

Family

Kids Expand Horizons with Dance Repertoire

International dance ensemble comprised of local students from all racial backgrounds

By GABRIEL GHERASIM

An ensemble of dancers at Gregory Heights Middle School in northeast Portland is learning a rich repertoire of dances from Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Israel, Russia, Poland and Italy.

The group is led by Rodica Bordeianu, a soloist dancer with the

choreographer is also an exceptional teacher.

The ensemble includes students from all racial backgrounds giving it an ethnic diversity that is a perfect mosaic of the rich fabric of the American society.

The ensemble began last year at the initiative of both Bordeianu and

for the art of dance, rivaling the dance curriculum at Jefferson High School.

Bordeianu inspires her students.

The kids learn an inter-cultural perspective in her class, as well as the opportunity to explore and preserve their own cultural roots.

Both parents and teachers have been impressed by the students' hard

School International Dance Ensemble shows that when teachers and students get inspired, they respond with hard-work and admirable qualities.

For those skeptical of public education, this ensemble shows that educational and inter-cultural barriers can be broken. For future student regis-

tration and performance bookings, you may contact Bordeianu at: RodicasGabriel@aol.com or by telephone at 503-771-5900.



The Gregory Heights Middle School International Dance Ensemble performs a Romanian dance.

Bordeianu, a soloist dancer with the internationally re-known Moldovan National Dance Ensemble, who besides having a vast experience as a professional premiere dancer and

the initiative of both Bordeianu and the school's principal, Mr. Ron Hanlon.

The school is thus one of the most advanced public schools in Portland

been impressed by the students' hard work, long practice sessions and by the cumulative richness of the exotic dances and music.

The Gregory Heights Middle

Arc Honors Northeast Portland Women

The Arc of Multnomah County presented awards to three northeast Portland women at the group's annual meeting honoring individuals for their outstanding contributions advocating for individuals with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities.

Jean Thompson received a special recognition award for her work as a long-time volunteer. Thompson has donated more than 1,000 hours as a volunteer providing support functions for The Arc's programs and

services.

Leah Hutchings was named Volunteer of the Year for her dedicated time and effort to providing exceptional volunteer services. Hutchings, director of student services at the Western States Chiropractic College, initiated a partnership between the college and The Arc to organize and assist with The Arc's Holiday Dinner Party and Friend-to-Friend Program.

Jean Proctor received a Foster Care Provider of the Year award, recognizing a provider of high quality foster

care who has provided a comfortable, safe, and nurturing home for individuals who have developmental disabilities. Proctor has provided care and a home for more than 20 individuals with developmental disabilities over the past 10 years.

Established in 1953, The Arc of Multnomah County is a leading member-based non-profit organization that advocates for and serves children and adults with mental retardation and developmental disabilities and their families.

PCC Cascade Moves to Condemn Properties

STORY CONTINUES FROM FRONT PAGE
is moving forward with a new Impact Mitigation Plan, a zoning prerequisite to new development.

The "third and final" draft of the plan will be submitted to the city "as early as June 19," and reviewed and approved "within two or three months," he said.

Efforts to acquire the desired properties through voluntary negotiations have been going on for four or five months, he said. "I wouldn't call it a dismal failure, but it's pretty close," he said. "There are deals in the works, but we haven't acquired anything." He added, "We don't have prospects for delivering anything in a purely voluntary way."

Although no vote was taken, the board members present made it clear they supported condemnation as a tactic. Harold Williams, has vehemently opposed use of the procedure under any circumstances in the new Interstate Urban Renewal District. As practiced in the past by the Portland Development Commission, he said, "It wasn't an open process." Here, he said, "We have been charged by citizens with expanding the campus. I don't like doing it this way, but I'm 100 percent behind whatever is necessary to do it within the law."

Mike Hereford said, "We have been kicking this around for a long time. Construction costs aren't going down, I can tell you that. It's a moral and ethical issue, but it's the interests of everyone versus a few landlords. We made the effort and you can't say the message hasn't been there."

Doreen Margolin, who participated via a speaker-phone, said, "There has been a concerted effort to meet with people from the community, but it's time for the board to make a commitment. If we're lucky enough to get people who are voluntary (sellers) that's excellent, but we

should move on to condemnation."

Susan Erickson, chair of the Humboldt Neighborhood Association, says she is a little concerned about the discussion and the way it was handled. Humboldt residents had met with PCC officials the day before the May 24 discussions, she says, "and no one mentioned that condemnation would be on the agenda the following night. I know they want to get moving, and that makes me pretty nervous. People have to realize what's happening and what's at stake."

