

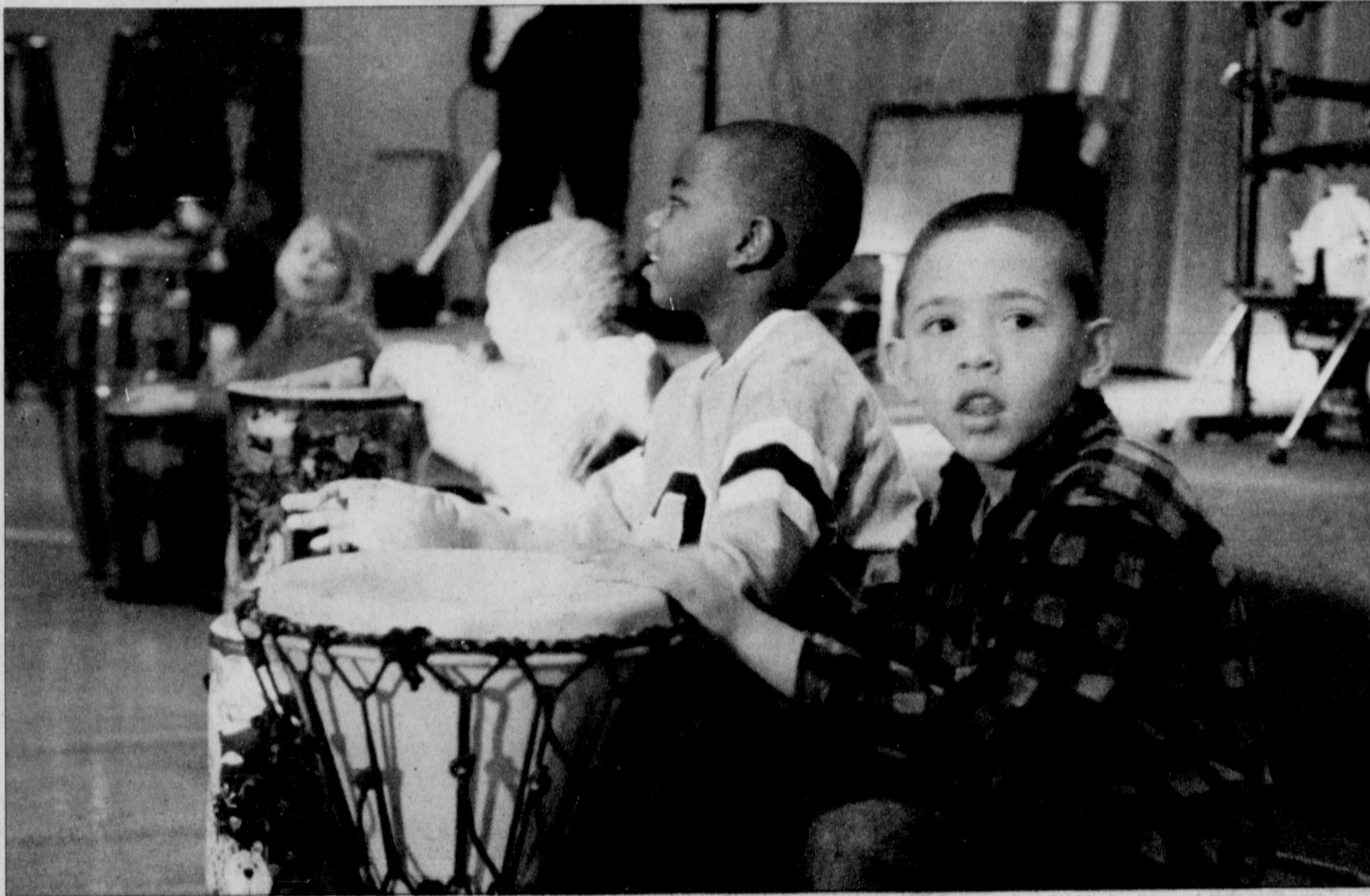
METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Young musicians experience the rhythm of drums at Ethos, an inner city music project for mostly kids, but also adults.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Turning KIDS ON

Ethos makes
magic of music
affordable, fun

BY DAVID PLECHL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local musician Michelle Boss Barba didn't want anything to do with the grassroots community music project that her friends were starting. But when Barba was asked to fill in as teacher for the program's first class, she reluctantly accepted.

"I never thought about teaching," she said. "In fact, I didn't want to teach at all."

How quickly her feelings changed.

"I was hooked," she said. "By the end of the class, just seeing the kids develop, it was the coolest thing."

