

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

"I Have A Dream"

On Wednesday, September 23rd, from 6-9 PM, enjoy a special viewing night at the Portland Art Museum, entitled Monet meets "I Have A Dream". The theme for the evening features Caribbean Cuisine, highlighting the magnificent blend of African and French cultures. The program is an Education Enrichment program designed to encourage students to complete high school and go on to college or vocational school. Call 224-5818 or 735-9455.

Youth Symphony

Auditions for new members for the Metropolitan Youth Symphony will take place on August 24, 25, 27 and 28 and September 5, 8, and 9. While all instruments are needed, there is special need for low brass, bassoons, violas, string basses and percussion. Call 239-4566.

Peace Through Meditation

Authorized representatives of Sant Thakar Singh will be offering a free program which includes instructions for the inner Light and Sound meditation. This process, which brings inner peace, can be learned by young and old alike regardless of faith, religion or lifestyle. The next session is on Friday, August 21st at the Metro Community Church Family Room on 2400 NE Broadway and 24th, from 6:30 - 10 PM.

Parent Mentor Program

Help improve the life of a child by mentoring the child's mother. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Parent Mentor Program is seeking volunteer mentors to work individually with mothers who are completing drug and alcohol treatment at the Letty Owings Center. The mentors visit and go on short outings with the moms and share ideas about parenting and other living skills. Call 231-3571.

ACLU

On September 4th, the ACLU of Oregon will host the Second Annual Uncensored Celebration Free Expression Party. This is a celebration of free expression in the visual arts, the written word, and the performing arts. Expect many special guests, performers, and surprises. The event will be held on the rooftop of Yamhill Marketplace, 110 SW Yamhill, from 7:30 to 11:30 PM. Call 227-3183.

ArtFire

Come to an ArtFire class and learn how to access, generate, expand upon and trust your own ideas through painting and drawing in an active studio experience. ArtFire does not "plant ideas" in a student's mind - it focuses on unleashing them. We emphasize individual attention. Classes are small and appropriate to all experience levels, from none to much, for ages 3 - Adult. Call 235-1961.

Free Mammograms

On Wednesday, September 16th, from 9 AM to 4 PM, 20 mammograms will be given to women 35 and older at the Chevron station at 17830 SW Boones Ferry Road in Lake Oswego. Call 681-1100 to schedule an appointment between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM beginning Tuesday, September 1st. Appointments will be given away on a first come, first served basis.

Learn to Negotiate

If you're interested in learning how to increase your power as a negotiator in business or at home - you can't afford to miss "The Art of Negotiating" with professional negotiator, lecturer and author, David Pollard. He will speak at the Association of Women in Communication's luncheon to be held from 11:30 AM to 1 PM, Wednesday, September 9th at Shenanigan's on the Willamette. Call 299-4941.

Community Court Strives for Accountability, Quick Justice

By LEE PERLMAN

Portland's latest effort to address inner city crime takes place every other Wednesday in a meeting room at the King Neighborhood Facility. District Court judge Clifford Freeman sits behind a desk.

Before him are a district attorney, a public defender, various social service agency workers, and a gallery of people. They are teenagers to middle-aged, white, African-American, Latino, Asian, men and women. A few are solemn, most are more relaxed and some are visibly impatient.

They have committed some minor crime in inner north or northeast, and have agreed to atone for it by giving eight hours of free labor through the Community Court.

In operation since March 4, the court is an option for people accused of misdemeanor crimes such as shoplifting, prostitution, public intoxication, selling alcohol to a minor, graffiti, and "criminal trespass" (often entering an area from which they have been "excluded" for past drug, alcohol or other offenses.) They must be residents of the Albina community or have committed the crime there. They may not use the court for violent or person-to-person crimes, and they may not have a criminal record that includes serious crimes of violence. They must agree in advance to plead guilty or No Contest to the charge.

The court serves several functions. It frees up the justice system to deal with more serious crimes, since each Community Court case takes only a few minutes. It brings the justice system closer to the community. And it allows those who misbehave to atone for it in the same community where the crime was committed.

On the Thursday following court sessions, offenders can meet with representatives of social service agencies who can help them deal with problems such as lack of housing or substance abuse that may have caused them to commit the crime. In this way getting such help is more convenient, with fewer bureaucratic hurdles, than visiting the agencies would be.

How does it all work in practice? Court coordinator Robin Gregory and others concede that some people do in fact "work the system" to avoid sentences that could range from fines of \$100 or more to up to a week in jail. Still, she says, 80 percent of those accused do show up for their hearings, and two-thirds



Judge Clifford Freeman with Community Court advisory Board members Richard Brown (right) and Betsy Radigan (middle).

complete their community service - a better record of compliance than circuit court.

Community Activist Richard Brown, a member of the court advisory committee, sees more. "When people come back from completing their community service, they're actually smiling, and shaking hands with the lawyers," he says. "We had one old man who worked in a children's garden, and loved it. When you ask if people will be back, the answer invariably is 'No.' The courts downtown don't seem to have a lot of impact. Here you can see that at least for some people it makes a difference."

Another member, Betsy Radigan, says, "In the courts downtown the lawyers do all the talking and the defendant is a warm body who carries papers from one place to another. Being there is an inconvenience to them; it's all about them. Here the idea is to address quality of life crimes in a way that shows the offender that they're detracting from the quality of life in the

inner city."

