

Education Options

continued from Front

social and academic, as well as in school, after school, and during weekends and vacations. The school features block scheduling, including double math and double reading classes, a daily advisory period with an adult advisor, and extended programs until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which includes dinner and organized homework sessions.

Hopson isn't shy about recognizing his organization's achievements.

"We've had success with bringing people together unlike any other group out there. We do a better job

held by the federal Department of Education and analyzed by the American Federation of Teachers in a recent report.

Supporters are coughing up excuses from "the at-risk kids that fill charter schools are harder to teach" to "don't overlook the successes." Most of all, their message is, "give us time."

The success of alternative education models will become a local issue when Academy students leave SEI and transfer back into Portland Public Schools for high school.

"We don't want to get too far from the PPS plan because that would be a setup for students,"

and keeping teachers aware of out-of-school issues kids may be encountering.

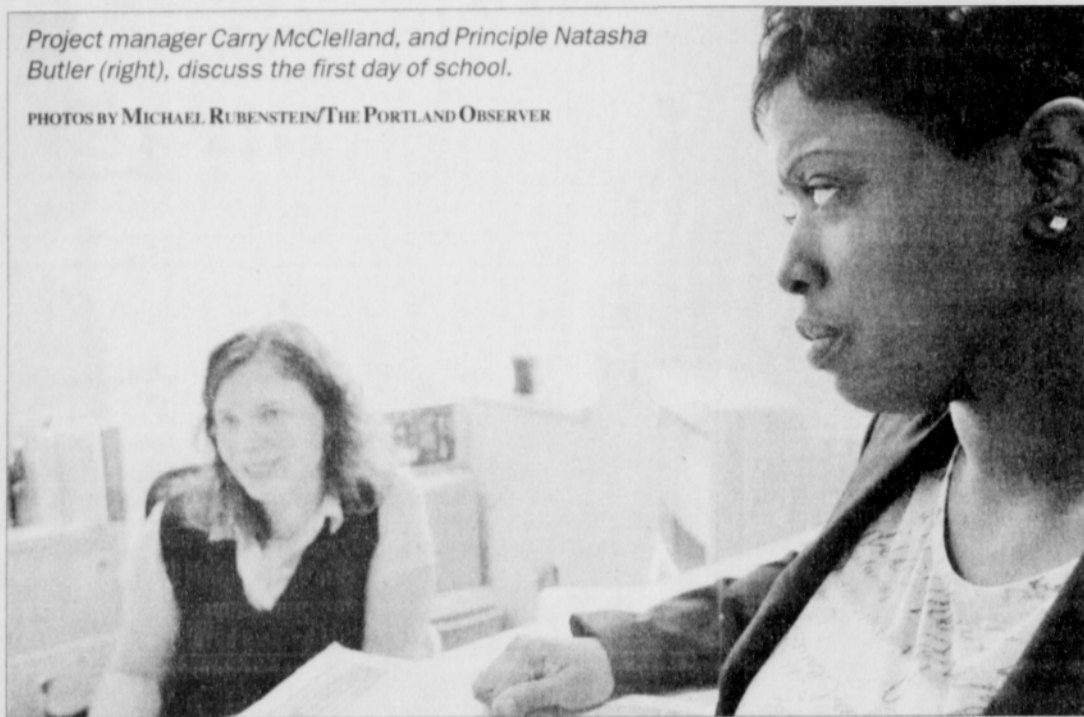
"We've emphasized to parents that we can't do this without them. In order to make their child's experience powerful, we need them to be involved," Butler said.

Electives swiftly slipping from public schools, including physical education and music, are emphasized at the academy. The campus boasts a dance studio with ballet, hip hop and African dance classes, a choir and band, and a possibility of adding "Hola Hola," a foreign language education program.

"Our curriculum is really rich as far as multiculturalism," said But-

Project manager Carry McClelland, and Principle Natasha Butler (right), discuss the first day of school.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL RUBENSTEIN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



of involving kids in activities than anybody else. We do a better job of getting parents involved. If you need to get kids to participate beyond the school day or in school, we can help with that. When you want to identify businesses and communities that can help support you with resources and opportunities, we can help with that," said Hopson.

Charter schools have been under fire nationally for low-performance on standardized tests. Students in traditional public schools largely outperformed students in charter schools on the 2003 National Assessment of Educational Progress, according to test data

said Butler of SEI's partnership with Portland Public Schools.

Disciplinary issues have also arisen over the charter system's flexible learning environment. According to Butler, SEI Academy students will have room to chill in a fully-equipped gym, a TV room with beanbag chairs and couches, and a game room with pool, ping pong and foosball tables and arcade games.

"Discipline problems come about by a lack of communication, with teachers not being aware of what's going on at home," said Butler.