Almost four years later, Barba is the program director at Ethos, the non-profit music center for kids of all backgrounds at 27 N.E. Killingsworth. She and founder Charles Lewis

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Community Calendar

Sharon McCormick Holiday Celebration

On Saturday, Dec. 21 the Fourth Annual Sharon McCormick Holiday Celebration at the Salvation Army Moore Street Community and Warship Center, 5335 N. Williams, will include refreshments, entertainment, surprises and presents for all children under 10 who are accompanied by a parent. The admittance will run from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. with the program and gift distribution beginning at 1:45 p.m. and lasting until 4 p.m.

Adopt a Pet at Oregon Humane Society

The Oregon Humane Society is extending its outreach efforts to several area pet stores this month. Help the Humane Society bring homeless pets into the community, call 503-285-7722, extension 204 for more information.

Workshops on Weatherization

18 free workshops on weatherization, water conservation and lead poisoning prevention will be held at various locations in north and northeast Portland to give residents ideas on how to save money. Stop by the Community Energy Project offices, 422 N.E. Alberta, or call 503-284-6827 for times, dates and locations.

McMenamins Kennedy Christmas

'Tis the season for holiday fun at McMenamins Kennedy School. Come see The Disciples in Song on Saturday, Dec. 20 and Sunday, Dec. 21 from 7 to 8 p.m. for spirited holiday caroling with a gospel twist. The concert is free.

Winter Wonderland Light Show

Enjoy the Northwest's biggest light show from the comfort of your own car at the Thriftway Winter Wonderland light show this year at the Portland International Raceway through Jan. 1. The show features 40 fully animated display scenes, 25 vehicle drive-through arches and 12 themed display areas. The raceway is open Sunday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday nights until 11 p.m. For more information, call 503-821-4342.

Radical Women Meeting

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, Portland's Radical Women will host a meeting to explore the history of the United States' reproductive rights struggle and how women can safeguard those rights. The event will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. There will be a multi-ethnic buffet with Vegan and Vegetarian options served at 6:30 p.m. for a donation on \$6.

Bridge Builders Extravaganza Kwanzaa Gala and Ball to honor area's young adults

The Bridge Builders will hold their Sixth Annual Kwanzaa Gala and Gentlemen's Ball on Saturday, Dec. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts Newmark Theatre.

The Portland-based event is the region's most extravagant celebration in honor of young adults.

The ceremony will begin with a holiday celebration of Kwanzaa with the lighting of the ceremonial Kinara; an ancestral call honoring "fallen heroes" who have died since last year's Kwanzaa celebration.

Performances by the Bridge Builders' Prospective Gents Club will put celebrants in a festive mood with their use of canes, dance, speech and step teams.

This year's celebration will honor the young men who completed the group's rites of passage and have graduated to post-secondary institutions across the nation.

The celebration will also honor the group's recent college graduates.

Tickets for the gala are \$30 and \$20, with a

limited number of student tickets at \$10. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster outlets and the Portland Center for Performing Arts box office. Proceeds benefit the Bridge Builders' Scholarship Program. For more information call 503-306-2960, extension 3.

The Bridge Builders' mission is to strengthen the African American community by administering rites of passage programs that promotes spirituality, scholarship, entrepreneurship and community building.

PCC Expansion Site Gets Minority Investment

A construction bond for new buildings and classrooms at Portland Community College is a boost to some of the city's disadvantaged workers and companies because of the college's Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business effort.

Alexander Adebawo and his American Building Construction Co. recently began demolition work for the college's Cascade Campus in north Portland.

The state-certified minority business enterprise is doing demolition work on the south side of Killingsworth Street, completing demolition work on the block by another minority firm, Northwest Infrastructure.

Adebawo believes demolition is like military strategy where each worker is looking after each other to ensure a safe mission.

"On every project the priority is to do the work safely, then the performance and execution of the work in a timely fashion," said Adebawo, who works on roughly 10 projects every year.

Adebawo founded his company in 1995 after graduating from Portland State University.

He originally came to Oregon from Nigeria where his entire family was in the construction business.

His company not only does demolition but also does remodeling, roofing and other phases of construction.

He says working in the Northwest offers challenges he doesn't see in Nigeria. The culture and construction rules are very different, he said.

Adebawo, no stranger to PCC, removed a modular building from the campus in 1998.



Workers for minority contractor Alexander Adebawo level land where the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College has expanded on the south side of North Killingsworth to accommodate a new athletic center. PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

He can hardly contain his enthusiasm for working on his second PCC construction project.

"Demolition is worthwhile because it paves the way for something new that is helpful to

the community," he said.

College officials say its construction managers and general contractors must try to reach a target goal of 20 percent in hiring women, minority or emerging small businesses.