

METROPOLITAN

IFCC Ethnic dance festival

by Bob Lothian

It was a hot day in Patton Park Saturday and the sparks were flying. They were sparks of cultural variety, fanned by the old firehouse next door.

The occasion was the third annual Neighborhood Ethnic Dance Festival sponsored by the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC).

Several hundred culture-minded Portlanders took refuge from the heat under the park's shady trees and were treated to one of Portland's premier inter-cultural experiences.

IFCC director Sue Busby said the annual festival is a way to promote and share Portland's ethnic heritage. Six dance troupes from different parts of Portland each took a half-hour, showing off their unique dance steps and traditional costumes. Members of the audience were often pulled up to help.

The dancers, accompanied by traditional music, included the South Pacific Samoan Folk Dancers, the Bow and Arrow Club, a group of Native American drummers and dancers, Ballet Fiesta, the Japanese Bon Odori, Obo Addy and African dancers, and the Korinor Middle Eastern Troupe.

Children enjoyed face painting, the crowd sat on blankets and picnicked. Some sought relief from the heat by slurping up large pieces of melon sold to benefit the IFCC. The IFCC student production company in red T-shirts served as everyone's enthusiastic fan club.

As usual, Obo Addy had the crowd swaying to his infectious drumming. In a mellow voice, he explained the background of his drumming and singing with roots in Liberia and Ghana, in West Africa. His first song, over two thousand years old, was about a hunter possessed by a giant diamond he found while lost in the forest. A shaman dances to bring the hunter and the diamond home.

At one point, drummers Addy and Anno rose and circled on their feet, Anno playing a bass-sounding drum and Addy holding a higher-pitched adjustable drum under his arm. They



Yolanda Penn, 6 years old, dances with belly dancer during Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center's Third Annual Ethnic Dance festival. The festival was held Saturday at Patton Park. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

hit the drums with curved sticks, creating a rare and beautiful sound. Later, Addy had a good part of the audience on their feet swinging and chanting his trademark, "Anyaco" (thank you), and "Ya-ee" (you're welcome), call and response.

The Middle Eastern dancers finished the day's entertainment with a flourish of silk scarves and scimitars. They weren't embarrassed about exposing their belly buttons as they

gyrated to Middle Eastern music. One turbaned fellow made eyes at the women in the audience as he danced with flowers clutched in his teeth. He drew one of the IFCC students into his dance. She matched him move for move to the delight of her friends.

The student production company announced performances this weekend of their jazzed-up version of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."

Life Flight adds back-up helicopter

Life Flight has added a back-up helicopter for its busiest service times from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

The emergency helicopter service has 24 hours a day one blue and white Bolkow helicopter. Beginning July 25, a second red-and-white Bolkow helicopter has been chartered and waits for a call on the hospital's second helicopter pad.

Life Flight already chartered the second helicopter for holiday weekends. Because of the new state trauma guidelines coupled with more calls during the summer months, a second helicopter was needed, says David Long, Life Flight director.

Life Flight is available 24 hours a day for critically ill patients. It is also used to transfer patients between hospital facilities or pick up a patient at the scene of an accident or illness. It has fuel capacity to fly 260 air-miles round trip from Portland. Fixed wing service is available for longer flights.

Because Life Flight delivers approximately 35 percent of its patients to hospitals other than Emanuel, area hospitals have agreed to help pick up costs for the helicopter service. Those hospitals are Meridian Park, Mount Hood Medical Center, Providence, Portland Adventist, Willamette Falls, Oregon Health Sciences University, St. Joseph, St. Vincent, and Good Samaritan.

Death from traumatic injuries is the third leading cause of death behind heart disease and cancer. It is the leading cause of death for people under age 44. And while heart disease and cancer deaths are decreasing, death from trauma is on the increase.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
284-7722
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Garden plots available

The Park Bureau's Community Garden Program has plots available for \$5.00 — half the annual fee of \$10.00 for a year-round plot. Plots are available at community gardens throughout the city, and fall gardeners who want to keep their root crops in the ground during the winter months will have use of the plots through February. At that time the annual fee of \$10.00 will be due for the following year. For more information call Leslie Pohl-Kosbau, Community Garden Coordinator, 248-4777.

Black grads

(Cont. from Page 3, Column 1)

Contributions for the fund raising project should be made payable to the respective institution, earmarked Payback '85, and mailed to the school's Office of Alumni Affairs. Non-alumni gifts are acceptable and may be mailed to the historically Black institution of the donor's choice.

CNA A will have a national telephone hook-up on September 30 to keep tabs on funds reported to each campus, and will announce the individual totals and grand total at the annual Black College Day Rally in Washington, D.C.

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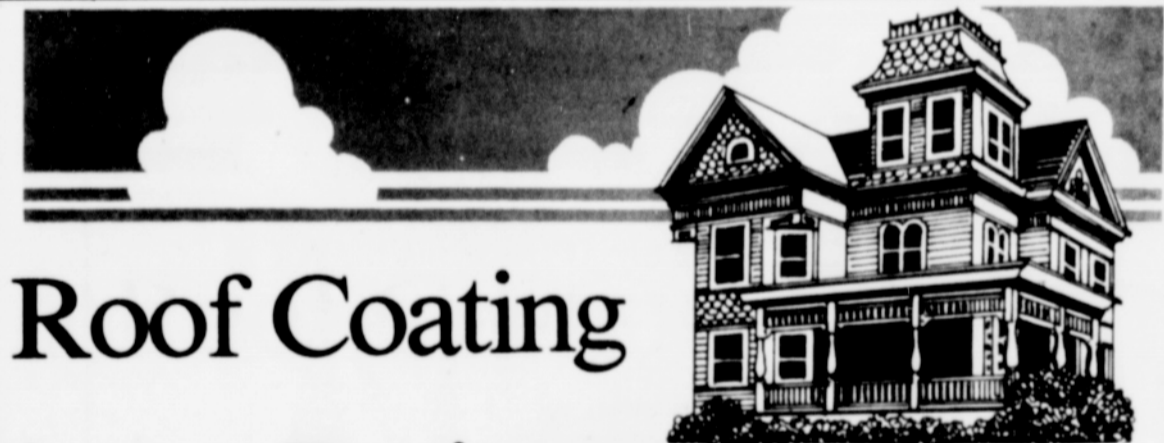
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