

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Portland International Festival

The 1996 Portland International Performance Festival "Revisiting Home" July 19 - August 15, 1996 Ticket Purchase & Information at PSU Ticket Office, 506 SW Mill, 725-3307 General Festival Information: For performances, events, courses and workshops, call 725-4862, or 1-800-547-8887, ext. 4862.

### Readings At Powell's

Literature in Performance, Monday July 1, 1996 at 7:30 pm. Vana O'Brien and Ted Rosium read from the works of Raymond Chandler. For more information, please contact Powell's Publicity at 503/228-4651.

### The Pied Piper

Presented by Blue Parrot Theater. Columbia Arts Center, 400 W. Evergreen Blvd. June 27-30. 7:00 p.m. on July 5th, 2:00 on July 6th. 693-0350.

### Days Tasten'n Toast

Fort Vancouver Days Tasten'n Toast June 28 at Red Lion Inn at the Quay. Showcase of local eateries and wineries. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets available at all Northwest National Bank Branches. 694-2588.

### Art in the Wild

Columbia Arts Center July 1-3 presents a 3 day camp at Battle Ground Lake State Park. 693-0350.

### Zoo Campaign Announces Grand Kick-off Party

The Better Zoo for Animals and You! Committee will be holding a party a kick-off the campaign for the Zoo Bond, which will be appearing on the September mail-in ballot. The party will be held at the World Forestry Center at 11:30 am, Sunday June 23rd. The World Forestry Center is in Washington Park, right across from the zoo. Sunday, June 23rd at 11:30 - 1 PM. For information call 229-0484.

### Pomeroy Living History Farm Special Event

July 6-7 "Olde-Fashioned Fourth" 20902 N.E. Lucia Falls Road, Yacolt. Come enjoy patriotic activities including old fashion baseball game in the Back 40. Farm depicts farm life of the 1920's. Historic six bedroom log home & operating blacksmith shop. Sat. 11-4 p.m., Sun. 1 to 4 p.m. \$3 adults, \$1.50 kids 3-11. 686-3537.

### Jesus Northwest Festival

Clark County Fairgrounds. Three day Christian festival featuring popular Christian recording artists and speakers. Recreational activities for individuals, families and church groups. (503) 393-8811.

### Camas Days Community Festival

Down Town Camas. Community festival with craft, commercial and food vendors. Parades, carnival, bath tub race, water ball competition, local talent performances, children's activities, street dance, and beer garden with continuous live music. 834-2472.

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

## It's "Good In The Hood"

### The 4th Annual Multicultural Music and Food Festival

"Good In The Hood" begins on Friday and runs through the weekend. The event is located at the Holy Redeemer Area School Campus, at 127 North Portland Boulevard.