She explained SEI's holistic approach to each student's success by addressing family problems first

and

Besides a library full of culturally-specific literature and photos of civil rights leaders hanging in hallways and inclusive curriculum, a respect and celebration of different cultures is written into the SEI standards of conduct.

SEI Academy is currently composed of 45 African-American students, two Latinos and 2 or 3 white kids.

"The real world consists of all cultures. To not have (diversity at SEI) would serve as a disadvantage," said Butler regarding the hallway dynamic at a school with mainly minority students.

The academy has not yet decided on a mascot and mantra; Butler says she wants the kids to have a hand in those decisions. The school logo, stamped on every uniform, depicts a raised hand. Butler says kids will soon associate that symbol as a call to attention and a voice that each academy member possesses.

EL OBSERVADOR

Colombia to Build Drug Crime Museum

Country says 'never again' to drug lord control

(AP)—A sprawling hacienda once owned by Pablo Escobar, emblematic of the drug lord's excesses, may soon house a museum highlighting the evils of drug trafficking, a top Colombian official said.

Escobar, a leader of the now defunct Medellin cocaine cartel, was killed in 1993 in a hail of police bullets after waging a war of terror in Colombia.

Last month, a court in the state of Antioquia, where the Hacienda Napoles ranch is located, gave the Colombian government official title to the property after a 15-year battle with Escobar's family.

Col. Luis Alfonso Plazas, head of the National Drug Directorate, or DNE, said he wants to build a museum on the 4,500-acre spread to remind Colombians "to never again create somebody as evil as Pablo Escobar."

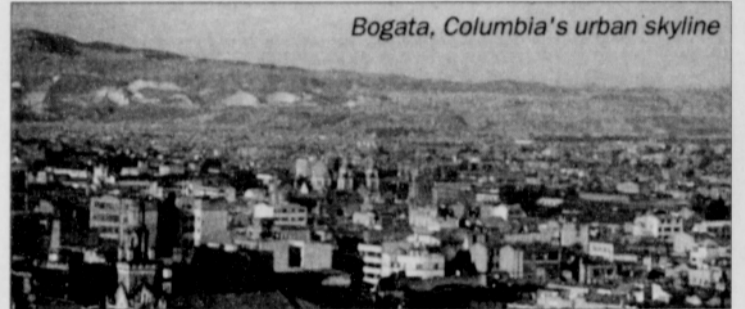
The crime museum would show "all the barbarities that occurred in Colombia in the

1980s due to narco-trafficking," he said.

In his effort to fight extradition to the United States, Escobar and other Medellin cartel leaders ordered the assassinations of government leaders, police and journalists. Car bombs exploded al-

els, zebras and ostriches. About 10 hippos still slosh around in artificial lakes on the property.

Escobar mounted a light plane at the entrance to Hacienda Napoles - an aircraft which he had used on one of his first smuggling missions. Now fallen into disrepair, the



Bogota, Columbia's urban skyline

most daily in Colombian cities as the cartel sought to intimidate the government from allowing the extraditions of drug traffickers to the United States, where more severe penalties were likely.

In its heyday, the ranch contained exotic animals from around the world, including elephants, antelope, buffalo, gazelles, cam-

ranch also contained a mansion, a swimming pool and guest cottages. The plane was removed long ago.

Eight poor families now squat on the land, located in the Magdalena River valley in northwest Colombia. They would have to leave, Plazas said.

Colombia is the world's top producer of cocaine.

Powell Lectures Colombia on Rights Abuses

(AP)—Secretary of State Colin Powell is hailing a drop in murder and kidnapping rates in Colombia and gains in the counter-narcotics war but says the country may not be meeting congressional standards for improving protection of human rights. If Powell is unable to certify that Colombia has met the requirements, it would trigger a cutback in U.S. assistance to Colombia.

Previous U.S. certifications of rights progress in Colombia have been greeted with a barrage of criticism from human rights groups.

Powell discussed the situation with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe after joining him and other foreign dignitaries for the inauguration Wednesday of Panamanian President Martin Torrijos.

He outlined his talks with Uribe and discussed other issues with reporters while flying back to Washington Wednesday night.

Torrijos is the son of Omar Torrijos, whose government negotiated the 1978 Panama Canal treaties with the Carter adminis-

tration. The new president is "quite dynamic," Powell said, adding that a major challenge for him is to ease Panama's great disparity between rich and poor. He described the gap as among the worst in the third world. Torrijos and Powell met immediately after the inauguration.

On Colombia, Powell praised a U.S.-backed effort to eradicate coca, the raw material for cocaine. But, he said, new coca fields continue to be found as search efforts penetrate into previously unexplored areas.

Powell said he was heartened by a drop in murder and kidnapping rates in Colombia. But he said a major problem is to come up with an effective plan to enable former guerrillas from rightist and leftist groups to become productive citizens again.

