

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Bash For Valentine's

Brittany Parrish presents the Valentine's affair Fashion Bash of '96, Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay. Sponsors include Farris Fashion, Woods & Reid Bridal Fashions, Thu Fashions, MLK Ten 'Na Shoes and Flossin Gear. Tickets are available at Pearls Music Shop, MLK Ten 'Na Shoes and Thu Fashion.

#### Chinese New Year Dinner

The Northwest China Council will hold its sixth annual Chinese New Year Dinner and auction at Portland's Governor Hotel on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. The public is welcome.

#### Senior Employment Offered

The AARP senior employment program is recruiting workers age 55 and older to help community service organizations throughout the area. The program is geared toward public service and giving older workers new skills to re-enter the job market. For information, call 231-8078.

#### Valentine Concerts

Michael Allen Harrison presents his annual Valentine concerts, Feb. 14, 16 and 17 at the Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. each night. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster outlets.

#### Rally For Justice

Community members and Prisoners Organized Against Unjust Crime Laws will sponsor a march and rally Saturday, beginning at noon from Irving Park at Northeast Seventh and Fremont and ending with a 1 p.m. rally at Lutheran Inner City Ministries, 4219 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

#### Exchange Meetings Set

Students and parents interested in study abroad opportunities are invited to attend an informational meeting of the American Field Service on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Metro YMCA in southwest Portland.

#### Umoja To Receive Books

A donation of books by the Portland Links organization will be made to the House of Umoja during a special ceremony, Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. the House of Umoja residential facility at 4917 N.E. 17th Ave.

#### Foundation Recruits Members

You can improve the quality of life for those suffering with the painful, hereditary blood disorder of sickle cell disease by volunteering your time and talent each month. The Sickle Cell Foundation needs volunteer board members. Call 249-1366 for more information.

#### Acts of Kindness Celebrated

Volunteers of America is promoting Random Acts of Kindness Week, Feb. 12 through Feb. 18. "Kindness begets kindness and by spreading the message of kindness we can really make a difference," said VOA representative Don Strick.

**SUBMISSIONS:** Community Calendar information will be given priority if dated two weeks before the event date.

## Home Sweet Home

### Folks Find Affordable Housing Has Many Rewards



Volunteers work on remodeling the interior of a Habitat for Humanity home (left), while another Habitat home stands proudly finished (above).

BY PROMISE KING

When affordable housing stories touted by Habitat for Humanity sounded too easy to be true for Ruthie Culver of northeast Portland, she became skeptical.

She did not believe that you could begin the process of owning a home with no appli-

cation fee, without a credit history and only the demands of several hours of manual labor.

But Culver, to her dismay, may have found out that it is that simple to be a homeowner these days, especially when you earn less.

On Friday, she will be joined by her friends and family as she dedicates her new home,

courtesy of the Habitat program.

"I did not believe that there are people out there who truly want to help without demanding something in return. It's a great feeling" enthused Culver.

Many like Culver, seeking remedy from the Portland's high-priced real estate market, will have cause to smile as friendlier pro-

grams combined with government initiatives are beginning to provide new opportunities.

Existing programs like Habitat are constantly seeking applications from home seekers.

"Our doors are open for those in need,"

Continued to page B6

## From Vanport Extension To Major University

Portland State University will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a parade, special ceremonies, a dinner and a carousel of music.

The university began in 1946 as the Vanport Extension Center, offering education and services to returning World War II veterans. Since then, this diamond-in-the-rough has become a cutting edge, multifaceted college, a valuable community asset and is recognized nationally as a model for urban universities and for higher education reform.

The celebration begins Friday, Feb. 23 with a noon gathering for the PSU community, immediate neighbors and friends. PSU President Judith Ramaley will give a brief speech, cut the anniversary cake and join administrators, faculty, students and staff in sing "Happy Anniversary, PSU."

Saturday, Feb. 24, the party opens at 3 p.m. with the Scottish pipe and drum band Clan Macleay and a parade of 1946 to 1996 Chevrolets moving from PSU through downtown. At 4 p.m. in the PSU Smith Center, invited dignitaries, including Portland Police Chief Charles Moose and a Vanport-era student and a current PSU student will discuss PSU then and now.

Continued to page B6



The group Dub Squad will entertain with several other groups during Portland State University's 50th anniversary gala. The college began serving the metro area in 1946 as the Vanport Extension Center.

## Urban League Plans Equality Dinner

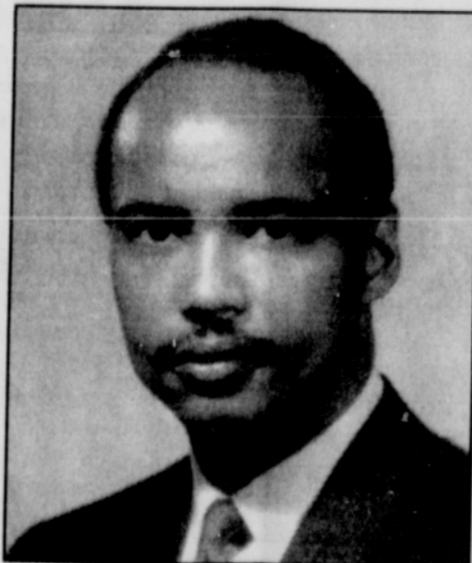
Ronald Daly, president of telecommunications for R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co., will be guest speaker at the Urban League of Portland's Equal Opportunity Dinner Feb. 22 at the Portland Hilton.

Daly, who joined the nation's largest printer as a proofreader in 1964 and now leads one of its worldwide divisions, will discuss his experiences as an African American who has broken through corporate America's glass ceiling.

Until recently, Daly was president of R.R. Donnelley Norwest in Portland.

The theme of this year's dinner is "Building Community: Education, Employment and Equality."

The program will focus on how the Urban League works with others to advance the cause of equal access and opportunity through education and employment. The dinner co-chairs are Keith Lovett, senior vice president



Ronald Daly

of human resources for Fred Meyer and Dr. Judith Ramaley, president of Portland State University.

Urban League's Equal Opportunity Awards will be presented three individuals who have advanced the cause of equal opportunity: State Rep. Avel Gordly, Self Enhancement, Inc. President Tony Hopson and Volunteers of America President/CEO Gerald McFadden.

Gordly has been a lifetime champion of social justice. In the legislature she helped secure passage of bills to promote fairness in the justice system and is a chief sponsor of a statewide initiative petition to raise the minimum wage. She is a co-founder of the African American Legislative Issues Roundtable and the Unity Breakfast Committee, two groups which advocate on a variety of issues for the African American community. She gained experience working in local nonprofits, including House of Umoja, American Friends Service Committee and the Urban League.

Tony Hopson founded Self Enhancement in Portland in 1981 as a one-week summer

camp for 80 high school students. Today, the program serves more than 700 urban youth a year and will soon be moving into a new center that is being built in inner north and northeast Portland.

Like Gordly, Hopson has worked tirelessly to give back to his community -- where he was nurtured and came of age -- and help young people reach their potential.

Since McFadden moved to Portland in 1992 to lead Volunteers of America, the local affiliate has expanded its programs serving young families, the frail elderly, and ex-offenders.

McFadden has been a leader in building successful partnerships with the Urban League and other nonprofits and in bringing new services to North and Northeast Portland. These include the Marie Smith Center for seniors and the Common Bond program for

Continued to page A6