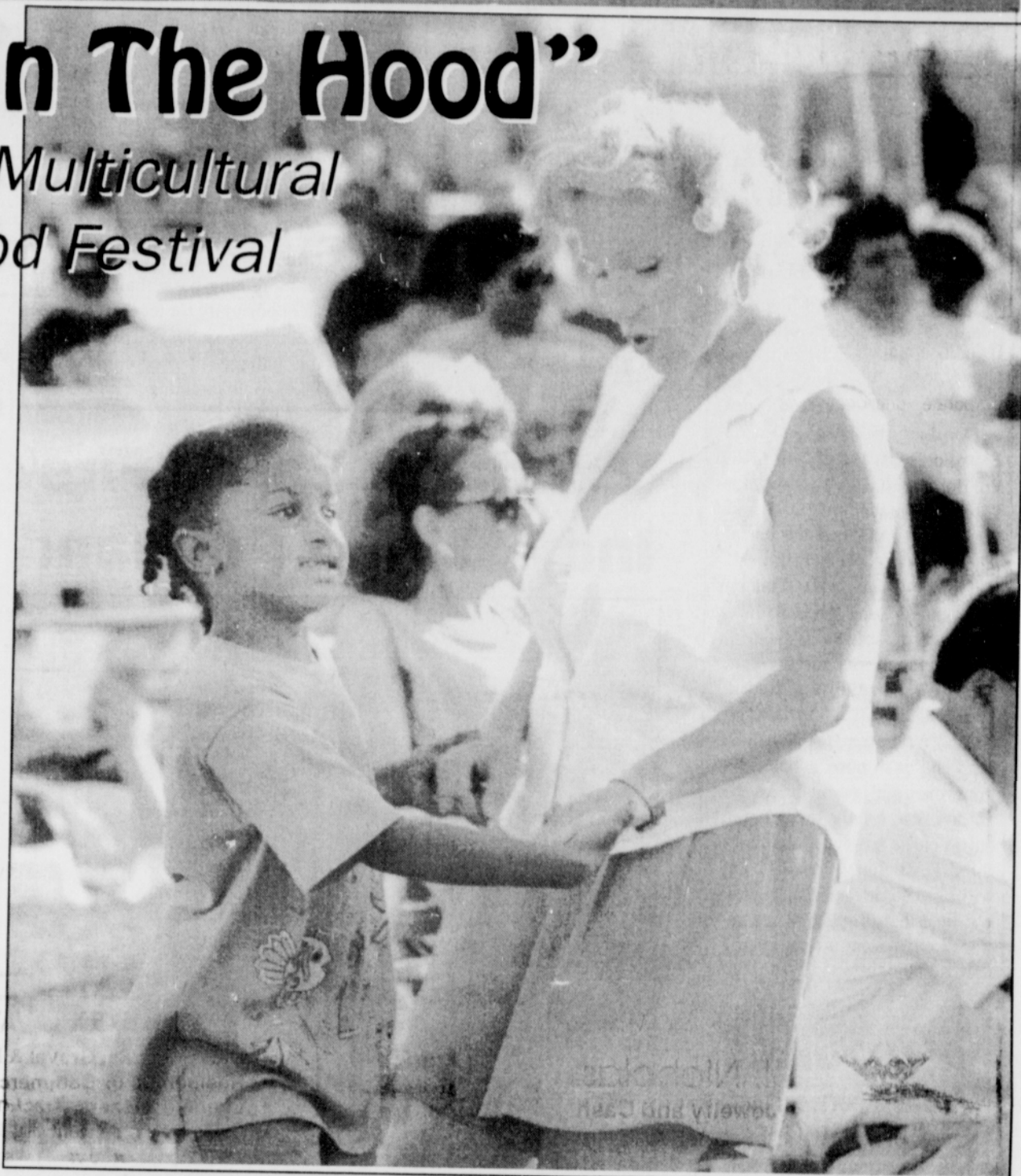
To celebrate the many excellent features of North and Northeast Portland, the Neighborhood Outreach Association has created this three day event. Festivities include a parade, musicians, food, ethnic arts and crafts, a children's program, and other entertainment. The proceeds for this event provide educational scholarships and contribute to the neighborhood groups working to bring about positive changes in North and Northeast Portland. Our mission, "Community Unity" encourages other members of the greater metropolitan area to join in celebrating this festival. A portion of the funds earned will be retained as seed money to repeat the event in 1997.

Friday's events run from 5pm to 10pm. The day kicks-off with "Charles Moose Day" and continues with the "Community Unity" Parade of Nations. The parade is in conjunction with Blazer Boys' and Girls' Club and will start at the Club and ends at Holy Redeemer. Friday will also have Main Stage Entertainment and the Food/Beer Garden.

Saturday the "Main Stage Entertainment" will continue with a "Multicultural Stage". The events start at noon on Saturday, and continue till 10pm.

Sunday, beginning at noon and continuing until 6pm, are the "Kidspace", and the "Ethnic Marketplace", "Food/Beer Garden." "Good In The Hood" runs from June 28th through June 30th, and is sponsored by the Neighborhood Outreach Association. The daily entry fee is \$5 for Families, \$3 for Adults, and \$1 for Children.

Family and friends of all ages gather every year at "Good In The Hood" to enjoy good food, good music, and a variety of activities.



## NECDC Makes House Buying Affordable

BY LEE PERLMAN

**The largest CDC in the northeast is the Northeast Community Development Corporation. Since 1990 it has built and sold 111 houses in the Boise, Humboldt, King and Vernon neighborhoods, and 43 more are under construction.**

Unlike HOST, which shuns direct government assistance, NECDC used federal Nehemiah funds to cut the price of each house by \$15,000. Another aid is the use of six house designs created by local architects, all attractive and designed to blend in with older northeast neighborhoods, yet cheap to build. According to Teri Duffy of NECDC, the average cost to their buyers is still just over \$65,000. Monthly payments are \$444 compared to \$942 for comparable private market purchases.