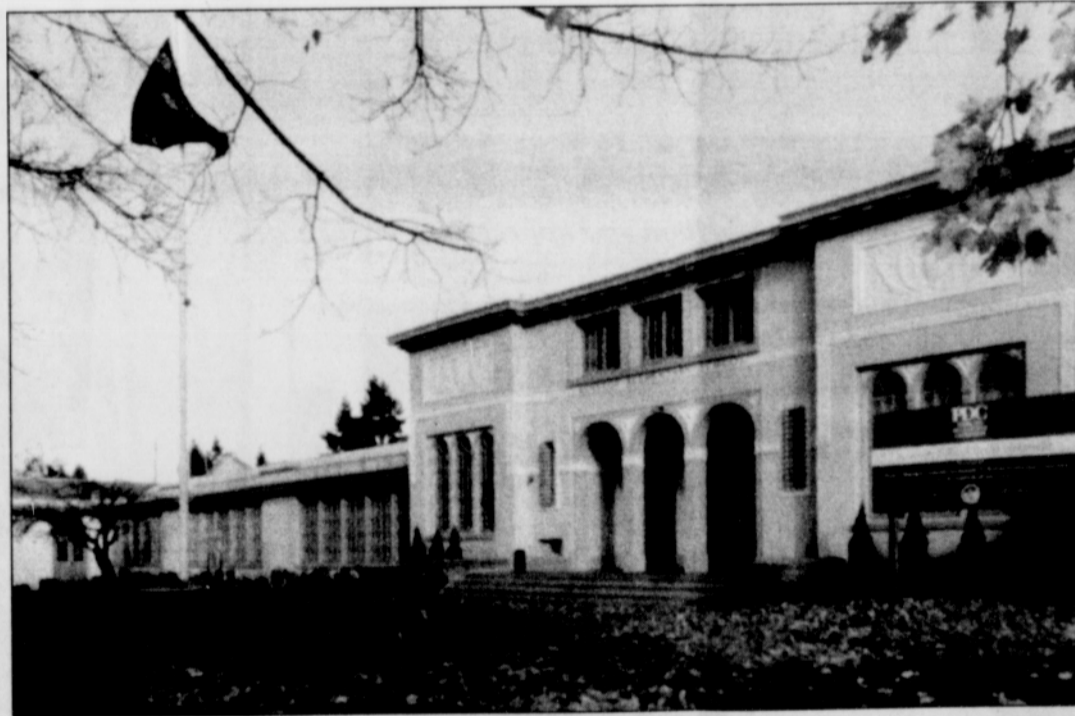
Public defender Paul Newton likes the fact that defendants see "a quick resolution of their cases and immediate consequences for the trouble they cause. People don't get cynical about the process." By contrast, he says, circuit court "disposes of cases without looking at what's appropriate or the reasons for the crimes. At the end you get a piece of paper that tells you you have to do something, but there's nobody to check up to see that you actually do it."

A big plus, most observers feel, is the direct interaction between the defendant and the judge. Each is told to say, "in your own words, why you think you're guilty of this offense." At the end Freeman invariably advises offenders to mend their ways so that they will not be back.

Interestingly, Judge Freeman sees few differences between community and circuit court. He asks "pleading" defendants to state their position on their charges. The biggest difference, he says

is the uniform eight hours community service sentence. It was adopted as an incentive to get offenders to use community court. Freeman, and others, would now like to see it re-evaluated to allow sentences that better fit the offense and offender. "It's one thing if this is the person's first offense, another if it's their ninth or tenth," he says. "Some just haven't gotten it."

"We don't want to see these people again, and for the most part we don't," Freeman says. "We get respectable people who had a lapse in judgement and shoplifted, and they find themselves with handcuffs on in a little room where they can't get out. We won't see those people again. We have store clerks who may be dyslexic, misread some I.D., and sell alcohol to someone under age. I don't think we'll see them again; I may be wrong. I've had to remand one or two people back to custody."



Historic Kennedy School

Welcome to McMenemy's Kennedy School that took 22 years to preserve and transform into a thriving commercial business offering food, lodging and entertainment. It has brought new jobs and sparked revitalization to the area. This is just one of many prides of NE. Concordia featured in the Neighborhoods section.)

New Amphitheatre In Portland Area To Be Developed By Universal Concerts and Aegean Development



Photo by Larry J. Jackson Sr.

Jim McCue, Aegean's Vice President for facility sales and marketing, discussed with the Portland Observer, the newly created relation-

ship between Universal Concerts and Aegean Development Corporation for the joint development of a new outdoor amphitheatre within the Portland metropolitan region.

The recent agreement reached solidifies a significant regional partnership between Universal Concerts, one of North America's largest concert promotion companies and the Aegean Development Corporation, Oregon's largest venue operator. Details regarding the amphitheatre including its location are currently in the process of being determined, with the hope that construction will begin in the spring of 1999 with completion in the spring of 2000. "What we need, is a regional government willing to step up

and make the wheels move, that will facilitate the success of the project, said Jim McCue.

Jay Marciano, President, Universal Concerts said, "Throughout North America, live music is an important and exciting part of the culture of local communities. By developing a new outdoor amphitheatre, we intend to bring Portland a high-quality live entertainment experience that incorporates the beauty of the region. We are happy to partner with Aegean Development, which operates Portland's prestigious Rose Garden Arena and several other venues. Together, we will provide concert goers with world-class, cutting-edge music as well as the area's premiere outdoor venue." Universal Concerts currently

owns nearly a dozen facilities.

"While the Portland area features a variety of outdoor venues, none meet the needs of both the public and performers in one location. Building a first-class amphitheatre will provide the ultimate outdoor concert experience for the guest while giving our performers a state-of-the-art facility as well," said J. Isaac, Senior VP of Business Affairs for Aegean Development. Jim McCue, VP Facility Sales and Marketing adds, "Working with Universal Concerts, we have had a long track record of presenting successful shows at our existing venues. We are thrilled to be partners with these industry leaders."