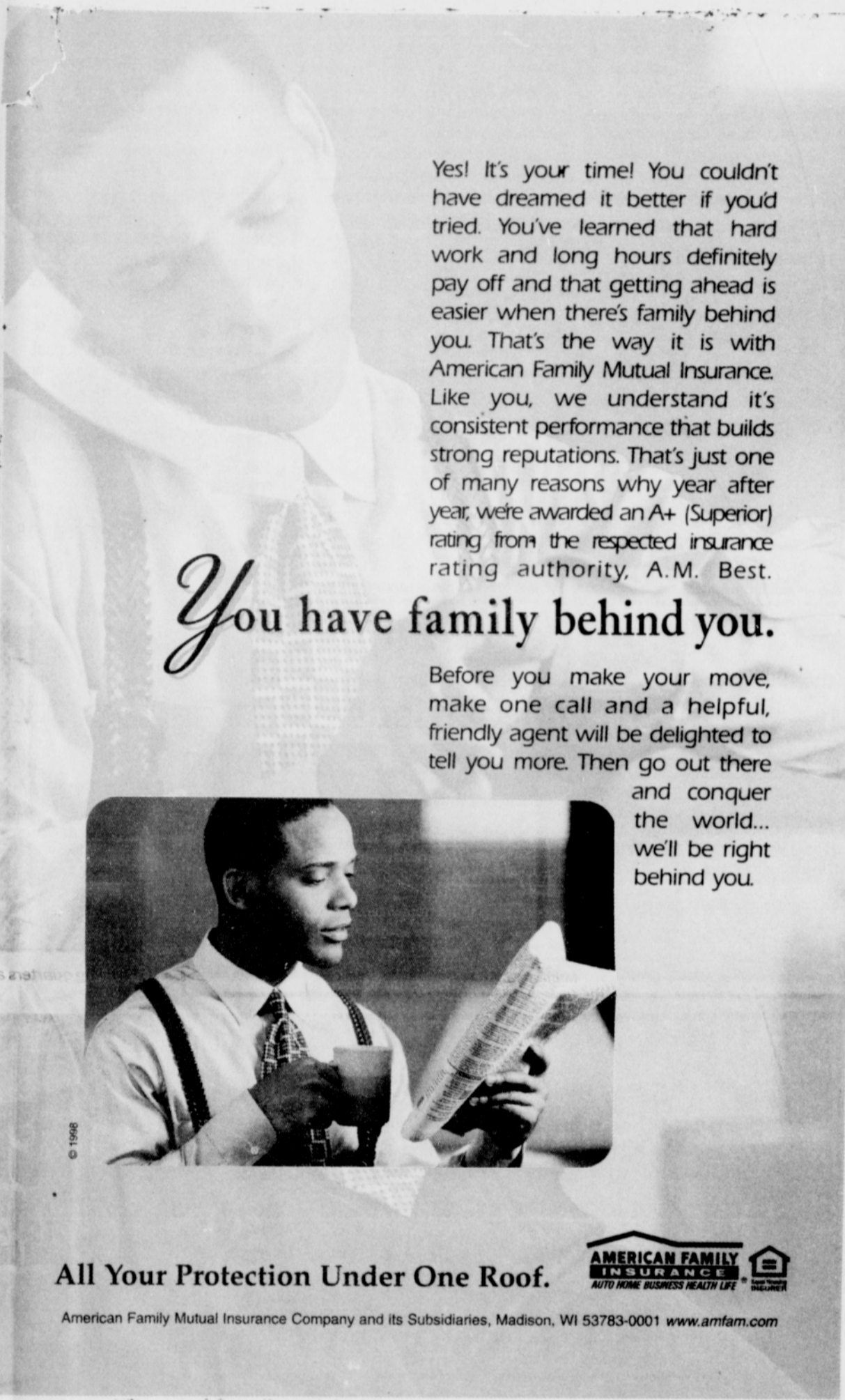
Erickson says Humboldt may organize a public meeting to educate community members about how urban renewal operates. However, she adds, the college has always had the legal power to condemn property. "It's been on the table all along," she said.

Humboldt has concentrated on trying to contain the college's physical expansion to reasonable levels and to minimize the loss of housing, she says. "We understand their frustration," she says. "We want this used in a very limited way, not as a lawnmower to take out whole blocks at once." In addition to the four immediate targets, the Cascade Campus expansion plan also calls for joint use of the Renaissance Market property at 909 N. Killingsworth St., and on another half block to the west, south of Church Street between Michigan and Missouri Avenues, and a dental office near the school's existing gym.

Board member Daniel Moriarity said, "If we had our druthers, we'd prefer to have the entire Renaissance block. It's not essential, but I would avoid a purely parking relationship that could collapse in the future and leave us stuck."

McEwan said that having the power of condemnation did not mean that it would be used, and that the school would continue to seek voluntary sales. "Most condemnation cases don't go to court," he said.


He added that the land PCC is seeking is under "over two dozen different owners, and each has very unique needs and desires."



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