

# THE ENTERTAINMENT SEEN

## FAMILY REUNIONS

Summer — the season for family reunions throughout this nation. Traditionally, family reunions have been emphasized primarily in the South. But now, in every section of the country, these festive gatherings are on the increase.

Particularly in African American culture, the importance of family reunions has been a time to retell the family story to upcoming generations. This is a special time for the elders to share their wisdom and their memories of important events in the life of the family. And, to the amazement of their listeners, these memories are recounted in vivid detail. The old stories are given new life in each re-telling in a way that captures everyone's imagination, regardless of age.

Family reunions have a way of closing the generation gap so that the younger generation more deeply understands its responsibility to the future of the family. How often have we heard Grandma or Granddad challenge the younger members of the family with, "So what are you going to do when you grow up?" or "Time is a running' — what are you going to do with your life?" The elders are the inquisitive prodders of the family.

In addition to the delights of home cooked food and the singing of favorite family songs, family reunions are times when the pains and frustrations of a year are temporarily suspended in favor of just the joy of being together in fellowship and love.

Again this year, the National Council of Negro Women is organizing a national family reunion day to be celebrated in various cities. The Council is to be saluted for their continuing effort to advance this idea. We support this concept and we encourage the participation of African American and other family groups.

In racial and ethnic communities, the existence of the extended family needs to be re-emphasized. At a time when the ranks of the homeless continues to swell in the tens of thousands, our understanding of the extended family should be expanded. How we care for our own kin lays the basics for how we should care for the whole human family.

The church and all social institutions of this society should place a renewed priority on promoting the positive values and ethos of strong families. One of the myths that the increase in the number of family reunions has contradicted is that the family structure in general — and in the African American families in particular — is on a serious decline. To be sure, there are many serious problems facing all families in the United States. Our point is that the foundations of millions of families are still intact and are being celebrated.

Many family reunions close with the traditional family circle where each member of the family holds the hand of another. Before the closing prayer, everyone is encouraged to say something about the occasion. Usually, it is a poignant moment because those in the circle don't know who might be there the next time around. Thus, it is a time of recommitment to stay in touch and to strengthen the bonds which hold the family together until the next reunion. Unity is never a static condition. It is, rather, a bonding of the living through the struggles and joys of life.

Sugar Ray Leonard became the second-quarter winner by a single point in the Gordon's Gin Black Athlete of the Year competition with his spectacular upset of Marvelous Marvin Hagler in their World Middleweight Championship fight.

The new champion received 243 points to 242 for Magic Johnson of the L.A. Lakers, who was voted the National Basketball Association's Most Valuable Player of the Year. The Gordon's Gin Black Athlete of the Year, to be chosen from among the four quarterly winners, will receive a \$25,000 cash prize and a hand-sculptured trophy.

The Gordon's panel of Black journalists voted Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls into third place with 191 points. Jordan, who became the second player in NBA history to surpass 3,000 points in a season, was the winner of the first quarter balloting.

Julius Erving, the Philadelphia 76er who became the third player ever to surpass 30,000 points in his career, was fourth with 80 and Grant Fuhr, the 24-year-old veteran goal-tender for the Edmonton Oilers, was fifth with 30.

**Sugar Ray**  
**named**  
**Gordon's**  
**Athlete of**  
**the Year**  
**for 2nd**  
**quarter**



Sugar Ray Leonard

## Women's Rights Day Celebration

"The Role of Black Women in the Fight for Women's Suffrage" will be discussed by guest speaker Black feminist educator Milly Harmon. Join us in honoring Black women leaders of the struggle for women's right to vote who broke ground in the women's and Black movements, fighting racism in one and sexism in the other, connecting and strengthening both. Radical Women meeting is on Thursday, August 20, 6:30 p.m., Multnomah County Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Avenue. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 249-8067. Wheelchair accessible.

## Black United Front 8th Annual Community Unity Day

Dedicated to the memory of **ROBERT K. BOWDEN** Freedom Fighter  
Saturday, August 15th, 1987  
12 Noon until 6 p.m.  
Jefferson High Football Field  
Awards, Live Entertainment  
Community Unity Day is the day the N.E. Community comes Together to Share its Victories, Realize its Dreams and Share the Spirit of Black Love.  
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## PORTLAND, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1987 WOMEN'S RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION

"The Role of Black Women in the Fight for Women's Suffrage" will be discussed by guest speaker Black feminist educator Milly Harmon. Join us in honoring Black women leaders of the struggle for women's right to vote who broke ground in the women's and Black movements, fighting racism in one and sexism in the other, connecting and strengthening both. Radical Women meeting is on Thursday, August 20, 6:30 p.m., Multnomah County Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Avenue. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 249-8067. Wheelchair accessible.

## SEPTEMBER GRANT HIGH GOLDEN REUNION SCHEDULED

A grant High School "Golden Years Reunion" has been scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 1987 at the Lloyd Center Red Lion, according to Frank Chown, Chairman.

The classes of June '36, January '37, June '37, January '38 and June featured. Activities include: registration and a no host cocktail party at 5 p.m., dinner at seven followed by dancing to the live music of the Johnny Callahan, Babe Binford, big band era.

A picnic at Grant High School park is scheduled the next day, 11a.m.-4p.m., Sunday, September 20. Registration including dinner is \$30 per person. Husbands, wives and guests are invited.

For further information contact Jane Merriman Gilpin, 11144 SW Collina Ave., Portland OR 97129, Phone 636-5080.

## "AL-ISLAM IN FOCUS" RETURNS TO T.V.

Beginning now thru August 29, "Al-Islam In Focus" will begin a four-part series entitled "The Pillars of The Faith" with Imam Mikal Shabazz. The series will air on Portland's Cable Access television.

The series will be shown every Tuesday on Channel 11 at 8:00 p.m., Thursdays on channel 27 at 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. on channel 11.

"Al-Islam In Focus" will also present commentary on the vital religious issues affecting the African-American, and indeed humanity, from an Islamic perspective.

"Al-Islam In Focus" is dedicated to human development and community consciousness.

## FLIRT BAND LIVE

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- BOTANICAL MEDICINE
- HOMEOPATHY
- HYDROTHERAPY

- COMPLETE PHYSICAL EXAMS
- CONSULTATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PROBLEMS
- GYNECOLOGIC EXAMS AND WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE
- NUTRITIONAL AND DIETARY ASSESSMENT
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