

METROPOLITAN

Festivities jam end of summer

GRASSROOTS NEWS, N.W. — On Labor Day between four and five thousand inner city residents collectively bid farewell to the summer at Peninsula Park during the Fourth Annual End of Summer Jamm and Picnic.

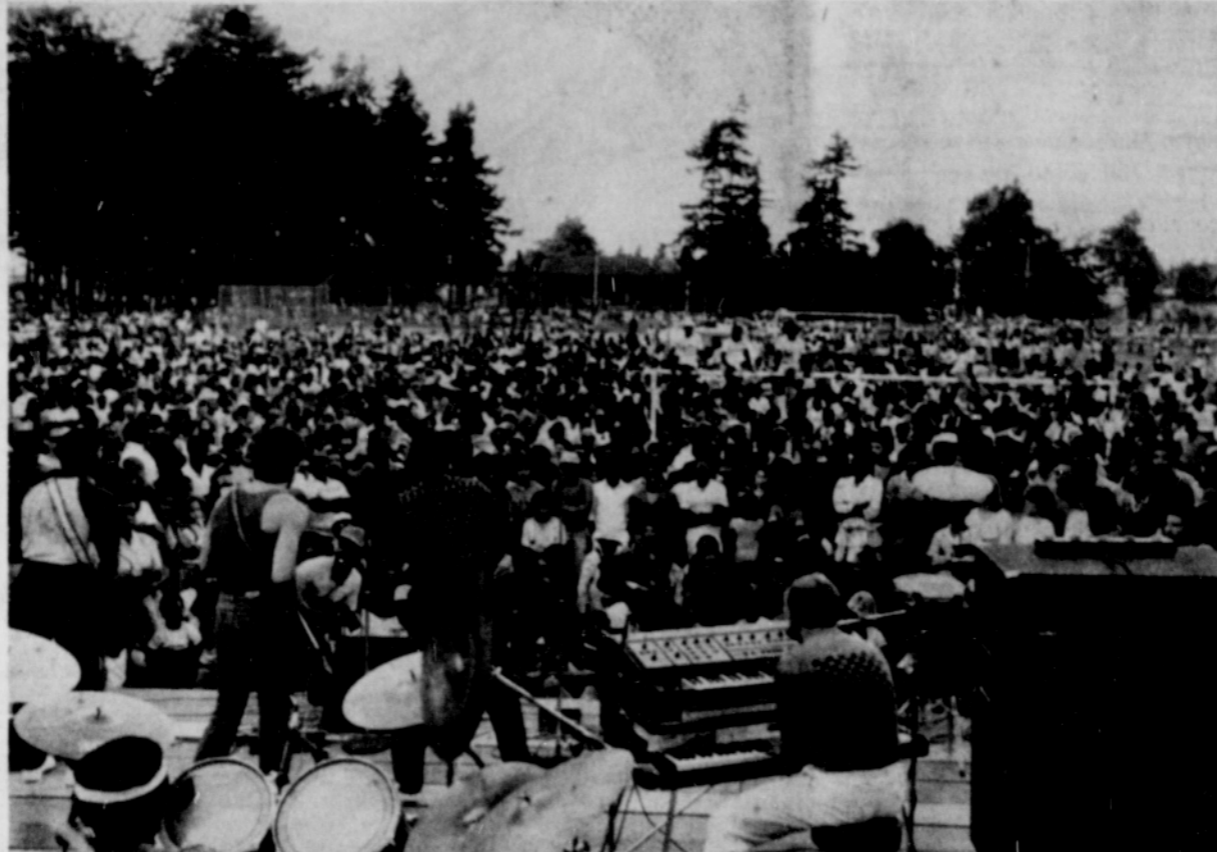
A smorgasbord of Afro-American culture was offered and all age segments partook to their hearts' content. Every inch of the park was utilized for some productive purpose. At one corner of the park there was a tennis tournament and at another a disco skate with Chaz and D.C. Throughout the event families held picnics and reunions under the banner of the end of the summer.

The Jamm kicked off with a children's skit performed by the Sojourner Truth Youth Theater. They were followed by the 3-D band's premier performance. The band was considered by many as having a bright future and as a welcome addition to the local band circuit.

The Imam of the American Muslim Mission, Mikal Shabazz, addressed the crowd on the financial benefits of having a moral foundation. "Look at the Vietnamese. They have only been here a few years and overnight they have set up shops and stores. And do you know why? It is because they have a moral foundation on which to draw from. They know how to stick together. We need to draw upon our moral foundation and develop a balance between recreation, study and work."

Like clockwork the Ebony Strutters illuminated the park with their bright pink and synchronized rhythm and rhyme. They stepped their way into the hearts of the crowd to the beat of "Solid Rock." The Glowlovers of Christ gave the group spirit and injected the spiritualness of Afro-American culture into the event. They were followed by the band Visions who funk up the crowd and kept them on their feet. Law student Gregory Gudger addressed parents in the crowd to keep a careful check on the kinds of information their children were receiving in the public school system. "You must always remember that the pursuit of knowledge is a constant challenge. You must always pursue information that will better ourselves in the long- and short-run."

The speaker was followed by a fashion show by Retro-Spect Productions who modeled clothes from the '40s, '50s and '60s. They were an instant hit with the crowd. Denarvel Brazzel and his gospel family had the crowd clapping to the beat of "Jesus is Lord." Afterwards Ronnie Herndon, co-chair of the Portland Black United Front asked the parents in the crowd to be aware of



An estimated 5,000 people jammed Peninsula Park on Labor Day for the End of Summer Jamm. Festivities included music, education and food. (Photos: Richard J. Brown)



Denarvel Brazzel invites youngster "our future" on the stage while he sings "Jesus is Lord" at End of the Summer Jamm.

the negative images they were giving their children. "When you talk about good hair you are talking about hair like white people. When you tell someone that they have a nice nose you are saying that they have a long, pointed nose. Once you read your history, there will be no reason to try and alter what you have naturally. If you don't do anything else this fall, try to get your children one or two good history books."

Herndon was followed by a martial arts exhibit presented by the Universal Academy of Self-Defense. And they lead up to the final event which was the community performance given by the recording group Shock. The Fourth Annual End of Summer Jamm was sponsored by the Community Professionals and B.E.A.N. Productions who were able to contain the crowd and the minor incidents that occurred.

BUF protests S. African visit



James Hill protests official visit of South African's to Tri-Met and the Oregon Department of Transportation. (Photo: Richard Brown)

GRASSROOTS NEWS, N.W. — The Portland chapter of the Black United Front called a press conference two weeks ago to protest the visit of two officials from the government of South Africa. Ronnie Herndon, co-chair of Portland's NBUF said, "We are extremely shocked and insulted to learn that representatives from Tri-Met, Oregon Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Service District are meeting with officials from the racist, outlaw government of South Africa. South Africa's policies towards Black people carry the same stench as those in Nazi Germany. We must assume these Oregon governmental officials would have gladly met with the polished thugs and goons representing Adolph Hitler's regime."

Tri-Met, METRO and ODOT all said the request to extend a courtesy to these officials from South Africa originated from the office of the Federal Highway Administration's Dale Wilkens. He explains, "Our head office in Washington, D.C. receives many requests from around the world for members of highway and road agencies to learn technical skills that exist over here. These individuals from the Transvaal Road Department expressed an interest in

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