The Portland Observer

Finding Vivian Maier

continued A from page 9

are fascinating. They reveal a tall, somewhat awkward woman ("seven feet" says one of her former charges, before correcting herself), often wearing a long menswear coat and hat, yet also ers. Another fusses a bit about displaying a sense of style, an instinct for how to present herself. One wonders at this apparent loner's persistence in capturing arresting images that place counter with Maier late in her life, her in the broader world.

sum Maier up, or resolve her contradictions. Instead, they attend to her. What some critics have called things missed. obsessive struck me as a quality of attention that is all too missing in the world, a sort of mindful curiosity and genuine regard.

Importantly, Maloof and many

of his subjects display a willingness to reflect on (or at least to demonstrate) what their interaction with Maier's story says about them.

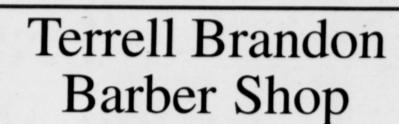
One of her employers seems almost to argue with Maier in the guise of arguing with the filmmakwith their family. A friend expresses regret for having "dropped the ball" during an enmindful of the family concerns that The filmmakers don't attempt to distracted her from loneliness that she might have addressed. Often you see a flicker of recognition of Oregon Court of Appeals and the

> kind of reverence to reflecting on this person's life which not only some instruction on attentiveness.

Maier seems a particularly compelling mystery now, but in life she was by turns odd and ordinary, a quiet woman without money, family, or connections. Evidently she was damaged, and not well-adjusted by any conventional standard. But as the filmmakers discover, she had traveled the world, had relatives in the French Alps who still remember her, and displayed wit and a crackher struggles to end Maier's time ling intelligence. And a prodigious talent.

> Maier's photographs reveal an inquisitiveness about human experience that is too often lacking in the world. And so does this lovely and remarkable film.

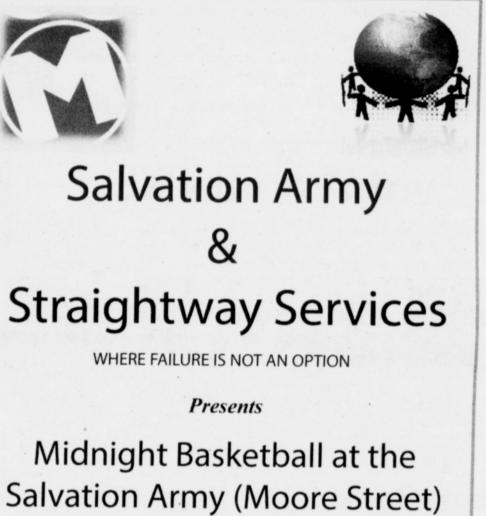
Darleen Ortega is a judge on the first woman of color to serve in that The result is a film that applies a capacity. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. You honors her but, indirectly, offers can find her movie blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.





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