bailout package.

Bono Wins California House Seat

With memories of Sonny Bono still fresh, voters chose the Republican's young widow to finish his term in California's 44th Congressional District seat. Mary Bono defeated Democrat Ralph Waite, the actor who portrayed the father on television's "The Waltons." The post became vacant when Bono died Jan. 5 in a skiing accident.

News Orgs. Seek Lewinsky Access

While the Whitewater grand jury probes deeper into an alleged presidential affair and cover-up, news organizations are asking an appellate court for access to proceedings and records related to the Monica Lewinsky investigation. An emergency appeal by a dozen media companies, seeks to open hearings on legal challenges to Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation. The news organizations said a lower court's denial of access makes "a mockery of the First Amendment."

Frazier Calls Arrest Misunderstanding

Former boxing champion Joe Frazier says his arrest on drunken driving charges was a "misunderstanding." Police pulled over Frazier for driving erratically. "They thought I was drinking," he told the Philadelphia Daily News. "I may have had a drink earlier in the evening. But they ran tests. I have a problem with my blood pressure." Frazier's daughter, an attorney, said the Breathalyzer test police gave her father was skewed by his hypertension.

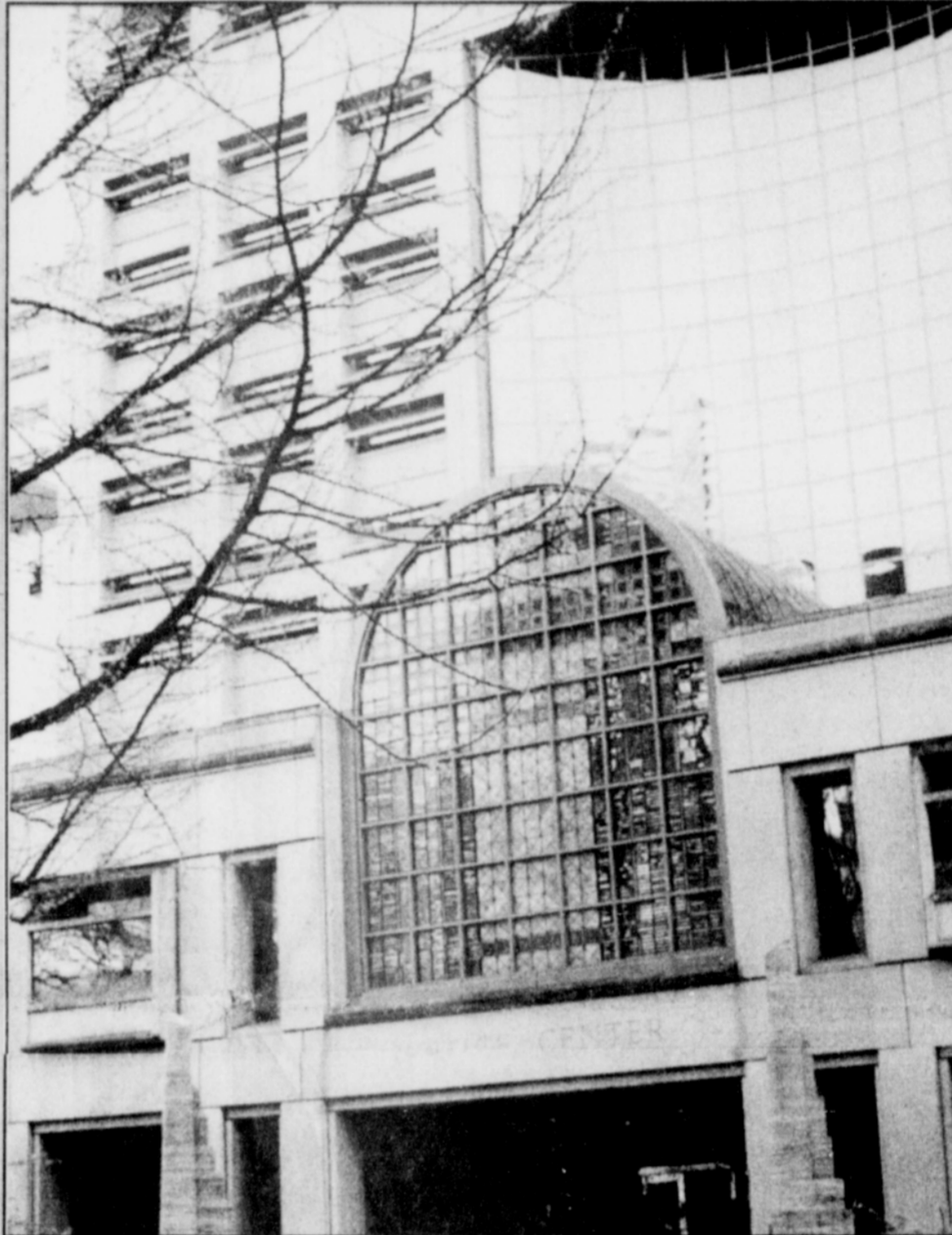
Sheriff Adds 200 Beds To Downtown Jail

By KELLY MOTT, COMMUNITY INFORMATION SPECIALIST MULTNOMAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

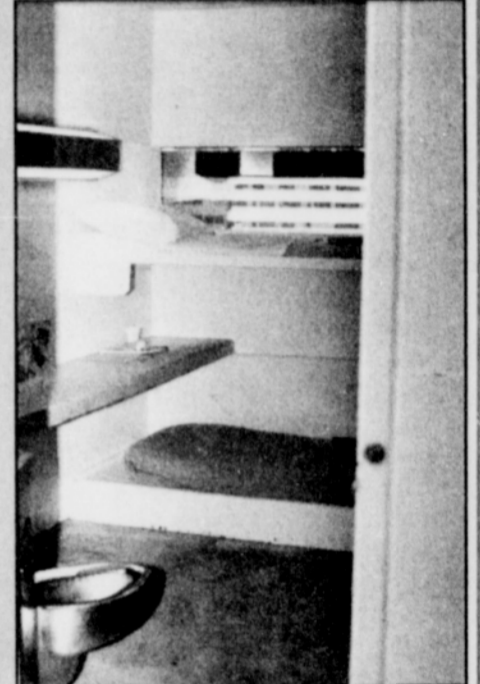
The Multnomah County Detention Center (MCDC) in downtown Portland serves as the county's primary jail and intake center. Beginning in 1987 and culminating in a Modified Final Order in 1990, the federal court has mandated many of the operating conditions at MCDC, including maximum inmate population limits. This is a big headache because we, like most every jail in the country, have more crooks than beds.

