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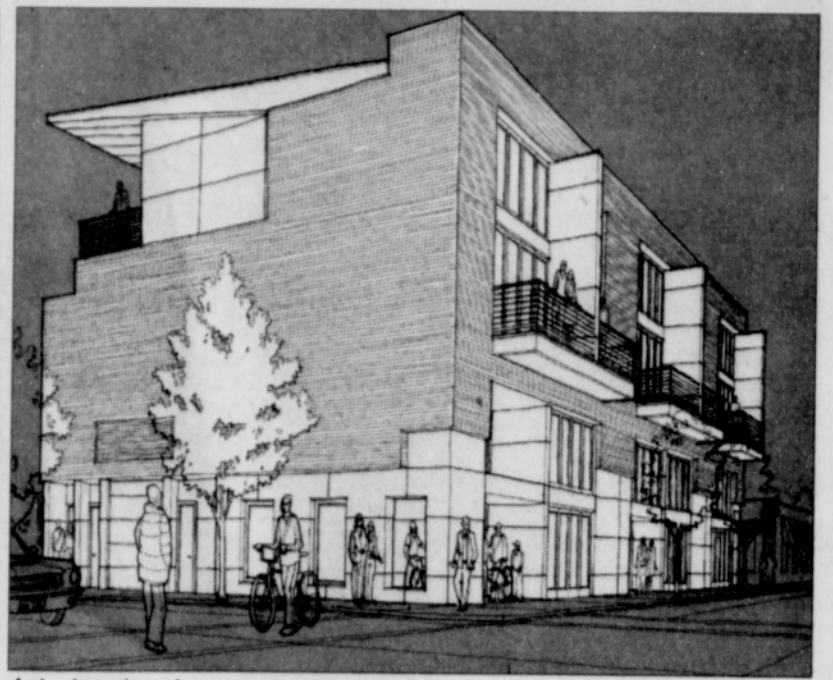
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*** NEW LOCATION ***
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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
A parcel of land that once housed the Brothers Free motorcycle shop on Alberta Avenue sits cleared and ready for development.



A design plan shows a proposed two-story building on the corner of Northeast Alberta and 23rd Avenue. Owner Steve Gemmel envisions three retail spaces on the first floor and five more on the top story.

Retail Sought on Brothers Free Site

Developer plans new stores and restaurant on block burned by arson

By LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Steve Gemmel wants to build a two-story mixed use building on the southwest corner of Northeast Alberta Street and 23rd Avenue.

He feels it will be an improvement for the area, a site that previously housed the Brothers Free

motorcycle repair shop. In past years, neighbors complained about loud noise and unruly behavior in the area. The motorcycle shop was destroyed in an arson fire in 1999.

The structure Gemmel envisions would have three retail spaces of 3,000, 1,400 and 1,300 square feet, with the largest space allocated for a restaurant, he told the Concordia Neighborhood Association last week. The top floor would be divided into five

retail units. Each floor will be 20 feet high.

Gemmel says he has no tenants lined up, but hopes to recruit someone from the local community. He hopes to begin construction by March.

Gemmel, who moved to Concordia from Irvington in 1999, said he acquired the building site by being in the right place at the right time.

He has worked at remodeling

older buildings, but has never started a building project from scratch.

"I've always dreamed of building something from the ground up," he said.

Gemmel said the reaction from the Concordia Association was for the most part favorable.

Neighborhood association Chair Nancy Hendricks told Gemmel, "Welcome to the neighborhood."

YOU ARE INVITED TO A PORT OF PORTLAND COMMUNITY FORUM



Please join Port of Portland Executive Director Bill Wyatt at an informal gathering to give your input regarding Port activities. The forum will include a brief overview of the Port's draft strategic plan followed by a question and answer session. Copies of the Port's strategic plan can be found at www.portofportland.com. If you prefer to receive a hard copy, please call 503.944.7056. Refreshments will be provided.

Thursday, January 23, 2003 • 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
McMenamins Kennedy School
5736 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland



Small College Stung by Racial Bias Complaints

Uproar brings resignations from three faculty members

(AP) — Recent accusations that black students and faculty members have been stung by discrimination at tiny Northwest Christian College near Eugene have led to troubling times at the campus.

Three faculty members recently resigned after the dean of the education program was fired for speaking out about allegations of racial bias in financial aid and student housing.

All were strong advocates for minority students, and all believe that was a factor in the dean's dismissal, something the college president says isn't true.

Several black students also say they were treated unfairly at the school, where minorities make up about 10 percent of the 500-student population.

Reaction on the 107-year-old campus has been mixed; some students are outraged that anyone would make the accusations, while others say they've experienced different treatment because of their race.

Still others believe that if discrimination occurred, it was entirely unintentional.

