

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### College of Oriental Medicine Open House

Members of the public can attend a celebration for Oriental Medicine Day and receive information about acupuncture, Oriental therapeutic massage, Chinese herbal medicine and Oriental meditative exercise. Supervised by licensed practitioners, OCOM interns will provide free sample treatments to the public from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24. The school is located at 10525 SE Cherry Blossom Drive.

### Community Reading Fair

Partners in Vocational Opportunities Training (PIVOT) will host a book fair on Friday, Oct. 25 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 2508 NE Everett. The public is asked to bring a new or used book to the book drive. All books collected will be donated to the Books for Kids project, which gives books to less fortunate children and teenager through Oregon's social service programs.

### Make a Difference Day

In celebration of the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Make a Difference Day, a food drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Salvation Army Moore St. location at 5325 N. Williams Ave. All donations will benefit the Oregon Food Bank, local shelters and group homes. For more information call 503-209-3890.

### Portland Farmer's Market

Celebrate Halloween at Portland Farmers Market's "Great Pumpkin Event" on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event coincides with the market's final day of the 2002 season and features free pumpkins, on-site carving lessons, a chef demonstration and a pumpkin pancake breakfast. A Halloween parade starts at 11 a.m. Call 503-241-0032.

### Hip-Hop Music Forum

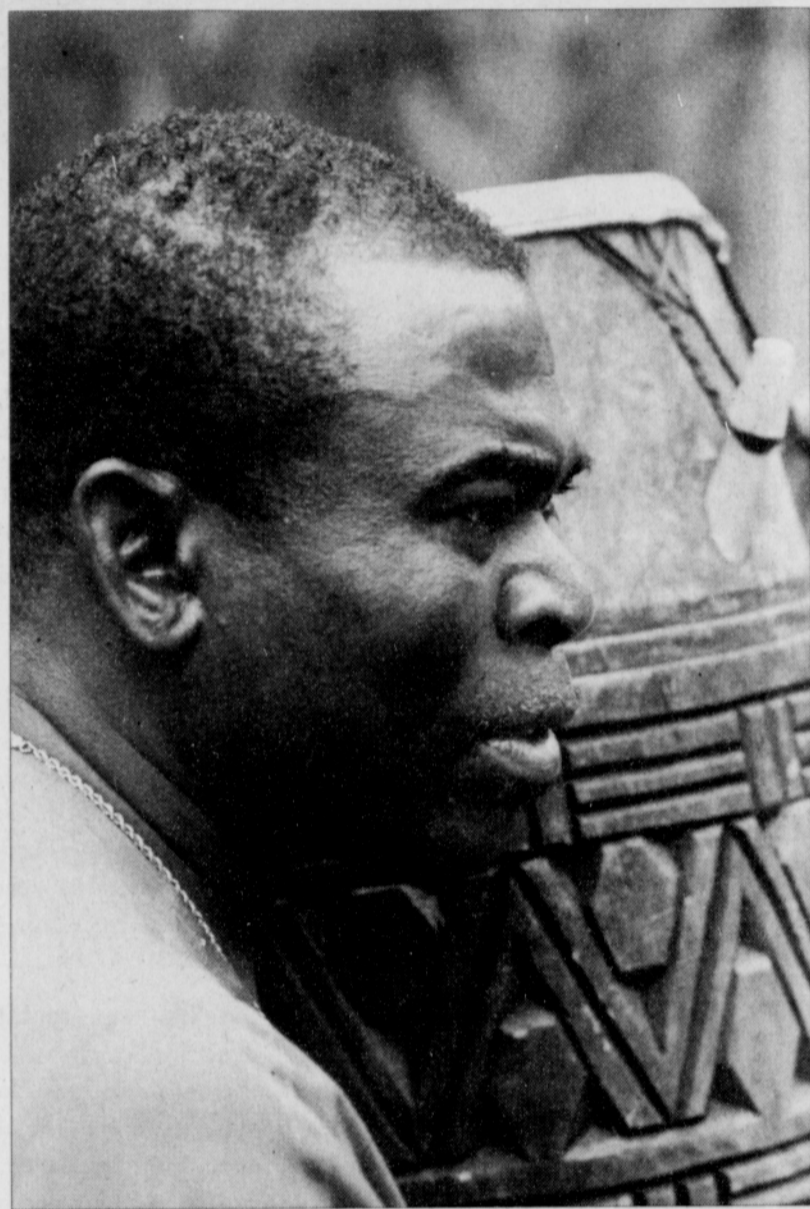
Members of the Portland State University Black Cultural Affairs Board and Just Family Records will host a public forum to discuss issues of racism and violence in the Portland club scene and other hip-hop issues. City officials, police and state administration will be in attendance. A panel discussion on Sunday, Oct. 27 begins at 5 p.m. in the multicultural room of the Smith Center at PSU. For more information call 503-921-2809.

### Explore Truths, Myths about Bats

Washington State University faculty member Christine Portfors will present a free public lecture called "Bats are Good Guys" on Monday, Oct. 28 at WSU Vancouver, located 14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave in the Student Services Building's lecture hall. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. and families are encouraged to bring their children. For more information, contact Portfors at 503-546-9434.

