

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer **SECTION B**

Community Calendar

Poetry Celebration

The Northwest African American Writers Workshop (NAAWW) will host a Black History Month poetry celebration on February 13 at the North Portland Branch Library (512 N Killingsworth) from 3 to 5 PM. There will also be a raffle of black history books, and refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public. NAAWW members have currently had about 50 books published. For more information, call the library at 248-5394.

Healthy Heart

Heart disease can be prevented, treated and even reversed by lifestyle choices that affect fitness. Learn healthy preventative choices in free one-on-one session on Saturday, February 13, 12-4 PM at Natural Center-East of the National College of Naturopathic Medicine (11231 SE Market). Call 255-7355, ext. 0 for appointment. For a complete list of free screenings, call 499-4343.

Cat Toy Making

The Oregon Humane Society and SCRAP (School and Community Re-use Action Project) present Cat "SCRAP" Fever. Join in the cat toy making workshop - make fun cat toys from recycled materials. The event will be held at the Oregon Humane Society's Whittel Education Wing (1067 NE Columbia Blvd.) on Saturday, January 30, 1999, from 11 AM - 2 PM. Drop in anytime. The event is free.

Tai Chi Society

The Taoist Tai Chi Society of Oregon/USA invites you to join us in celebrating its third annual Chinese New Year Celebration. An evening of cultural exchange opens with a Chinese Lion Dance followed by a traditional 9-course banquet, including vegetarian, seafood, and meat dishes, guest speakers and demonstrations of the art of Taoist Tai Chi will follow. The doors of the Great China Seafood Restaurant will open at 5:30 PM on Saturday, February 20th located at 336 NW Davis, in the heart of China Town. Call 503/223-6193.

Gambling Addiction

An educational talk on "Gambling Addiction" is hosted by OHSU. The authority lecturing on the subject is Jeff Cook, M.Ed., addictions counselor and case manager. His discussion is on Wednesday, February 10 from 7-8:30 PM at OHSU (2935 SW Cedar Hills Blvd., in Beaverton Mall). Call 418-2000.

Portland Miniature Show

The EXPO Center will once again be transformed into a dream world of Dollhouse Miniatures. Come and join us for one of the largest assortments of Miniature Houses and Accessories ever assembled in Portland, on January 30 & 31, 1999. In addition to the items for sale, the local craftsmen will also be exhibiting completed houses, vignettes, roomboxes and much more. Several local clubs will be exhibiting recently completed projects. Call 360/693-7629 or email DnKminis@aol.com.

School Meeting

The Board of Education Instructional Improvement Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday, January 28 at 8:30 AM in the "New" Superintendent's Conference Room at the Robert Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street. The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussion of preparing students for the 21st Century. Call 916-3741.

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

Oregon Children's Theatre Treats Students to "Live Performance"

➤ 35,000 Oregon/Washington Students were able to say "I went to the Portland Civic Auditorium" today and saw a live theatre production of "Pippi Longstocking" by Oregon Children's Theatre.

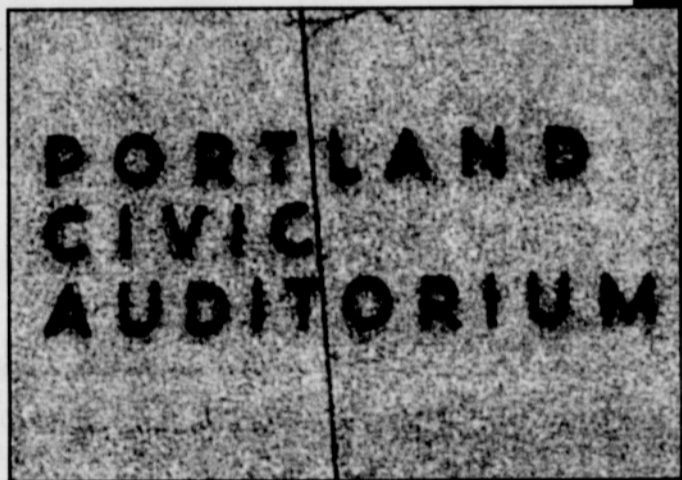
Pippi Longstocking is a role model with a twist. While American audiences would not typically view an impish, impossibly independent nine-year-old as a role model, Swedish audiences view her as nothing short of a heroine.

Oregon Children's Theatre is dedicated to expanding cultural horizons. We are very grateful to our strong and loyal corporate, foundation and individual supporters. Through their generous donations, Oregon Children's Theatre brought more than 6,000 economically disadvantaged and culturally diverse students to this production free of charge.



▲ Ms. Meadows 2nd Grade Class from Yankton Elementary in St. Helens, Ore. (Photos by Larry J. Jackson Sr.)

◀ Portland Civic Stadium plays host to Pippi Longstocking.



Mike Lindberg, Portland, Elected Chair Of Oregon Arts Commission

The Oregon Arts Commission has elected Mike Lindberg of Portland as its chair. Lindberg, who served as Portland City Council Commissioner from 1985 to 1996, has made the arts his priority, according to Arts Commission director Christine D'Arcy.