"I have never felt like I've ever been racist," said Kim Pierce, a fourth-year student. "I'm not like that. For someone to say that about this college is offensive to me."

Black students have a different take on it, although they acknowledge that for the most part NCC has

been an accommodating place. In Burke-Griffith Hall, where several students were shooting pool, they said they've never seen back-of-the-bus racism, but they have sensed a difference in their treatment.

was described as having originally been advertised as a slave auction.

Robyn Boehm, the student who helped organize the event, said that's not the case. It was never advertised as anything but a ser-

'Every black person that's gone here has dealt with something. It's not a bad place, but you find racism everywhere,' — Northwest Christian College student Sherwood Dixon.

"Every black person that's gone here has dealt with something," said Sherwood Dixon. "It's not a bad place, but you find racism everywhere."

Overt racism has occurred, some say. One of the professors who resigned was Cloe Veney, the only black professor in the school's history and its diversity coordinator. She said she once found the words "Martin Luther Coon" written on a blackboard when her class returned from a service honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

NCC defenders say such incidents were isolated, occurred years ago and were resolved to everyone's satisfaction. But some of them seem to have taken on a new life in light of the recent developments.

One is an incident involving a "servant auction," a fund-raising event put on by students last spring. After the resignations, it

was described as having originally been advertised as a slave auction.

For longtime supporters of the college, the allegations of discrimination seem outrageous. Bill White, a local pastor, went to NCC and so did his father and a daughter. Several children in his congregation also attend the college.

"I've been involved with NCC through the years, and the whole purpose of the school goes completely counter to racism," he said. "I know it not to be true. It makes me angry, because I know for a fact how wrong it is."

The school, associated with the Disciples of Christ church, offers programs in Christian ministries, business, communication, psychology, music, teacher education and school counseling.

Kids Gear Up for Higher Education

PSU hosts students for MLK activities

Portland State University has scheduled two important events to highlight the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. and commemorate the holiday as a nationally-recognized Day of Service.

On Friday, Jan. 16, the university will host 150 middle and high school age students on campus to familiarize them with higher education and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message of social justice and equality.

Kevin Kecskes, PSU's director for community based learning, said the goal is to demystify higher education for potential students unfamiliar with the process of application and studies.

Sen. Margaret Carter will address the students on King's dreams and ideals.

PSU President Daniel Bernstine said he is excited to spread King's message.

"Hopefully these activities will help keep the story of King alive," he said.

On Monday, Jan. 20, PSU students, faculty and administrators will participate in off campus service projects at the Oregon Food Bank, Friends of Trees, the Community Energy Project, and Transitions Projects.

Before those events begin, a breakfast gathering at PSU will invite participants to discuss King's principals of social justice and service.

For more information about PSU and the Martin Luther King Jr. Days of Service, visit www.oaa.pdx.edu/cae.

North Portland Marines Dutybound

(AP) — A battalion of Marine reservists in north Portland has been called to active duty as the military prepares for a possible war against Iraq.

The 230 reservists from the Swan Island-based 6th Engineer Support Battalion will report to the Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Center during the next few days for pre-mobilization paperwork, then will be shipped to Camp Pendleton, the Marine base in Oceanside, Calif.

"All we know is we'll depart for Camp Pendleton and await further orders," said Lt. Col. Mike Barnes, spokesman for the battalion.



REACH

Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health
A program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Sponsored by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Wellness Within REACH: Mind, Body, and Soul Activity Calendar

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Matt Dishman 77 NE Knott					Old School Dance 6:00-7:00pm Kendrick	African Dance 11:00am-12:00pm Addo (Class begins Jan. 11, 2003)
Salvation Army 5325 N Williams		Water Aerobics 2:00 - 3:00pm Hampton		Water Aerobics 2:00 - 3:00pm Hampton		
Nature's 3535 NE 15th		Yoga 7:30-8:30 pm O'Rourke				Body Conditioning 9:30-10:30am Nickerson (Class begins Jan. 11, 2003)
Peninsula Park 700 N Portland		Walking Group 6:00-7:00 pm Nickerson	Aerobics 7:30-8:30pm Keller (Class begins Jan. 15, 2003)			Aerobics 9:00-10:00am Keller (Class begins Jan. 18, 2003) Walking Group 12:30 pm Nickerson
Mallory Avenue Christian Church (Gym) 126 NE Alberta	Aerobics 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson		Aerobics 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson		Aerobics 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson	

**Must be 21 or older to participate. Please check with AAHC before showing up to the first class 503-413-1850. Please receive approval from your doctor before beginning exercise class. All classes are free of charge!



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E-mail: kdempsey@aahc-portland.org • Web: www.aahc-portland.org