

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Fair concerts set

The Oregon State Fair announced three of the twelve L.B. Day Amphitheater concerts to be held during this year's fair, Aug. 21-Sept. 1. Concert tickets are now on sale at Fastix ticket outlets for Kathy Mattea Aug. 21; Don Williams, Aug. 24; and The Righteous Brothers, Aug. 25.

Fountain is dry

Pedestrians on the downtown transit mall won't feel cool spray from the tubular arches of the "car wash" fountain at Southwest Fifth and Ankeny until mid-August. The 20-year-old fountain needs a new, custom-made motor to drive the fountain's pumps which recirculate water. Officially the fountain is untitled; the car wash name refers to its arching jets of water.

Performers converge

Original and provocative performances from the outrageous to the sublime will take place during the 1997 Portland International Performance Festival at various venues throughout Portland. Ken Campbell, hailed as Britain's comic genius, opens the festival with *Jamais Vu*, a hilarious and irreverent guided tour. Japanese dance, Costa Rican music and a Caribbean festival are other festival events, all sponsored by the Portland State University of Extended Studies and School of Fine & Performing Arts.

Art on display

Art exhibits by bicycle-maker John Slawta, sculptor Kurt Wold and painter Scott Greene opens June 26 through Sept. 20 at the Schneider Museum of Art at Southern Oregon University in Ashland. A public reception for artists is set for Thursday, June 26 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Leash law debated

City Commissioner Jim Francesconi will meet with residents Wednesday, June 25 to talk about the controversial elimination of the off leash area for dogs at Mt. Tabor Park. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Montavilla Community Center, 8219 N.E. Glisan.