This was a major point of his discussion with Uribe, who has been in office for two years and has be-

come one of the Bush administration's most admired leaders in Latin America.

"I'm very impressed with what he has done," Powell said, alluding to his struggle against illegal armed groups and the narcotics trafficking that sustains them.

But Powell cautioned that Uribe "has to keep his eye on human rights and civil rights, to make sure he is cracking down in a way that is consistent with international human rights standards."

He said he reminded Uribe of the link that Congress has established between progress on rights protection and full funding of U.S. assistance programs. It was not clear when the next certification of rights progress in Colombia is due.

The United States has given Colombia about \$2.5 billion in anti-drug aid over four years, mostly to buy, fly and maintain helicopters and spray planes. The helicopters are used on drug-fighting missions, such as protecting spray planes that fumigate fields of coca and opium.



Colin Powell

Historical Fleming Building

NOW Jimmy's Merchant

...A Business Incubator

3508 N. William Avenue, Portland, OR 97227
(503) 284-6884

Business Suites & Galleria Spaces Available
Ask for: Joice A. Taylor, Global Management Strategies

Exciting Contemporary/International Business Environment

~ Galleria - 2 Space Remaining
~ Business Suites - 4 Semi-furnished Spaces Available

Lowest Sq. Ft. Cost in N/NE Area Available
Shared Utilities & Corridor Location

REJUVENATE YOUR BODY:

Products4Health have several products to take away the aches and pains of the body and revitalize body cells. The main feature is the Nuga Thermal Massage bed. It will: Massage, Chiropractic effect, Clean Blood, Acupuncture effect, Open Chi channels, Detoxify, and Build the Immune System. Products4Health: www.products4health.com, (503) 77-8333, 5829 SE Powell Blvd, Portland, 97206.

Columbia Resources, Inc.

MORTGAGE GROUP
www.home-lenders.com

Kevin Foster
Loan Officer



7830 SW 40th Ave, Suite 7
Portland, OR 97219
Office 503-892-9581
Fax 503-892-9680
Cell 360-907-5124
Toll Free 888-226-1064
Email: jkfoster@home-lenders.com



Michael E. Harper, Sr.
Agent



9045 SW Barbur, Suite 109
Portland, OR 97219
(503) 221-3050
FAX: (503) 227-8757

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES
HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON,
ILLINOIS

24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®

Ray Ellis Productions

"Let Us Satisfy Your Musical Needs"

- Song Writing & Arranging
- Production
- Recording
- Consulting
- Music Tracks
- Beats
- Music for Special Events
- Lessons & more...

ASK ABOUT OUR FREE OFFER

Call: 503-280-5243 Rada Music-ASCAP Member

For Your Home const CCB#118803

REMODELING, CERAMIC TILE INSTALL HOME REPAIRS, DRY ROT, FENCES, DECKS, ECT.

RON BECK
6301 Shakespeare
Lake Grove, OR. 97035

Ph: 503-624-5089
Fax: 503-624-0322
Pgr: 503-204-9003

AFFORDABLE JJ LOCK & KEY

FULL LOCKSMITH - SERVICE • RE-KEY AND INSTALL LOCKS
LOCKED OUT? WE MAKE KEYS FROM SCRATCH: HOUSE, OFFICE OR CAR

Portland 503.284.9582 • Oregon City 503.656.2116
Serving Portland/Metro area (N, NE, SE, SW & NW)

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES
HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

OFF: (503) 286-1103
FAX: (503) 286-1146

ERNEST J. HILL, JR.
Agent

6527 NE MLK, Jr. Boulevard
Suite A
Portland, OR 97217

ZYX GRAPHICS

We are a graphic design LLC serving commercial and residential customers in the Portland Metropolitan area.

- Personal & Group Photo Collages
- Photo Retouch & Restoration
- Photo Colorizing
- Commercial & Ad Design
- Company Identity (Logos, Business Card & Letterhead)
- Brochures, Flyers & Programs
- Desktop Publishing

Contact Mark Leggett
Office 503-281-3552 Cell 503-475-6699
Email zyx1@netzero.com

B & B T-Shirts

CUSTOM PRINTED GARMENTS
MOUSE PADS
PUZZLES
EMBROIDERY
SILK SCREEN
NUMBERS
QUICK GIFTS

204 N Killingsworth (Vancouver St.)
Portland, OR 97211
bandbtshirts@earthlink.net
photo gifts while you wait!

503-284-1810 phone
503-284-1910 fax

G & H MEAT MARKET

Special Orders Gladly Accepted!

Paul Houge

1-887-860-0047

8238 N Denver Avenue, Portland, Or. 97217
Phone: (503) 289-5418

DOMONIQUE'S

HAIR DESIGN 286-3758
222 N. Killingsworth
97217 (Vancouver)

*Terese, Stylist

WHERE THE HEALTH OF YOUR HAIR COMES FIRST!