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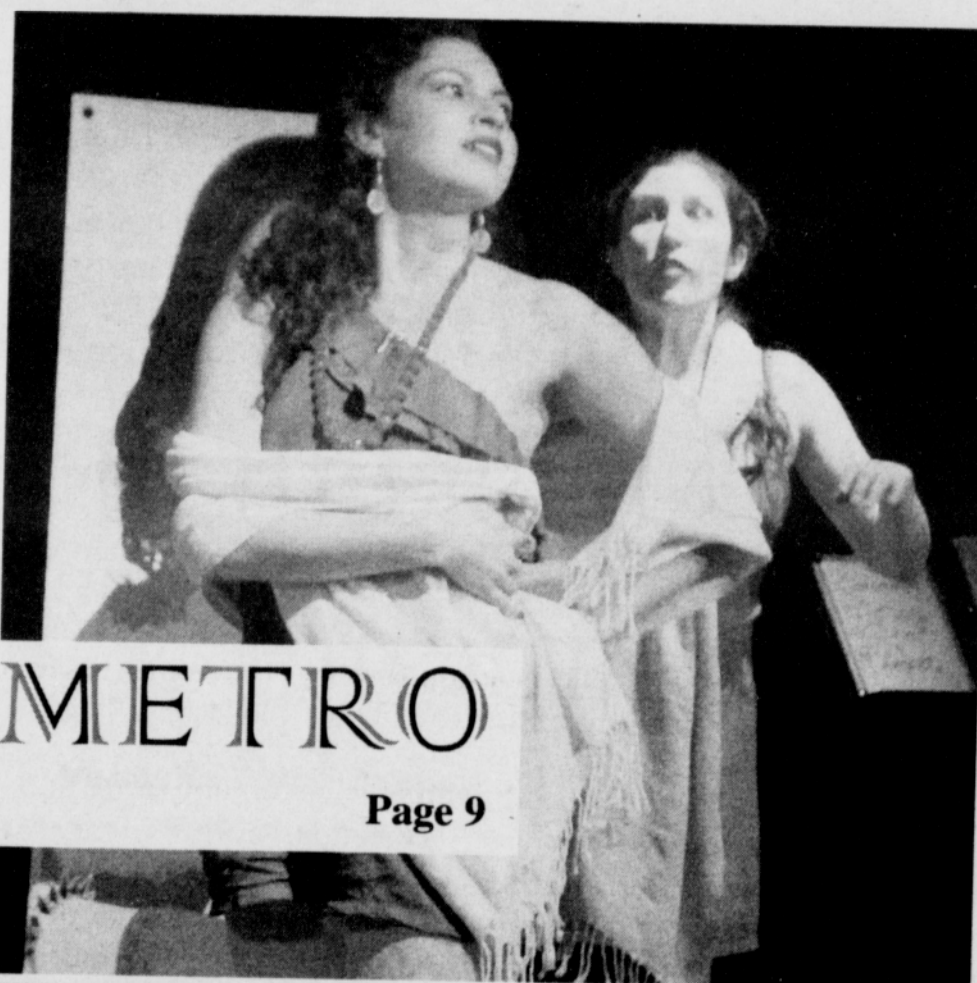


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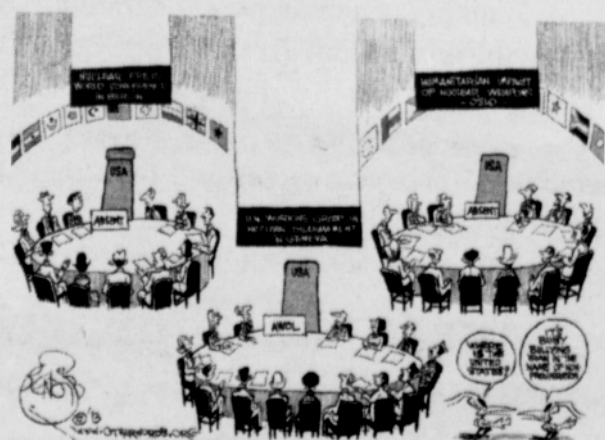


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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

McCoy Academy's Bobby Foucher (second from left) and Carmen Hawkins (second from right), join volunteers at the non-profit's new Saturday Market venture. McCoy, located at 3802 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., has served Portland as an alternative school and community resource center for 25 years.

Fighting for Relevancy

McCoy Academy steps up in historic King district

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

For 25 years McCoy Academy has been responsible for providing community programs that range

from the arts to essential education basics to college level courses, and even in-depth financial advice. But a sluggish influx of revenue in recent years has dealt major blows to the academy at 3802 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The resource center known for its outreach to African Americans and others in the King Neighborhood is not taking the hits lying down though; with recent renovations to their building and new at-

tempts at visibility, McCoy program leaders are hoping to rekindle some of the support they have had in previous years.

McCoy is currently home to four non-profits: Young Minds of Awareness, which services special needs people with life skills training; GroundWork Portland, which brings about sustainable, community-led improvement of the physical envi-

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Proud Father Needs a Transplant

Portland family reaches out for gift of life donations

In 2011, Larry Gibson's children suddenly lost their mother. His children don't want to lose their father, and his grandchildren don't want to lose their "big daddy!"

The Portland resident, proud father and grandfather needs a life saving transplant and his family is trying to raise donations to make that happen.

Gibson was born in Belzoni, Miss., but raised in Portland. He was the first-born of Maggie Gibson's three

children. At the age of four, he had a rare bone infection at which time his parents were told he would never walk again, but he did! When he was 12, he lost his father. Then at age 17, he was elbowed in his left eye while working which resulted in its surgical removal. None of these challenges kept him from moving on with life, and raising a family.

In 2005, Gibson was diagnosed with Chronic Obstruction Pulmonary Disease which caused him to

retire from his career as a chef with Bon Appetit at the University of Portland. He was placed on oxygen 24 hours a day and endured many hospitalizations, including seven days spent on life support in 2007.

Doctors have determined that Gibson's only hope for a return to a life of good health is a lung transplant. He has been evaluated at the University of Washington Medical

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