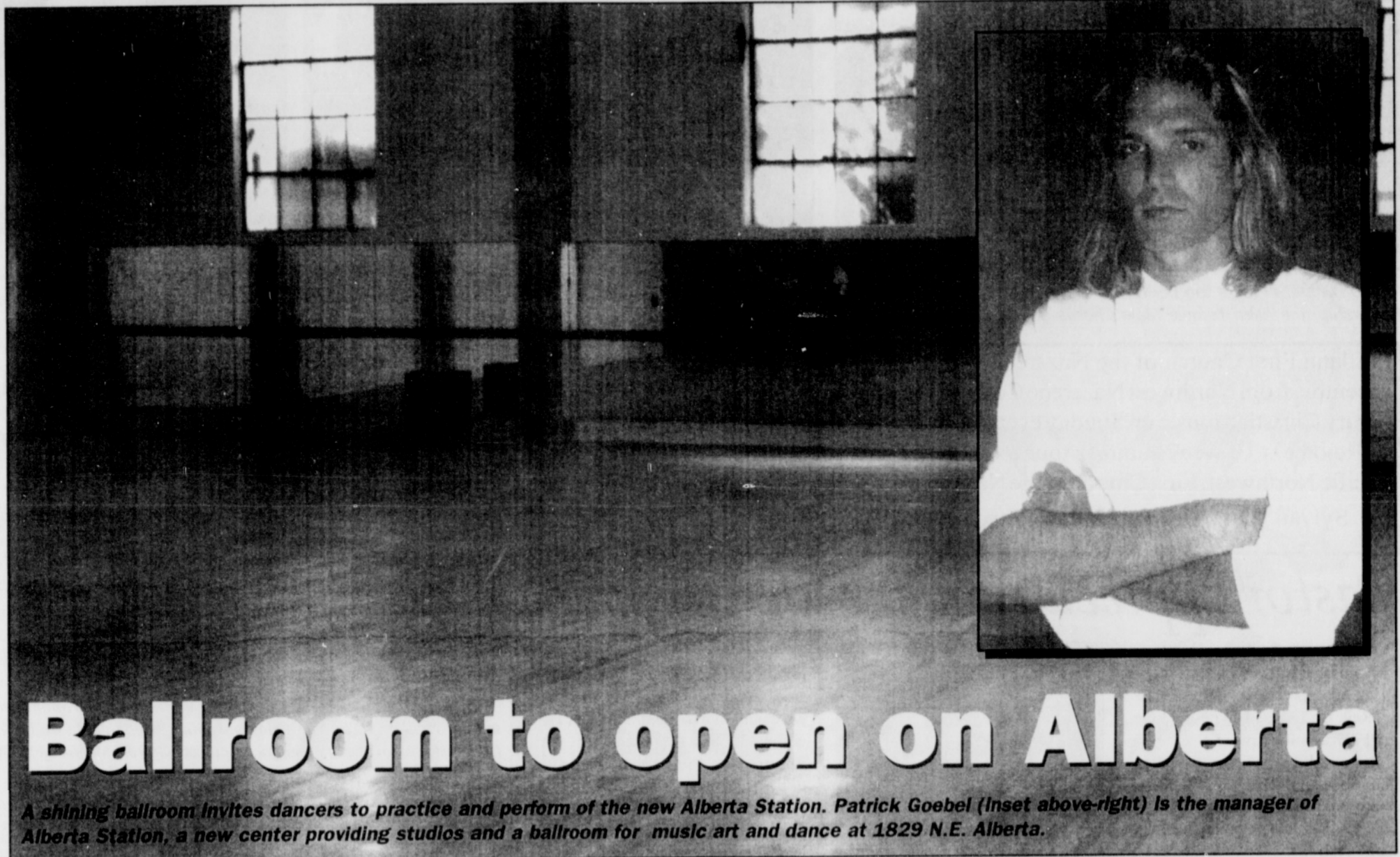
Evening of song

Actress-vocalist Nichelle Nichols will present her cabaret show live on-stage, with accompaniment provided by the Dick Saunders orchestra at the Northwest Service Center, 1819 N.W. Everett St., Saturday, June 21 at 7:30 p.m.. A mini-charity auction to support the treatment and research of Parkinson's disease will also be held. Tickets are available at Fastix locations and Music Millennium.

Zoo calls for help

The Washington Park Zoo is asking for help to build special zoo events like the Zoo Boo for Halloween and Zoo Lights for Christmas. No previous experience is necessary. The technical events staff will train anyone who is able to donate time on a regular basis. For more information call Russell Guinn at 220-2798.

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



Ballroom to open on Alberta

A shining ballroom invites dancers to practice and perform of the new Alberta Station. Patrick Goebel (Inset above-right) is the manager of Alberta Station, a new center providing studios and a ballroom for music art and dance at 1829 N.E. Alberta.

BY LEE PERLMAN

Northeast Alberta Street. The images are of empty storefronts. Bad bars. Gangs. Drugs. Drive-by shootings. Portland's center of modern and ethnic dance...

Say what? Yes, dance is coming to the street in a big way thanks to the street's newest addition, Alberta Station at 1829, and its newest tenant, the resurrected Dancer's Workshop.

Built in 1925, the 20,000 square foot former Odd Fellows Hall has at times been an athletic club and church. It is being renovated by investor Greg McCarty, and should be ready for occupancy in six to eight weeks. It contains two storefronts and several interior office or studio spaces, but its main attraction is a 4100 square foot high-ceilinged ballroom. Manager Pat Goebel sees the ballroom being used for dance recit-

als, theater productions, concerts, special film screenings and other special events. Permanent tenants could be artists, dancers, musicians, office uses or retailers. Most of the space is still available, although he has had several inquiries.

Already, however, it has led to the reincarnation of Dancer's Workshop. For 15 years seven prominent dancers taught and performed their specialties, and held gala dance events, at 107 N.W. Fifth Ave., above Cisco and Poncho's restaurant in Old Town. It was done in by all artists' least favorite four-letter word - RENT - as monthly payments increased by \$1500 a month. The dancers scattered.

