

RELIGION

EL OBSERVADOR

Annual Race Unity Festival

A celebration honoring the diverse races and cultures in Portland called the Race Unity Festival, will be held on Saturday, July 27, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus. This is a free event and everyone is invited.

"Every year we see this festival grow," said Bridgette Fahnbulleh, a member of the Race Unity Festival's planning committee. "What started 5 years ago as a simple gathering of people from diverse backgrounds is now a day packed with music, dance, hands-on learning and heart-felt discussion."

This year's performers include Portland's Henri Cross and his band, an African drumming group led by Muhamed Fahnbulleh, Spanish singer



Costumed Hmong children gather to share the beauty of their culture. They will be performing at the upcoming Race Unity Festival on Saturday, July 27 at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus.

Anisa Michaels, Native American drumming and singing, Hmong dancers and group singing about racial and cultural unity led by Dick Grover.

The Hmong performers are children who have been in the St. Johns Parade for several years, and have performed not only at various events in Portland, but in Gresham and Sherwood. For the past two years, they have participated in the Roses After School Mentoring Project held at the Portland Baha'i Center.

The musical performances will start at noon time. Nearby will be

an interactive table presenting cultural displays from a wide variety of racial and cultural groups. Children's activities will be held nearby in Terrell Hall, Room 101.

Loie Mead, another committee member said, "A special addition to this year's festival will be a multicultural panel discussion on the topic of 'the delights of my culture.'"

For more information about the event, call 503-281-2955. And to learn more about the Baha'i Faith, Call 503-289-6331, 1-800-22-UNITE or visit their website at www.pdx.bahai.org.

Urban Evangelical Christian Ministries Plan Unity Picnic

For the first time, four Christian ministries will be having a unity picnic to serve Portland's homeless, needy, addicted and abused men, women and children. Their theme is called "United We Stand."

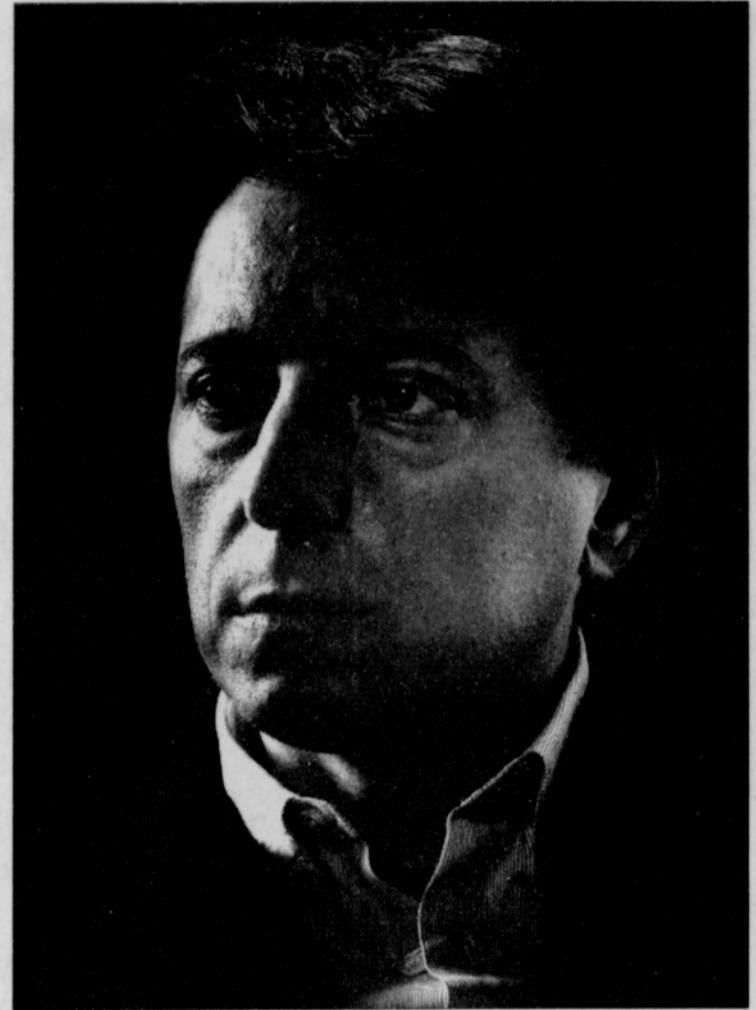
The picnic will be held at Blue Lake Park on July 22, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The purpose of the event is to strengthen the bonds between Christian ministries in Portland, create public awareness about the work Christians are doing locally and energize Christians to become more involved in their communities.

The foundation of the Unity Picnic began two years ago when Portland Rescue Mission invited other ministries to a Christmas-time luncheon to enjoy fellowship and pray for each other. Union Gospel Mission hosted the Christmas luncheon in 2001, where discussion began to expand and plan the summer.

The four participating ministries are Portland Teen Challenge, a 12-14 month faith based residential program for women and men wanting to break the habit of using drugs and alcohol; City Team Ministries that provides 30,000 meals and shelter for the disadvantaged; Portland Rescue Mission, a housing and social service center; and Union Gospel Mission that assists recovering addicts to build a new life.

For more information about the upcoming Unity Picnic, call 503-274-4483.



Eduardo Delgado from Argentina has received world acclaim for his fiery piano playing. He will be giving a recital and teaching a Master class during the Piano Festival Northwest at the World Forestry Center, from July 18 - 21.

Festival Brings Out Artistry of Piano Playing

The fourth annual Piano Festival Northwest features some of the best internationally renowned pianists assembled. Guest artists include Eduardo Delgado, Eric Himy, Marina Lomazov, Paul Roberts and John Salmon.

This year's event will feature

recitals, lectures, master classes, films and an art exhibition. Piano aficionados can enjoy the offerings of the festival that will be held at the World Forestry Center, from July 18 - 21.

For more information call 503-725-5400 or go online to www.fpa.pdx.edu/prs.

Castro Accuses Russia of Betrayal by Allying with US

(AP)—Fidel Castro said Russia had betrayed Cuba and formed an alliance with the United States when Moscow severed agreements with the communist island after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

"I do not try to blame any one leader in particular. It was the fruit

of its (Russia's) errors and the painful way in which it lost the ideological battle against the western capitalist and imperialist bourgeoisie, under the standard of the United States," Castro said in speech reported by Sunday the Communist Party daily Granma.

"Russia, allied with the United States, broke all the accords and betrayed Cuba," Castro said in the speech delivered Saturday to mark the recent renovation of more than 100 primary secondary schools in Havana.

Cuba still is struggling to recover from the economic crisis triggered by the loss of aid and preferential trade agreements as the Soviet bloc disintegrated a decade ago.


Castro currently is leading the country in a particularly intense ideological campaign, crowned last week by the rubber-stamp parliament amending the constitution to make Cuban socialist system "irrevocable."

Because of Cuba's severe economic crisis, hundreds of primary and secondary schools in the nation's capital had classrooms without windows, bathrooms without doors, leaky roofs and antiquated plumbing. Castro said other schools became unusable and blamed the tightening of U.S. trade sanctions during the 1990s.

Castro's words came two days after the Group of Eight economic summit of the world's most economically powerful countries ended in Canada, where leaders agreed to help Russia dispose of its Soviet-era arsenal of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

The \$20 billion program was met with a mixed response in Moscow, where some retired military leaders and others have accused President Vladimir Putin of capitulating to the West by agreeing to cooperate more closely with NATO and assuming full membership in the G-8.

Havana, too, has criticized Moscow's alliance with NATO, as well as its decision two years ago to close the Russian intelligence listening post built on Cuba two years after the 1962 missile crisis. The



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