

Victory Charter School Fails

Poor academics, management blamed

Victory Middle School, a 116-student charter school using facilities in the Blazer Boys and Girls Club on Northeast Martin

Luther King Jr. Boulevard is losing its government funding after failing to complete necessary academic and managerial

improvements. The Oregon Board of Education voted unanimously Thursday not to extend the school's charter for another year, which means the school will likely be out of business in August when the school year ends. State board members agreed

with an Oregon Department of Education staff analysis that the school had not completed the improvements promised by organizers when the state board extended the charter last year. Victory, serving mostly African American students, opened in 2003 with a state charter

after the Portland School Board rejected its proposal. State law allows for state board sponsorship of a charter school if a local school district rejects it, and Victory was the first such school to get a state charter. Victory Principal Cottrell B. White Jr. said after meeting with

the state board he wasn't sure what happens next. White, a former Portland Public Schools teacher and administrator, praised state department staff for trying to help the school. "We made improvements, but we just didn't quite get there," he said.

Stop Darfur Genocide Rally

A rally to raise awareness and mobilize local residents to contact their government leaders to help stop the genocide in Darfur will be held Sunday, April 30 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Pioneer Courthouse Square, downtown.

Featured speakers include Congressman Earl Blumenauer and Samwell Dilla of the Sudanese Christian Fellowship, as well as other prominent faith leaders, human rights activists and survivors of genocides.

Nearly three years into a crisis, the western Sudanese region of Darfur is acknowl-

edged to be a humanitarian and human rights tragedy of the first order.

The humanitarian, security and political situations continue to deteriorate: atrocities continue, people are still dying in large numbers of malnutrition and disease, and a new famine is feared.

According to reports by the World Food Program, the U. N. and the Coalition for International Justice, 3.5 million people are now hungry, 2.5 million have been displaced due to violence and 400,000 people have died in Darfur.

Walking Bass Master Jam



Mel Brown

LeRoy Vinnegar Jazz Week celebrated

For its third annual Jazz Week, May 4-6, the LeRoy Vinnegar Jazz Institute at Portland State University pays tribute to the man known as the "Master of the Walking Bass," with performances spotlighting some of the West Coast's most prolific practitioners of this jazz art.

On 600 plus recordings and countless live performances over the course of his 45-year career, bassist LeRoy Vinnegar's name came to be synonymous with the pulsing, rock-steady bass lines that underpin modern jazz.

The schedule kicks off with a free performance by the Mel Brown Trio playing the music of Vinnegar on Thursday, May 4 at noon in PSU's Lincoln Hall, Room 75.

On May 5 and 6, the institute presents one of the brightest stars of the San Francisco scene, critically acclaimed bassist and composer Marcus Shelby.

Shelby will give a free jazz workshop at 3 p.m. on Friday at Portland State University, and perform on Friday and Saturday evenings at L.V.'s Uptown Jazz Club, 310 S.W.



Marcus Shelby

Lincoln St.

The week concludes with a concert entitled Walking the Line: The Legacy of LeRoy Vinnegar, on Sunday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Lincoln's Performance Hall. Featured will be five of the Northwest's most esteemed bassists, Ed Bennett, Dave Captein, Andre St. James, Dan Schulte and Tom Wakeling, performing alongside the award-winning PSU Jazz Ensemble.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 on the day of show and are available at the PSU box office, by calling 503-725-3307 or at any Ticketmaster outlet.

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