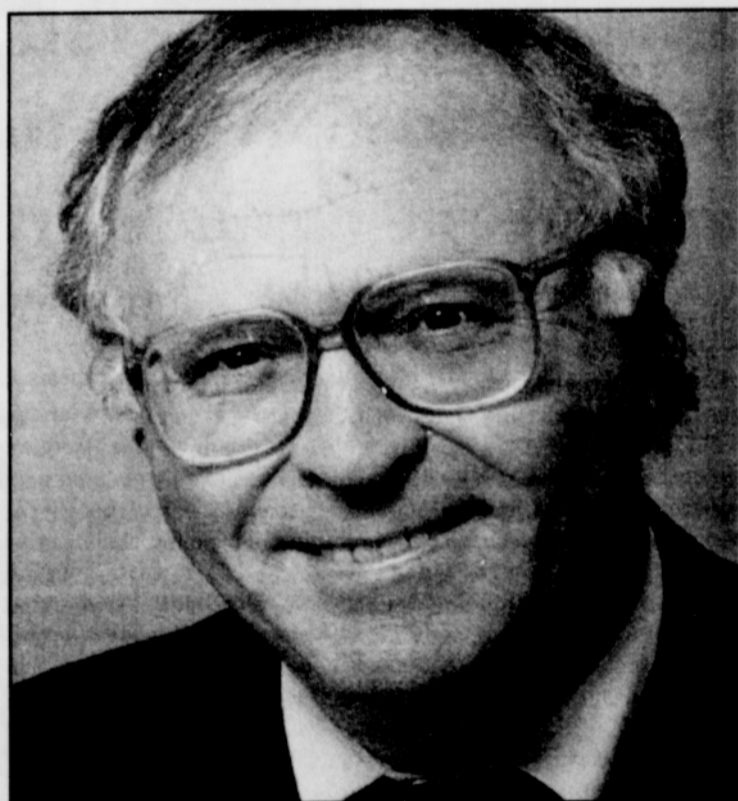
Lindberg was instrumental in substantially increasing arts funding and was a leader in the development of Arts Plan 2000+, a regional cultural plan, said D'Arcy. In 1993, he received a Governor's Arts Award, the Ron Schmidt Award, presented annually to a public official who advocates strongly in support of the arts.

Until recently, he was president of the Oregon Symphony Foundation. In addition, Lindberg is vice president of the Arts Alliance in Portland and an advisory council member for both the Pacific Northwest College of Art and Artists Repertory Theatre. He sits on the boards of the Regional Arts and Culture Council and the Willamette Riverkeeper and is a former president of the League of Oregon Cities.

Kathleen Davis of Medford, who has chaired the Arts Commission's Education Committee since 1997, was elected vice chair by the commission. A member of the board of directors of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, she is the southern Oregon representative for the Oregon Community Foundation.

Both Lindberg and Davis were appointed by Governor John Kitzhaber to Oregon's Task Force on Cultural Development.

The Oregon Arts Commission fosters the arts in Oregon and assures their excellence. The agency's policies and programs are overseen by a nine-member commission appointed by the governor, with funding from the state general fund, the National Endowment for the Arts and income from publication sales and services.



"City, Piedmont Seek Ideas For Rosemont Property Use"

By LEE PERLMAN

City and Piedmont neighborhood officials want to know what to look for as a new use for the Rosemont School property.

Accordingly, the Rosemont Planning Committee will hold an open house from 6:30 to 9 p.m. February 4 at Holy Redeemer School, 127 N. Portland Blvd. Those who come will be given a chance, individually and collectively, to say what they think the 7.6 acre former Catholic girls school at 597 N. Dekum St. should be used for.

In addition, the city has distributed a Request For Information, asking potential developers to say what they would do with the property if given a chance to do so. RFI forms are available from the Portland Development Commission, the current owner of the property, and must be returned to them by February 12.

The property was the subject of a long struggle between the social service agency Central City Concern, which proposed to develop housing for recovering drug and alcohol abusers, and the Piedmont Association, which argued that this would destabilize the neighborhood. CCC eventually gave up and allowed PDC to purchase the property. It formed an advisory committee which

includes representatives from both the neighborhood and city agencies.

"We've really struggled hard to lift ourselves out of crisis, and we don't want something that will put us back into it," Piedmont president Tom Markgraf told the committee. "There have been a lot of good city

"We've really struggled hard to lift ourselves out of crisis, and we don't want something that will put us back into it,"

projects, but they've usually been commercial. This is our opportunity."

With this in mind, the project's draft objectives say that, "to the extent feasible," housing on the site should "generally reflect area characteristics," such as the ownership-rental ratio, and cost/affordability. This touched off a long debate within the committee.

For one thing, the demographics of Piedmont have been changing rapidly in recent years. In one census tract, the percentage of homeowners increased from 56 percent to 63 percent between 1990 and 1996 - well above the city average - and so did the aver-

age household income. Planner Michael Harrison said, "People who can afford \$150,000 to \$200,000 houses are moving in strongly." This led some people to question whether gentrification is at work, and whether the Rosemont Project should support that.

Consultant Sumner Sharpe noted that the statistics reflected a large number of older residents moving out by choice and selling to younger owners. "In the King neighborhood there's rampant speculation," he said. "That hasn't happened here."

Consultant Sam Galbreath said, "70 percent of the people here couldn't buy their own home if they had to do it now. Despite that, this is one of the few neighborhoods that's still relatively affordable."

Markgraf noted that Piedmont home ownership and income levels dropped drastically during the 1980s. "We bottomed out,

and now we're recovering," he said. "This is still a fragile neighborhood."

Another issue is the historic old covenant building, which the neighborhood would like to save if possible. The consultants found the building still salvageable, but they say that upgrading it to accommodate housing is "probably impossible."

For now, through the open house and RFI, the committee is conducting a broad search for ideas on how to use the property. Steve Rudman, director of the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, said, "First let's see what's out there, and worry about feasibility later."

There was a similar process in examining new uses for Kennedy School, Sharpe said. "We decided in some cases that this was a nice idea but wouldn't fly by our criteria." When looked at for financial feasibility, "We had a lot of great ideas, including plans for private schools, that went away very quickly," he said.

Eventually the committee must examine its tradeoffs, Sharpe said. With regard to some objectives, "You may find a way to do it, but decide you don't like what you have to do to get there."