### Treat on Alberta Street

Children and families are invited to attend Trick or Treat on Alberta Street on Halloween. Bring a bag for safe treats and join a costume parade to visit stores from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The parade will end in costume contest at 7 p.m. held in the parking lot at the Starry Rose Cafe. Costume contest winners will be awarded with gift certificates to Alberta businesses.



Northeast Portland resident Obo Addy (left) has been performing traditional Ghanaian music in Portland and around the world for 25 years.

PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHL/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Holding Traditions Dear



Obo Addy's drumming (above) has blossomed into a career in African music and dance.

## Music and dance is life blood for west African native

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Obo Addy grew up in a small village outside the coastal capital of Accra, Ghana. The little country on the west coast of Africa has long been a place of feverish music and dance, traditions held dear within Addy's family.

His mother, he says, was a beautiful singer. His father was called Wonche, which roughly translates to Father of the Spirits.

"My father was a medicine man," Addy said. "He performed his spiritual ceremonies with drumming. I was raised around drums, that's where I came from."

And that is how Addy learned - by watching, then trying the rhythms himself. Words were largely irrelevant, the message and the key were contained in the drumming.

"We don't like questions much," Addy said, "If you watch properly, you don't have to ask questions."

Addy calls it warrior music. It is high-powered drumming. The power of Addy's drumming lifts you. His music goes beyond the immediate. It gallops from the past into the present and on into the future.

On the small "talking drum" Addy's fingers generate rolling sounds, like murmuring creeks, his fingers jumping and tapping

like tiny dancers.

Addy's music carries from the simple to the complex. Sometimes it is immeasurably fast, then slower. Always there is a rhythm, the song takes twists and turns and stretches on like a journey.

Addy loves to recount the songs of Ghana which range from the satirical to the sad but many of the songs he plays now are his own compositions.

When you listen to Addy's music you feel he is teaching you something. The rapid pace of his drumming tempers but never fades.

"The word tired does not exist in the

drumming language," Addy said.

He plays a Xylophone type instrument called a Jiri made of aged woods, leather, and spider webs pasted over holes in gourds that make the instrument sound "kazoo-like."

The traditional sounds of Ghana have carried Addy and members of his family all over the world. In 1972, he went to London to play. In 1973, he toured the United States with his five brothers performing traditional music and dance. He has spent years playing in Europe and he has toured Australia

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## School Finds Success in Reading

### Volunteers work with teachers to raise reading test scores

Portland Mayor Vera Katz was at Chief Joseph Elementary School Friday to celebrate the joint efforts of school personnel and literacy volunteers who have worked to significantly raise reading test scores at the north Portland school.

Over the past four years, Chief Joseph reading test scores have improved more than 15 percent with almost 90 percent of students now reading at or above grade level.

"The tutors make a tremendous difference," said Chief Joseph Principal Kathy Jaffe. "Their presence says to a child that someone cares and that reading is really important." Volunteers at Chief Joseph spend one hour a week reading with a child through the SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) program.

Research shows that children are most likely to reach their potential as readers if they have early experiences with books in safe, consistent, caring surroundings with adults. A study by the Eugene Research Institute shows also that SMART students continue to do better in school for years after they've finished working with a tutor.

In addition to SMART, Multnomah County schools also offer volunteer opportunities through the OASIS tutoring program (for volunteers aged 50+) and the Multnomah County Library's Books 2 U program.

The effort to attract literacy volunteers is spearheaded by the Commission on Children, Families and Community of Multnomah County and the Leader's Roundtable - a group of top



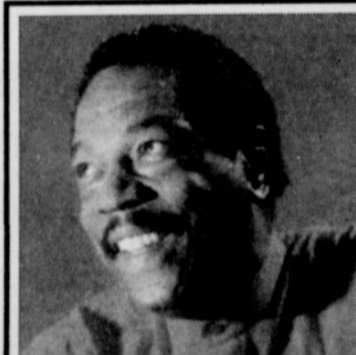
Portland Mayor Vera Katz gets immersed in a reading assignment with Chief Joseph Elementary students Joey Cullen (left) and Olivia Sinks. "Children reading well by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade sets the stage for them to success in the rest of their education and the rest of their lives," Katz said.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

executives from private and public organizations including Boeing, Portland General Electric, Flex Car, Legacy Health Systems, the City of Portland and

Multnomah County.

To learn about volunteering, call the Commission on Children, Families and Community at 503-988-4383.



Roy Jay

## Firehouse Roasts Roy Jay

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center fundraiser, "The Firehouse Roasts Roy Jay," will be held Tuesday, Oct. 29 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

Roy Jay is the executive director of the African American Chamber of Commerce and this event celebrates this popular entrepreneur's accomplishments and features complimentary champagne, Oregon wines, coffee and great desserts.

Corporate sponsors for the benefit are Safeway, Albina Community Bank, Bullivant Houser and Bailey and Eli Lilly and Co.

Local dignitaries on the attendance roster include Jim Francesconi, Dan Saltzman, IFCC Founder Charles Jordan, Serena Cruz, JoAnn Bowman, Susan Hagmier, Avel Gordley, Vera Pool and Maria Rojo DeSteffey.

The IFCC is a non-profit, community-based performing and visual arts center in partnership with Portland Parks and Recreation.

IFCC's mission is to create an environment in which people of every ethnic and cultural background can come together as artists and audience to explore, preserve, and honor their diversity.