

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

**SECTION B**

**Community Calendar**

## Bonds Cemented At Reunions

### Wyden Town Meetings Set

Area residents are invited to talk with Oregon Congressman Ron Wyden during town meetings scheduled Thursday, Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Fremont United Methodist Church, 2620 NE Fremont, and Saturday, Sept. 3 at 3:30 p.m. at the Milwaukie Police Department, community meeting room, 3200 S.E. Harrison.

### Choir Singers To Audition

Auditions are sought for a new children's choir, ages 9 to 13, to premiere with Oregon Repertory Singers in December. Rehearsals begin in September. Call Linda Noah at 242-3857 for audition information. Scholarships are available.

### PCC Features 'Lunch and Learn'

Portland Community College and the Multnomah County Library will co-sponsor a brown bag professional development series this fall at the Portland Art Museum's North Wing, 1119 S.W. Park Ave. The free lectures will be on Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. Leading the services Oct. 4 will be "Mastering the Rapids of Change," presented by Larry Ferguson. For information, call PCC community education, 244-6111, ext. 7308.

### Walking Tours Of Portland

Portland Community College will offer two walking tours of downtown Portland Sept. 24. Tour guides Linda Dodds will lead the "downtown discovery walks" in the city's core to examine great buildings, small urban parks and public art treasures. The tour will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$7 per tour. The walking group will meet in front of Powell's Books in Pioneer Square.

### Opera Concert Planned Downtown

The Portland Opera presents a 30th anniversary concert at Pioneer Courthouse Square at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4. The evening air of downtown Portland will ring with the soaring voices of the La Beheme cast and the sounds of the Portland Opera Orchestra. "This free concert is our way of saying thanks to the city of Portland and the people of the entire area for their outstanding support over the years," said opera director Robert Bailey.

### Burke Presents Powell's Reading

James Lee Burke returns to Powell's Books, 1005 W. Burnside, to present a reading from his new mystery, Dixie City Jam on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 7:30 p.m. Burke's novels are set primarily in Bayou country, particularly the area in around the tiny sugar cane town of New Iberia, La., where Burke makes his home.

### Cultural Bus Debuts For Artquake

You can meet "Art the Cultural Bus," a new resource to the Portland area, during Artquake, Sept. 3-5. The bus will offer information on cultural attractions in the Portland/Vancouver area. Funding for the bus was made possible by the Northwest Business Committee for the Arts, the Metropolitan Arts Commission, Tri-Met and Metro regional government.



Old and new friends and neighbors of North and Northeast Portland and visitors alike found the food and comradery of 'The Gathering' picnic at Columbia Park just to their liking.