The impact of the inmate population restriction is felt throughout the community. When the jail is full, it's full; the booking counter closes and the doors literally get locked. With the exception of the first few months after opening, the jail has been filled to capacity. In fact, each of our five jails, with a total capacity of 1,953, is full. As a result, hundreds of inmates are released every month before they've completed their sentences. Locally we've given the population release process a formal name: "Matrix Release," but it's really just a "get out of jail free" card for the inmate. In 1997 an average of 530 inmates were matrix released each month—a number Multnomah County Sheriff Dan Noelle finds completely unacceptable. Early releases create public distrust in the system, frustration for the arresting officers, and remove the penalty of incarceration for breaking the law.

The Federal Court Order was established to protect the county from inmate lawsuits over Constitutional rights. However, since the entry of the Modified final Order, no inmate has ever brought forth a valid claim that the requirements of the Order were being violated. Nor has anyone brought a successful challenge to the conditions of confinement at the County jails in general. Thus, the primary effect of the Order, in this case, was to restrict the Sheriff's ability to



MCDC encompasses ten floors of the Justice Center in downtown Portland. In February 200 jail beds were added, raising the inmate capacity to 676. (Photo by Rick Schwarz)



Single cell converted to double occupancy rooms. (Photo by Rick Schwarz)

respond to the changing needs of the community (what type of criminal stays in jail), changes in the law, and the effect that those

changes have on the jail system.

