



A fashion show of bathing suits from the past the Fourth of July. Photo by Richard J. Brown were among the activities at Peninsula Park on

Portland Celebrates Fourth of July

by Bob Lothian

It was a little cool and cloudy, but that didn't stop the many family barbecues and celebrations this Fourth of July.

While the Statue of Liberty celebration dominated television screens, and as President Ronald Reagan and Nancy posed for photographs in front of huge guns, several local groups sponsored peace and community-oriented events.

At Laurelhurst Park, State Representative Margaret Carter was the keynote speaker at a gathering for "Interdependence Day."

"This is the day that has been set aside, I feel, for all of us to

realize how much we need each other," Carter said.

The nation's birthday is a time to renew, solidify gains and share values, Carter continued. She also spoke of a need for renewed vigilance to the problem of joblessness and its related problems of crime and drug abuse.

Carter also called for nuclear arms control. "We must move the world back from the brink of nuclear war," she said.

"Freedom must reign in South Africa," Carter added. "South Africa must be free before we can all be free."

After Carter's address, children from Laurelhurst School and Metropolitan Learning Center released a weather balloon with a package of peace messages attached.

"I wrote that I wished people wouldn't feel like they have to kill each other, and I wished that all the places that make weapons would just shut down so there would be no more war," said Melissa Durham, 10. Her sister, Amy Durham, 9, and Meagan Burgess, 9, decorated the balloon to resemble the earth. It could fly as far as 8,000 miles, said Linda Durham, a member of Educators for Social Responsibility. ESR and Generations for Peace sponsored the fourth annual Interdependence Day event to celebrate the values of peace and cooperation, said even organizers.

Meanwhile, Inside/Outside People sponsored an eight-hour music extravaganza in the basketball court at Irving Park. People sat on bleachers and others danced to the music of the Staple Brothers Band, Randy Smith and the Flirt Band, Heart and Soul, and the Street Music Band.

The holiday party was held to promote a positive self-image for youth, said Vera McMillan, wife of Inside/Outside director Donald McMillan. The event was also a benefit for Inside/Outside, which offers drug counseling and therapy from its center at 13th and Alberta. McMillan said. Her husband was sick and couldn't attend the party, said McMillan.

"The focus of this is the people in the community," said Inside/Outside public relations director Woody Broadnax. "A positive community role model is the grandmother everybody loves, the young brother who's been through trials and tribulations and is trying to do something with his life . . . and all the positive kids in the community," Broadnax said. A cheer went up from the crowd as Broadnax promoted "the attack against free basing" (cocaine abuse).

Throughout the day, community leaders addressed the crowd between breaks in the music.

Over at Peninsula Park, the North-Northeast Boosters sponsored a party honoring the centennial of the town of Albina. The party

was the kick-off event for a year-long celebration to focus on economic development and job creation in Albina, said Mary Sauter, chairwoman of the Albina Council for Historic Preservation.

"The idea of this thing is the city of Albina, which would have been 100 years old this year had it continued to exist," said Sam Brooks, president of the North-Northeast Boosters.

"It's all in the spirit of fun," said Brooks, who said he has thrown in his hat to run for honorary mayor of Albina. Brooks and other community leaders running for mayor will canvas for donations to promote the year-long celebration. The candidate who raises the most money wins, and his or her picture will appear on a billboard promoting Albina.

"The best mayor money can buy is what we're hoping for," said mistress-of-ceremonies Darcelle XV, who was decked out in a red, white and blue star-spangled gown.

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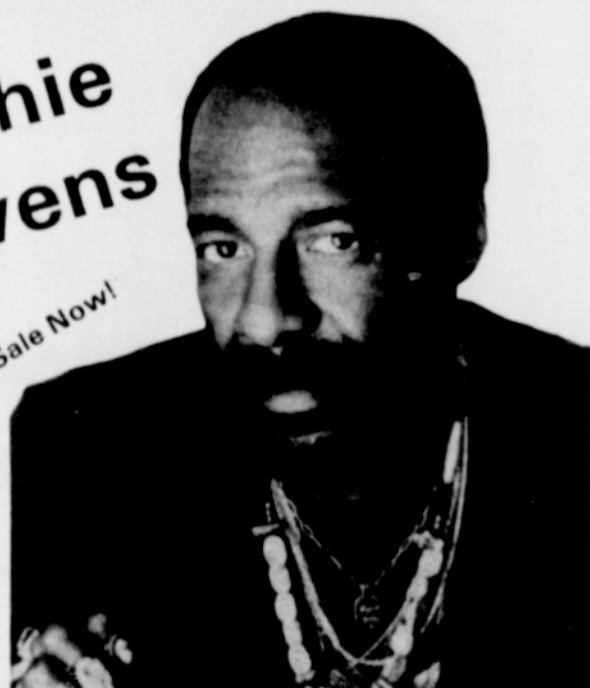
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