



# Stage Set for Good in the Hood

North and northeast neighbors celebrate diversity with four days of music, food and special events

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Bush Announces Mideast Plan**  
President Bush urged the Palestinians to replace Yasser Arafat as their leader and adopt "a practicing democracy" that could produce an independent state within three years. "Peace requires a new and different Palestinian leadership so that a Palestinian state can be born," Bush said.

**No Immediate Shutdown of Amtrak**  
WASHINGTON — Two days before cash-starved Amtrak was to begin shutting down rail service nationwide, the Bush administration said it's confident trains will keep running. But Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta didn't offer specifics to back up his assertion.

**Dozens of Death Sentences Overturned**  
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court overturned the death sentences of more than 150 convicted killers, ruling that juries, not judges, must make this life-or-death decision. The court held that a sentence imposed by a judge violates the constitutional right to a trial by jury.

**Ann Landers Dead at 83**  
CHICAGO — Ann Landers, the columnist whose snappy, plainspoken and timely advice helped millions of readers deal with everything from birth to death, recently died. She was 83. Landers, whose real name was Esther Lederer, was at one time the world's most widely syndicated columnist.

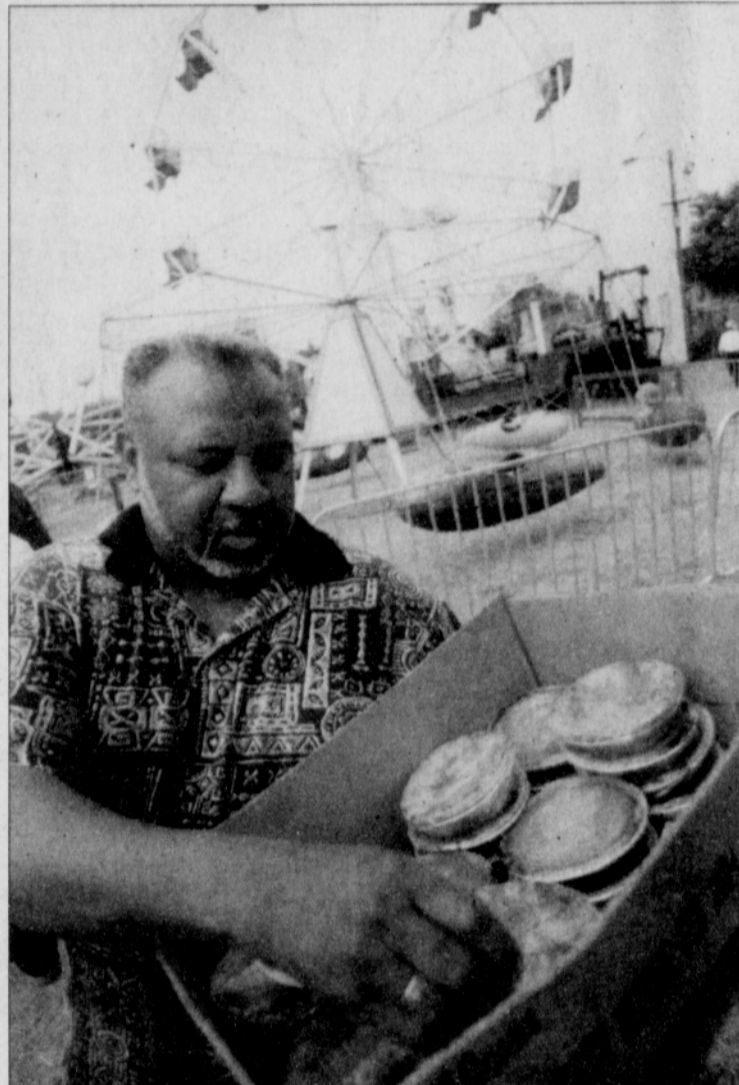
**WHO Worried About Cancer Link to Fried Foods**  
GENEVA — Alarmed about new studies indicating that potato chips, french fries and certain types of bread contain a substance that may cause cancer, the World Health Organization has convened an emergency meeting to evaluate the research and debate action.

**Franklin's Kite Experiment Hits 250th Anniversary**  
PHILADELPHIA — Legend has it that 250 years ago this month, Benjamin Franklin sailed a kite and a key into a stormy Philadelphia sky and made a shocking discovery: Lightning was a form of electricity. The tale's accuracy still generates debate among historians.

