

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Project Linkage

Can you volunteer about 4 hours a month to help elderly residents in the Northeast Portland community? If so, Project Linkage needs your help. We are looking for people to drive elders to doctor appointments, the grocery store, and social outings. Drivers must be 25 years of age and have a good driving record. We also have other volunteer opportunities such as minor home maintenance, plumbing, and yard debris clean-up. Call 249-0471.

Swap Meet

The Portland Macintosh Users Group will hold its annual Swap Meet on Monday, January 11 at the Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center (1819 NW Everett) at 6:45 PM. The swap meet will feature new and used Macintosh computer-related items for trade or sale. Anyone interested in renting a table space for \$10 should contact Jeffrey Thorns at 285-9563. Admission is free and open to the public.

NW Natural Celebration

Downtown Portland will be swingin' on Thursday, January 7 as NW Natural kicks off its 140th birthday with a summer-like barbecue in Portland's "Living Room," Pioneer Courthouse Square. The public is invited to enjoy free hot chili, hot dogs and birthday cake from 11 AM - 2 PM. The festive live-music party is the first of many events celebrating NW Natural's 140 years of business in Portland.

Parenting Series

A Teacher's Space will be holding a four-part workshop based on the book *Taking Charge: A Parent and Teacher Guide to Loving Discipline*. Participants can take any individual session or the series as a whole. The first session will be on January 11, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. A Teacher's Space is located at 2755 NE Broadway. Call 288-3577.

Chamber Orchestra

After a national search, the Rose City Chamber Orchestra is pleased to present visiting conductor Dr. Eric Kujawsky, Music Director of the Redwood Symphony. Dr. Kujawsky has shocked audiences with his bold interpretation of classical music. Come experience this excitement with the Rose City Chamber Orchestra on Sunday, January 17 at 3 PM at the Peace Lutheran Church (2201 North Portland Blvd.).

Free Clinics

Attend one of the free introductory clinics at the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine (OCOM) and learn how acupuncture can help you keep your resolution to stop smoking. The Saturday morning clinics will be on January 9 - 16, from 9-10:30 AM at the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine (10525 SE Cherry Blossom Dr.). The free Saturday clinics this January are part of the community education program of the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine. Call 503/253-3443 ext.208.

Snowshoe Demonstration

Tubbs Snowshoe company is collaborating with Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) and Merrell shoe company to provide a day for the public to try out the fast-growing sport of snowshoeing. The free event will be held on Saturday, January 16, from 9 AM to 3 PM at White River West Sno-park, on Highway 25, four miles east of Government Camp. Call 624-8600 or 283-1300.

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

Historic Albina Landmark Threatened

~ Cleo-Lillian Social Club ~



BY CLEO-LILLIAN SOCIAL CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are outreaching to the community for support, technical assistance, and sweat equity.

After numerous efforts, meetings and plans: Cleo's needs to make the community aware of the one sided effort to co-exist in a neighborhood with "new neighbors" that have no desire to be neighbors.

In short, Cleo's is a victim of gentrification of the neighborhood in which it resides. Part of the strategy of gentrification is to take over key commercial properties. The building which is home to Cleo's is considered a key commercial property in the area.

Historical Summary
Cleo's has been operating in its present location since January 1958 and is the second oldest African American locally operated social club in the state of Oregon.

Donating to various charitable organizations, Cleo's has always been a positive member of the community. Recognizing the need for affordable housing and demonstrating his commitment to the community, Louis Browning, past manager and property owner, sold land to HOST (Community Development Corporation) for a housing project designated to low/moderate income families at below market rate. We continue to work with various local,

state, and federal government agencies to sustain the livability of the neighborhood in which we now reside.

Cleo's is best known for a good drink and better soul food. It is the last club from the fabulous '50's, '60's and '70's when African Americans owned and operated night clubs throughout the Albina community.

As a result of the "new neighbors", Cleo's has experienced an increase in complaints about noise from our members and guests leaving the club (loud talking, car stereo's, etc.). Cleo's has begun educating patrons on Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) compliance issues. These issues are posted and have become part of the membership package and application.

During 1996, Cleo's sought a permanent solution to neighborhood and membership concerns by attempting to relocate within North/Northeast Portland. Due to the lack of affordable property in non-residential locations, a suitable site was not found.