Buyers must be first-time home buyers and meet federal low-income guidelines. They do not need to be northeast residents, but

NECDC deliberately targets its advertising and outreach to the area.

NECDC also work with other residents and community groups on projects such as crime prevention and neighborhood clean-ups. They are about to undertake their first rental and mixed-use venture with proposed 55-unit Gladys McCoy Village project at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Prescott Street.

"Buyers...have a stable home environment, not vulnerable to the whims of landlords," an NECDC fact sheet says. "Their housing costs are fixed, not rising with every rent increase, and they have the chance to accumulate some wealth."

However, for many poor families - those earning 50 percent or less of median income - even NECDC's houses are beyond their means.

At the other end of the scale in terms of volume is Habitat for Humanity, an international organization founded by former pres-

ident Jimmy Carter. In Portland Habitat has completed 21 houses in 15 years, and has three currently under construction (four completed homes and one being built are in Woodlawn near the HOST project), according to director Cynthia Winter. They sell for \$40,000 to \$50,000 for people living in sub-standard homes. Buyers are selected based on their need, willingness to contribute to community projects, and their ability to obtain a mortgage. first and foremost, they must contribute 400 hours of "sweat equity" by helping to build their own and their neighbors' houses.

Habitat doesn't share HOST's concern about the quality of volunteer work. "All our houses have to meet city codes and inspections," Winter points out. "Sometimes they're stronger than contractor-built homes. Where a construction worker might hammer one nail, a volunteer might hammer four just to be sure."

Habitat has a concern of its own - that its

ultra-cheap houses not just create windfall profits for one family. Thus, it retains the right of first refusal to buy back the house if it is sold within 20 years, and a rate that will only compensate the owner for the equity he or she has into the house.

An even smaller operation carries this concept even further. The Sabin Community Development corporation, created by the Sabin Community Association in 1993, has rehabilitated 27 houses and build two. Until recently it provided only rental housing, but it is now has a pilot rent-to-own program. Candidates for this must be low-income. They do not necessarily have to qualify for a mortgage at first - in fact they must rent for at least a year to "prove" themselves - but they must show an ability to assume a mortgage within five years. further, as with Habitat, there are restrictions on resale. For the first

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## Les Femmes 1996: Forty-Five Years of Youth Service

**The year 1951 was historic for 21 Afro-American mothers who recognized the urgent need for a program to encourage social growth and development of girls.**

Accordingly, on August 8, 1951 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, these women founded Les Femmes. They established moral codes, educational standards and developed highly structured activity programs and Senior girls were presented to the community. Les Femmes was the first organized group to introduce the Debutante Ball to Portland. Mrs Minne Belle Johnson, Charter Member and Past President, is yet an active member of Les Femmes.

Early Balls were elaborate presentations of girls in hoop-skirted ball gowns carrying large bouquets of roses making their debut at the Portland Masonic Temple. The late sixties reflected a changing social climate and interests. Balls were discontinued until 1979, however the program continued and Seniors were presented scholarships. Educational stipends continue to be given. The Debutante Ball resumed in 1979 with another first- the presentation of our Cavaliers. Prior to this time our Junior and Senior male youth, the "Cavaliers," participated in group activities and were trained to serve as escorts and ushers at the Balls. Our presentation then



31 seniors make up this years Debutantes and Cavaliers of 1996.

became "Les Femmes Debutante and Cavalier Ball." Response to the joint presentation was so favorable that in 1987 Mr. Lelsie E. Hurst became the first volunteer Director of Cavaliers. He served in that capacity until his death in 1990. Mr. Kevin Fuller, 1984 Cav-

alier, became Director of Cavaliers in 1991. He developed a "Rites of Passage" program which focuses on responsibility, self-discipline and cultural awareness. Les Femmes sponsors two Step Teams: "The Cavaliers," organized and directed by Mr. Fuller and

"The Ladies of Distinction," organized and directed by Andrea Stephens and Rica Brooks, past Debutantes.

Their precision step performances have become a popular demand throughout the community.