### Friendships, Community Celebrated

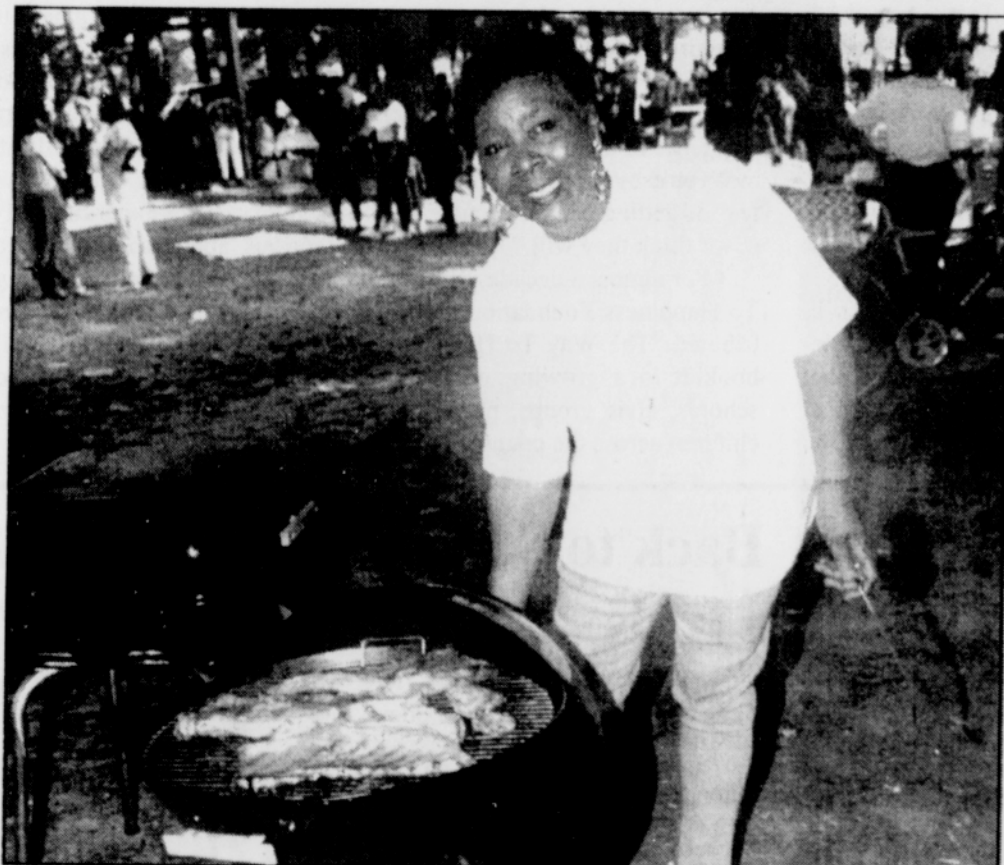
There was fun and friendship for hundreds of area residents and visitors from around the country last week at reunions scheduled for "The Gathering."

The eighth annual event was kicked off with a reception on Friday at the Holiday Inn Airport, with the family and friends picnic Saturday at Columbia Park, ending with a country dance that evening at the Holiday Inn.

"The Gathering," started as a reunion of friends who grew up together in the 50s and 60s.

The event was started to give old friends a reason to "come back home" to the neighborhoods of North and Northeast Portland and get together in peaceful harmony, to celebrate living and life as it existed in Portland's past as well as today.

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The steaks were cooked just right on the barbeque at 'The Gathering's' friends and family picnic.



Linda Grice joins Paul and Geneva Knowles during 'The Gathering's' reception at the Airport Holiday Inn.

## Club Provides Activities For Gresham Kids

A new Police Activities League Club is now open, providing young people in Gresham an alternative to hanging out on the streets.

Located at 172 and Glisan, the club was rebuilt on the remains of the old Rockwood Elementary school which burned about nine years ago.