When Dan Noelle became Sheriff in 1995, it was immediately apparent to him

that the jail system was in overload. The emergency population release plan was being used almost daily and the detention center was increasingly in gridlock. On occasion, corrections deputies were forced to close the jail's booking counter and lock the reception doors. Plans to expand one of the county's five jails were in action, however, to achieve his immediate goal of reducing the number of early releases, Noelle would need even more beds than were under construction. Voters had approved a levy giving us money to build a new jail, but that was a few years away.

Double bunking MCDC would give some immediate relief, but the federal court order was blocking our ability to squeeze more inmates into the facility. It would take an act of congress, literally, to allow more inmates into the jail.

High School Proposed for Rosemont Site



Jean-Baptiste De La Salle.

By LEE PERLMAN

Here's a novel new idea for reuse of the Rosemont School property: instead of making it high density housing, why not make the former

Catholic girls school a Catholic high school? The idea has been broached by officials of La Salle High School of Milwaukie, and by members of the Piedmont Neighborhood Association. City officials, who are negotiat-

ing to buy the vacant 7.6 acre property at 597 N. Dekum St. and develop a master plan for its future use, say they will consider the idea, but without much enthusiasm.

Greg VanderZanden, a president of LaSalle, says the school would like to open a "satellite campus" with a beginning enrollment of 200 students, and the Rosemont property "has a lot to offer." It is close to both Holy Redeemer grade school and the University of Portland, allowing three Catholic educational institutions to have easy access to each other's facilities. It is also at "the poor end of the city," which would "allow us to live out our mission and have more diversity."

Founded in the 17th century by the priest John Baptiste De LaSalle, the colleges are dedicated to providing "education for everyone and service to the poor," VanderZanden says. It attempts to provide scholarships for deserving poor students. However, he concedes, "We're younger and don't have a large endowment. To the extent that we're tuition-driven, it's hard to serve the poor."

As to purchasing the property from the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, VanderZanden says, "Funding would be a challenge, but we feel we have the support to overcome it."

They would also have to get it from the Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development. The bureau has obtained an option to purchase the property, and while it is committed to a planning process to determine its best future use, it makes clear its own agenda is to build low-income housing there.

Bureau director Steve Rudman says he "wouldn't rule out" at least partial use of the property by LaSalle but adds, "I'd consider it a long shot."

VanderZanden in turn says it would be "possible" to operate a school on just part of the site, although he adds, "It

would obviously be beneficial to have facilities that contribute to the high school experience," such as an athletic field.

The Portland Development Commission gave its approval for city appropriation of \$1.5 million for acquiring the Rosemont site at a March 18 hearing. According to Tom Markgraf, former Piedmont Neighborhood Association president, the commission also support an "open" planning process that would consider alternatives that didn't include housing on the site. Rudman says, "Tom heard what he wanted to hear."

Rudman says he was unaware of LaSalle's interest until a week or two before the hearing. Markgraf says the school made inquiries about the site three months before.

The debate continued at a Piedmont Association meeting last week. Robin Boyce of BHCD told about 50 neighborhood residents that while the planning process would not "preclude" any ideas, "We need to balance Piedmont's interests with those of the rest of the city. The city's agenda includes (developing) rental housing. Some portion has to be low-income (housing), or there's no reason for us to be involved."

Rudman cautioned that the city has yet to officially complete the purchase. "We can't divert money the rest of the city is depending on to buy that property," he said. "We haven't identified money even to buy it, let alone develop it."

Piedmont land use chair Betsy Radigan said she was reassured by the master planning process, based on the Concordia neighborhood's experience with the former Kennedy School.

"They kept the neighborhood informed so that at the end there were no surprises, and people understood the choices and tradeoffs. It makes you confident you're making the best choice for your community."

"Funding would be a challenge, but we feel we have the support to overcome it."