

MORE PAROLEES THAN EVER GO BACK TO PRISON

By Richard Willing

Ex-convicts are being sent back to prison in record numbers for violating parole or for committing new crimes, according to a new Department of Justice study of the nation's state and federal prisons.

Other findings:

- The nation's state and federal prisons held 1,302,019 adult inmates in December 1998, an all-time high.

- Total prison population grew 4.8% last year, the slowest rate of growth since 1979.

- An increasing percentage of prisoners are African-American or

Hispanic. Blacks in prison increased from 360,000 in 1990 to 584,000 in 1997. Hispanic, who are of any race, numbered 213,300 in 1997, up from 130,000 in 1990.

- The average state inmate served 27 months in 1990.

Prisoners are granted reductions in their sentences - parole - in

return for making restitution to victims, taking drug tests and meeting other requirements. If those terms are violated, or if a new crime is committed, parolees can be returned to prison to finish their sentences.

States grant parole to some inmates. There is no parole in the

federal prison system.

Parole officers, who number about 18,000 nationwide, traditionally have performed a function akin to social workers.

The following statistical information was taken from an article in USA Today published on August 16, 1999.

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7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Portland Donor Center
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Meet Damon, have your caricature drawn, get a trendy, temporary tattoo, and enjoy a Sub Spot sandwich!

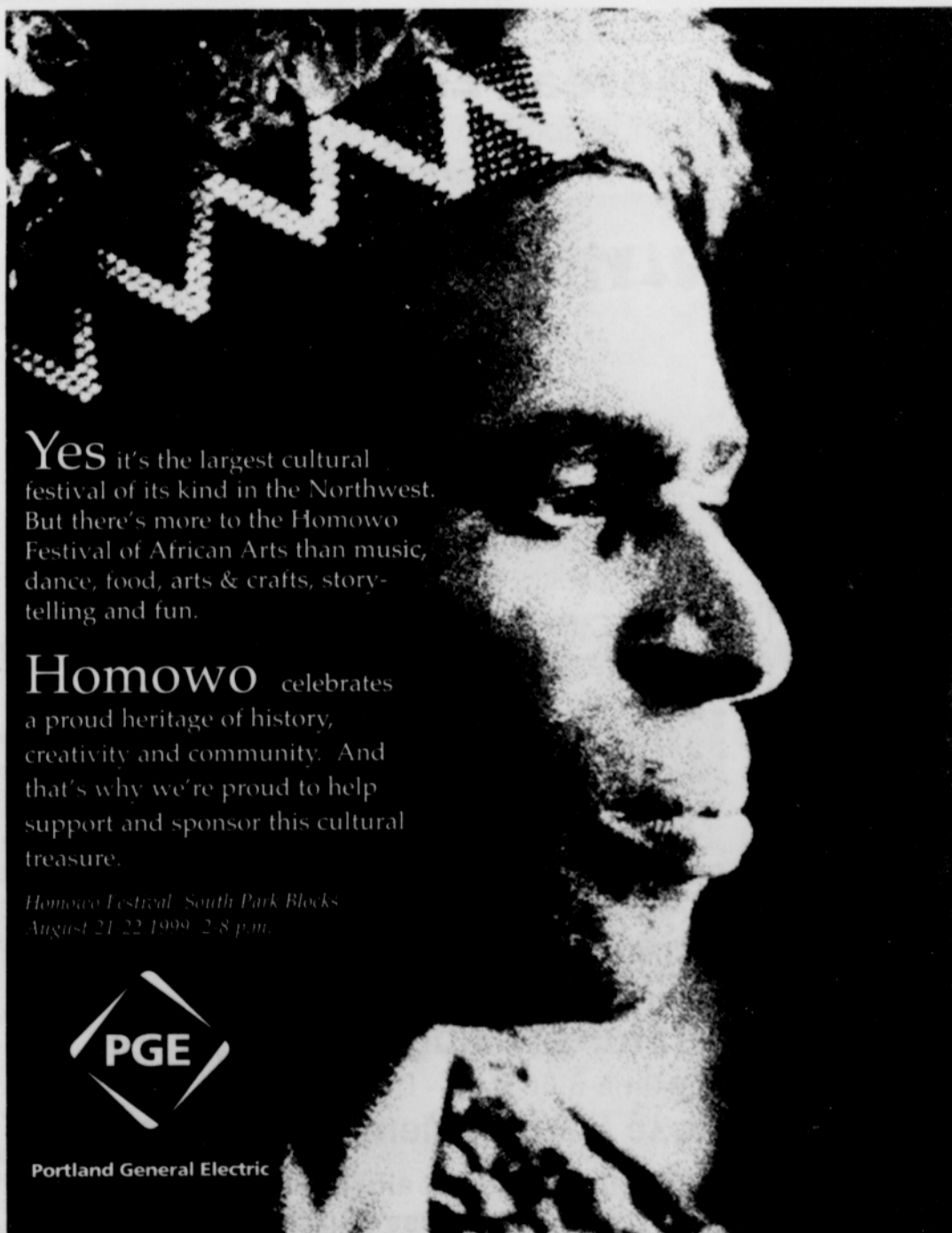
Everyone gets an autographed copy of Damon's comic book, *Damon's Drive*.

Damon will be at the blood drive from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



American Red Cross

To schedule a blood donation appointment,
call **1-800-GIVE-LIFE**
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