During a recent Elliot Neighborhood Association Land Use Committee meeting, a former member admitted that she moved into the neighborhood knowing that Cleo's was there and with a legal background, knew of laws on the books that could close it. She organized neighbors to complain about the club. Now that she has successfully placed Cleo's in danger of closing; her family has now moved into another neighborhood

(across the river).

OLCC has issued a "Notice of Violation" (ticket), Grounds for cancellation or suspension of license or imposition of civil penalty. "Neighborhood Livability."

In light of possible cancellation of the liquor license, Cleo's has outlined five possible scenarios to be accomplished by May 31, 1999:

1. Relocate to a non-residential neighborhood.
2. Operate in the present location, primarily as a restaurant.
3. Operate in the present location as a private club with an effective security to keep the level of noise acceptable to the neighbors.
4. Make no operational changes; ask for administrative hearing.
5. Dissolve/cease operation.

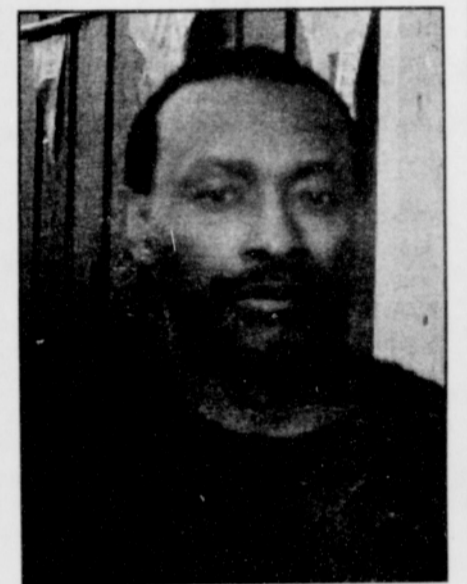
Plan

Since there are few venues for African Americans to socialize in Portland, the management feel a responsibility to make whatever changes necessary to maintain the viability of the establishment and preserve the richness of our culture.

It is our goal to be a good neighbor while maintaining a good quality cultural and social environment for our members, support-

ers, and community. The major goal of this plan is to improve our community image while maintaining a healthy business. In lieu of finding a suitable site to relocate, Cleo's proposes the following renovation and operating upgrades at the current location. The renovation will be conducted in three (3) major phases:

Phase One - Change In Format



Change to Jazz and Blues format - this will attract and maintain a mature membership who value and respect neighborhood livability. Improve community image by developing into a positive social establishment.

To successfully implement "phase one" meeting tools (i.e.: overhead projector, white board, etc.) and games must be purchased and advertised for use during business hours.

Open restaurant to general public - Specializing in "soul food" cuisine in a non-smoking, non-alcoholic family environment

We invite you to visit Cleo's and we welcome your support by:

Letters of Support to: OLCC
P. O. Box 22297
Milwaukee, Or 97269

City of Portland, Oregon Bureau of Licenses

1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 40
Portland, OR 97201
Cleo-Lillian Social Club
3041 N. Williams Avenue
Portland, OR 97227
(503) 284-7150

e-mail: xav@hevanet.com

We ask that you send Cleo's a copy of any letter sent OLCC or City of Portland. These letters of support are needed for possible City Council Hearing and OLCC Hearing.

Financial Support: Donations are needed and investment opportunities are available.

Volunteer Opportunities: Attend Hearings, buy membership @ \$25.00/year, serve on Advisory Committee, participate in work parties and/or become a Noise Monitor.

Rites of Passage

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at time of challenge and controversy -

Martin Luther King Jr.



Kevin Fuller

Rites of Passage programs have been a tradition in communities throughout the world for centuries upon centuries, marking the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Around the globe, in traditional and contemporary cultures, coming-of-age ceremonies have included trials to test a youth's physical and mental fortitude before he is initiated into the realm of adulthood.

But often in the United States today, age alone determines such a distinction, without any demonstration that expectations have been met or without preparation that challenges can be faced in the future.

Especially with African-American males, young people sometimes confuse physical maturity, brawn and other temporary

changes as signs that manhood has been reached.

Instead, the Bridge Builders Rites of Passage Program seeks to guide young men in their understanding of who they are, what real manhood is and what they must do to become men.

It also helps prepare them by giving the young men a clearer view of what a man's obligations are something we hope they will carry forward throughout their lifetimes.

And once they've completed the program, they are initiated into the fraternal world, to handle both the accompanying rights and responsibilities.

Today, we are in a state of emergency and believe it is time to

SEE BRIDGE BUILDERS IN PORTLAND FOCUS