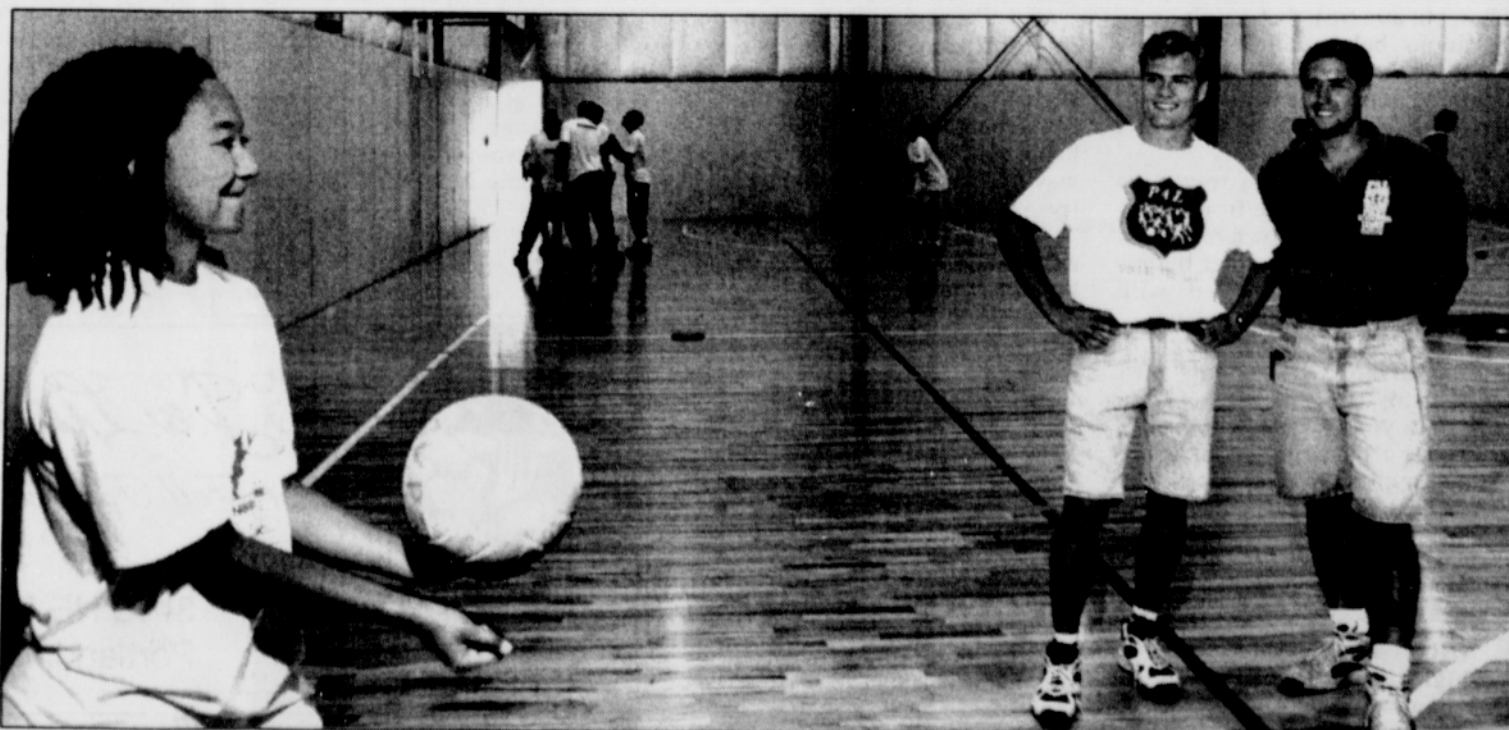
In addition to the basketball and volleyball games which go on almost continuously in the well-lighted gym, the center also offers an art room, game room, weight room, library and other supervised activities.

According to Jerry Cioeta, PAL club co-director, about 75 to 100 kids take advantage of the club each day, and he expects that number to increase as more young people hear about the center.

In addition to the club's co-directors, the center is staffed with VISTA volunteers and off-duty Gresham police officers who also volunteer their time.

The building was made possible in large because of the efforts of contractors like Tice Electric, a member of the National Electrical Contractors Association, Oregon-Columbia Chapter and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 48, and general contractor P & C Construction.

"Facilities like these can make such a positive impact on young people," said Gary Hunter, head electrical for Tice Electric.



Gresham Police Activities League Co-directors Jerry Cioeta and Justin Rekucki look on as Alena Cawthorne serves the volleyball at the new PAL Club in Gresham. The club provides young people a constructive alternative to hanging out on the streets.

"We felt it was important to be part of helping make facilities and services like those here at the PAL Club available to boys and girls in the area.

"This is a real area of need in our community," said Dave Smejkal, P & C's project manager. "If it helped just one kid a year, it would be worth it, but we know PAL is going

to be helping many, many more than that."

According to Stephanie Blair, one of the young regulars at the club, it's already working.

"I come here all the time," Blair said. "It's something to do. It's fun and I meet a lot of friends and different people here."

"It was amazing the way everyone pulled

together to get this youth center going," said Cioeta. "We appreciate the huge contributions these contractors made."

"We're here to help the kids, to be their friends and someone they can look up to," said Justin Rekucki, club co-director. "The contributions like Tice Electric and P & C Construction have made that job a lot easier."