Some left town. Some set up independent arrangements. Two, Tracey Durbin and Ruby Burns, remained in touch and looked for a place to re-establish the collective. "We looked at every available space in the city,"

Durbin says.

At Alberta Station they, together with Mary Hunt and visiting dancer Josie Mosely, now on the Reed College faculty, will offer classes in modern, lyrical jazz and African dance and dance-related workouts for adults and children. They will also perform and host performances by local and national guest artists.

Why here? The principals live nearby, Durbin says. "I live on (Northeast) Graham near M.L.K. and teach at Irvington School," she says. "Ruby lives on Killingsworth and teaches at Jefferson. Josie lives at 15th and Braze. The owner has been really supportive. And look at that space! Isn't it beautiful?"

But is the street's bad reputation a problem? Durbin admits setting up a teaching space there is "a risk. It's a stretch for my students, but they follow me wherever I go.

We'll have to work with the parents." On the other hand, she received encouragement from friends who visited during the May Alberta Art Walk. (Another art walk is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. June 26.) At worst, it won't be the first time Dancer's Workshop has been in a "bad" area; when the studio was in Old Town, a pregnant Durbin was mugged on the way to her car. "Then, as soon as they cleaned it up, the rents went sky high," she says.

Goebel says that during the time he has worked at Alberta Station, "We've had no trouble, never had a break-in, never had our car broken into." He says that if you saw Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard or Northwest 23rd Avenue 15 years ago, "You'd never have thought it would become like it is today. As the boards and wrought-iron gates come off the storefronts here, it will only get better."



Bird's eye view

Brandon and Derek Corbett enjoy the view from high above as the 1997 Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade makes its entrance into Memorial Coliseum. The north Portland kids were among dozens of families viewing the parade and afterward the festival fun center, as guests of Portland General Electric's Our Neighborhoods First program.

Photo by Michael Wilhelm

Juneteenth celebrated at capitol

Saturday events expected to draw more than one thousand celebrants

A Juneteenth celebration with entertainment, food and beverages will be held Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Capitol Mall Plaza, across the street from the Oregon State Capitol in Salem.

The event, celebrating the date slaves in the American west learned of their emancipation, is co-sponsored by the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs and the Salem-Keizer branch of the National Association of Colored People.

"Last year we drew people from Portland to Corvallis to our celebration," said commissioner A.J. Talley. "This year we are

expecting over one thousand community members."

Scheduled events include a photographic display of African-American men by photographer Richard Crawford.

The Drum Shop will have a wide variety of percussion instruments, providing children and adults with opportunities for playing and listening to the different tones.

Music will be provided by Chata Adda and Susuma, an exciting contemporary band, with its roots in traditional West African music.

Additional activities for children will be

provided. Food and beverages will be on sale for those who bring their appetites with them.

Salem Mayor Mike Swaim and Keizer Mayor Dennis Koho will kick off the events after the opening anthem.

Guest speakers will include Marion County Commissioner Randy Franke and State Rep. JoAnn Bowman of northeast Portland.

The keynote speech will be provided by Linda Hunter, chair of the Oregon Commission for Black Affairs.

For more information contact A.J. Talley at 399-7439, evenings.

Juneteenth

A Celebration of Black Freedom

June 19th - Sept 22nd, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It stated that all slaves were to be freed as of January 1st, 1863. But in 1863, the Civil War between the states was still raging, with Texas an active participant for the Confederate side. When the Confederacy finally failed in 1865, General Gordon Granger, U.S. Army, was placed in command of the state of Texas. He landed at Galveston on June 19th, 1865 and finally put an end to slavery in Texas, 30 months after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. On June 13th, 1979 a law was signed that made Juneteenth (June 19th) an official state holiday in Texas. A unique holiday to be celebrated in style.

The Portland area Juneteenth Celebration will be held at Peninsula Park, from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm.

History researched and documented by Mr. L.B. Anderson (Pres) and Mr. James Arnold (Vice Pres).