**Musharraf Says Tensions Remain 'Explosive'**  
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Tensions between India and Pakistan over disputed Kashmir remain "explosive" even as Pakistan works to end terrorist activity within its border, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said. Musharraf also said his country would not back down from a fight.

**Tycoon in New Round-the-World Balloon Bid**  
NORTHAM, Australia — Adventurer Steve Fossett drifted above Australia after launching his sixth attempt to become the first person to fly solo around the world in a balloon. Fossett's goal is to complete the trip in 15 days.

**House Panel Approves Bill to Arm Airline Pilots**  
WASHINGTON — Lawmakers moved closer to a confrontation with the Bush administration over guns in airplane cockpits as a House panel endorsed legislation that could arm more than 1,000 pilots in the next two years. Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate.



Amos offers a delicious assortment of sweet potato pie at the annual Juneteenth celebration along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Old friends reunited and celebrated the rich blessing that is their shared African heritage at last weekend's Juneteenth festival in northeast Portland. The event drew hundreds of neighbors for music, food and fun at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. and Portland boulevards. Juneteenth commemorates a date when

news of freedom reached slaves in the South, nearly two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. On this anniversary, local community and church leaders passed out literature, took to the stage to praise God for blessings given the black community and asked for strength in struggles to come.

Recording artist O.J. Freeze led the crowd in prayer Saturday afternoon. "Who here has not been blessed?" he asked. Freeze proclaimed an end to gun violence and evil to a cheerful crowd. He introduced "The Drama Queens," an African American performance group that jumped to the stage dressed in colorful African gowns

## Heritage Shared

Families and friends celebrate Juneteenth



"The Drama Queens" entertain a northeast Portland audience with theatrical antics celebrating the African American culture.

PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

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of patterned reds, yellows and greens. Kids bunched together to watch and listen to the women's stirring words of redemption and freedom. "Sing a black girls song. Bring her out to know herself," the group sang. "She has been cloaked in silence for so long, she doesn't know her voice... she doesn't know her own beauty." A parade the same afternoon attracted

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## Les Femmes Ready for Big Night

The girls can dance hip-hop, but waltzing to something classical is something new

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
In 1951, 21 African American mothers recognized the urgent need for a program to encourage the social growth and development of young ladies within the black community. Through structured activities, the mothers hoped to teach proper etiquette and establish educational standards and moral codes that would help teens make the transition to womanhood. Les Femmes was founded in response to these goals. The program's emphasis is diverse. Training includes career choices, self-



Benson graduate Shakiyla Harris-Lambert rehearses with other members of Les Femmes for this Sunday's Debutante Ball. The dance punctuates years of involvement in a group designed to nurture positive development among young African American women.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

esteem, health, leadership development, and arts and cultural awareness. Sunday, the latest group to reach the Les Femmes' rite of passage after years of involvement and volunteerism, will celebrate the Debutante Ball. The girls are all seniors from several local high schools; they are presented to the community and recognized for the progress they have made. At a recent rehearsal, choreographer Lynn Green went over dance steps and curtsies with the graduating seniors.

"Let's run through this one more time," Green says, again and again. Her patience is impressive. It is a muggy, hot afternoon and she struggles to keep the girls' attention. Sometimes it is trying. They giggle at unheard jokes and fidget and whisper with the boys that will be their escorts. Green is strict and demanding, but fun. Without too much prodding, the girls respond to her. They clamor, but it doesn't take long for them to calm down.

"She is not gonna move until you offer," Green says, instructing one of the boys to initiate a cue. "So don't just stand there, come on!" The girls laugh and the boys frown. Green says all the girls can dance hip-hop, but waltzing to something classical is something new for most of them. "We tell them a little about the history of waltzing," she said. Green says the balls go back to a southern tradition when girls were first

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## Cheney Talks Tough in Portland Visit



Vice President Dick Cheney addresses a fund-raising breakfast in Portland with Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore. (AP photo)

(AP) — Vice President Dick Cheney said Monday the United States will "shut down terrorist camps wherever they are" and also had tough talk for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. Cheney said Iraq's interest in producing weapons of mass destruction is a "gathering danger that requires ... the

most decisive response by America and its allies." A "regime that hates America must never be permitted to threaten Americans with weapons of mass destruction," the vice president said. Cheney made the comments at a fund-raising breakfast for Sen. Gordon Smith,

R-Ore. The \$250-a-plate breakfast was by invitation only, and security around the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland was tight. Speaking of the Bush administration's war against Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida

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