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'City of Roses'



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Last Thursday Clamp Down

Curbs on rowdy revelry pondered

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When the nights are warm and the sun lingers late into the evening the crowds come to the Alberta Arts District on the last Thursday of the month.

Artists lug wooden crates brimming with their work to sell. Musicians set up on street corners, Alberta becomes quickly packed with people.

Last Thursday, an arts celebration that has been occurring in a gentrifying part of town for roughly 13 years, has embodied the spontaneity and innovation of a city that sees hordes of young creative types flock to it every year.

But City Hall seems poised to impose more structure on the freeform event that has drawn the ire of residents who've had to endure the noise and congestion from the



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland band "All the Apparatus," comprised of musicians who most recently lived in Hawaii, plays to the crowd on the sidewalk of Northeast Alberta Street during last week's Last Thursday celebration.

crowds, as well as the remnants of the night's revelry in their yards.

The monthly event, as its name implies, has been the polar opposite, in substance and style, of First Thursday, a night when the upscale galleries downtown and in the Pearl

District open up their doors.

Last Thursday- which is part street fair, part carnival, and part art walk- has uncertain origins in a part of town that was once a hub of gang violence, but also an incubator for a robust art scene due to its cheap rents.

Donna Gaurdino, the owner of Gaurdino Gallery on Alberta, said that the event began as an attempt to get Portlanders to take a second glance at the area.

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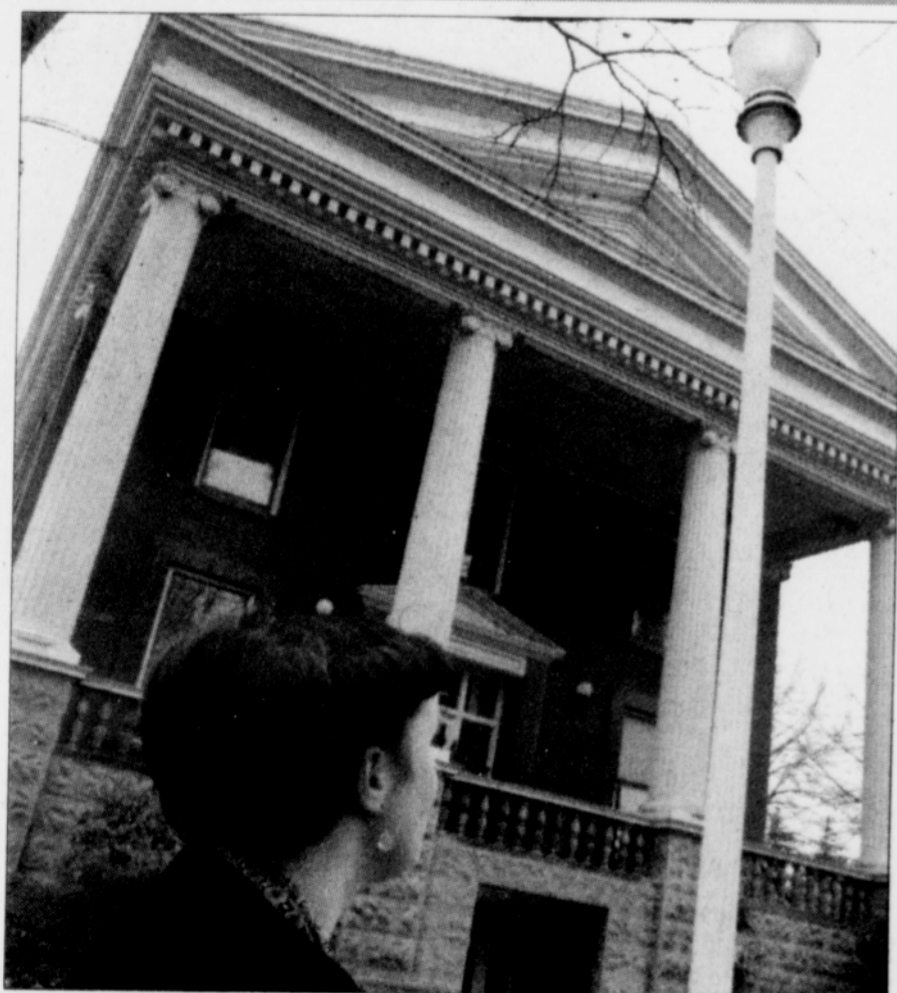


PHOTO BY
MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND
OBSERVER

Precinct Loss Still Hurts

The loss of a police precinct in north Portland is still a cause of concern for local residents. The former precinct building at the foot of the St. Johns Bridge draws a look from Alex Sandra, a neighborhood activist and business owner.

Police bureau cuts may come next

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Just a half year after the city merged the North Portland Police Precinct with the Northeast Precinct for cost saving purposes, residents are still uneasy with the change and feel that their community is less secure.

Last week, residents gathered at the Life Fellowship Church on North Lombard Street at a meeting organized by the Public Safety Action Committee, to express their concerns to the city's top public safety brass including Police Chief Rosie Sizer, Police Commissioner Dan Saltzman, Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Shrunck, and North

Portland Police Commander Jim Ferraris.

As the crowd trickled in, an overhead projector displayed a quote from Sir Robert Peel, the founder of the London Metropolitan Police Force, which read, "The police are the public, and the public are the police."

Chris Duffy, the chair of the Arbor Lodge Neighborhood, moderated the event taking questions from the audience.

"We want to be a solution to the problems we are facing," she said, before turning the microphone over to Sizer.

Sizer described the process leading up to the precinct closure as a "painful conversation," but hoped that the audience would keep in mind that there had been positive advancements in public safety.

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