

Focus

Black Artists Promoted on Alberta

continued from Metro
Portland Observer. "It's also an opportunity to let people know what we're doing."
Baldwin sees Last Thursday as "an opportunity for individuals to come out to Northeast Portland, to see the northeast as a vibrant community. It's a chance for different cultural groups to interact."
A chance, yes. But is it happening?

"I think African-Americans are coming out a lot more," Baldwin says. "With all the new growth, development and businesses here, people are attracted." However, she adds, "There are still not a sizable number of African-Americans involved."
There is sentiment for there to be more African-American-run businesses here. It's a bit of a culture shock.
African American business owner Roslyn Hill has a different perspective. One of the first of the new breed of art-related entrepreneurs on Alberta, she started Roslyn's Garden Cafe. It eventually closed, but she still owns the space and it is now home to the Tin Roof, one of the city's most popular breakfast places.
Hill has gone on to renovate other buildings and fill them with thriving businesses.
"It hasn't been a matter of people

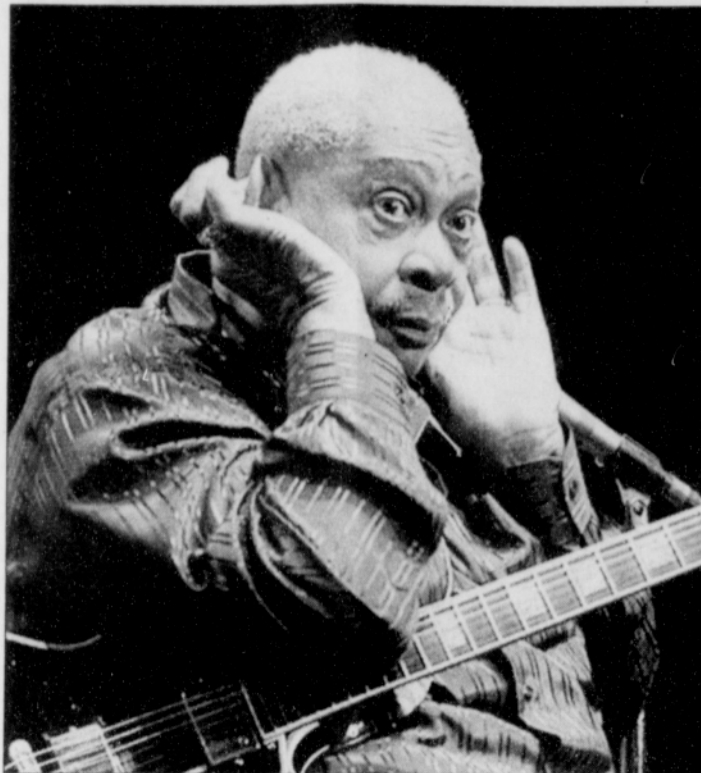
being pushed out," she says. "You have to remember that 10 years ago there weren't many businesses operating here of any kind. There were a few folks who didn't pay their rent, but for the most part it's been a matter of new people adding to what was here."
Here again, the Black United Fund plans to join in.
According to Baldwin, they plan to build a three-story structure next

to their current headquarters. It will contain a Center for Community Development to serve as a business incubator, a Northeast Business Center to aid small businesses and an African-American Heritage Center.
Now in its 20th year, and based on Northeast

Alberta Street since 1999, the fund gets financial support from 40 businesses and corporations, including Kaiser, Legacy Health Systems, Portland General Electric, Pacificorp and the State of Oregon, as well as individual contributors.
The group has seven areas of activity: arts and culture, education, economic development, human services, health and social justice.
"We view participation in Last Thursday as an attempt to educate all Oregonians about the contributions of our diverse populations, how we are inter-connected and interdependent," Baldwin says.

There are still not a sizable number of African-Americans involved. There is sentiment for there to be more African-American-run businesses here. It's a bit of a culture shock.
— Christina Baldwin, The Black United Fund donor relations manager

B.B. King Fans Get Refund



Legendary blues artist B.B. King.

(AP) — B.B. King fans who couldn't attend his concert in Charleston, West Va., last winter because of a snowstorm will get a refund under a settlement between the promoter and the state.
CrossRhodes Entertainment of Big Flats, N.Y., has agreed to refund 75 percent of the ticket price, Attorney General Darrell V. McGraw Jr. said last week.
The Feb. 16 storm, which hit 24

counties, spawned record snow, flooding and ice, and turned parts of West Virginia into federal disaster areas.
Ticket-holders can either receive a refund or obtain vouchers to see any show promoted by CrossRhodes anywhere in the nation. Claim forms can be obtained from CrossRhodes. Forms must be returned to the promoter, along with the original ticket.

Kenneth Dembo and Paul Susi perform in "Jerusalem" with the Hand2Mouth Theater troupe.



Theatrical Spectacle at Faubion School

"Jerusalem," performed by the local Hand2Mouth Theater, offers the breathtaking pageantry of stiltwalkers, swirling fire, acrobatics and the finale of a doomed slave uprising.
"Jerusalem," the story of enslaved mystic and healer Nat Turner, will perform at Faubion Elementary School, 3029 N.E. Portland Blvd. on Fridays and Saturdays, Sept. 18 through Oct. 4. Suggested donations are \$6 to \$8.
For more information, call 503-235-5284.



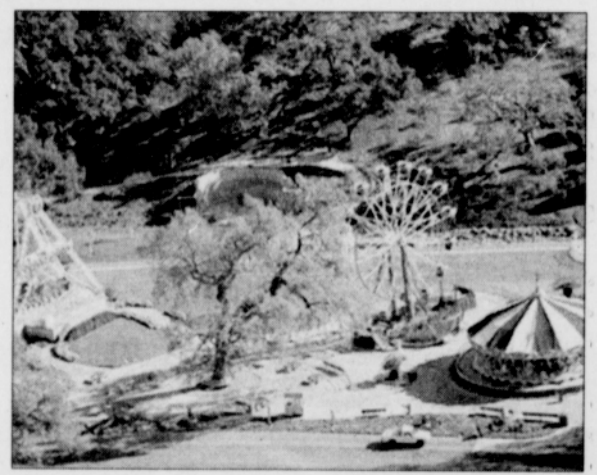
Existential Blues at Firehouse

Explore the why in the existentialist tragic-comedy "Waiting for Godot" directed by Amy Gray. The show, at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave., is at 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through Sept. 27. Tickets are \$12. For reservations, call 503-502-8261.

Michael Jackson's 'Neverland' to Host 500 Guest Party

(AP) — Like a real-life Willy Wonka, Michael Jackson has announced plans to open his carnival-style Neverland Ranch estate to 500 guests.
The invitation-only event, set for Saturday, Sept. 13, is a one-time-only gathering, complete with dinner, magicians, games and a tractor-trailer full of stuffed animals, according to Jackson publicist Stuart Backerman.
Tickets for two people cost \$5,000, with \$1,000 from each sale being divided among three charities. Jackson will keep the rest - Backerman said it would pay for costs of the party.

Jackson's Neverland Ranch, in Santa Barbara County, includes an amusement park with bumper cars, a merry-go-round and a Ferris wheel.
Guests also will receive a "goodie bag" worth about \$1,000 and an original painting by Brazilian artist Romero Britto.
Jackson's former financial advisers settled a lawsuit against him in June that suggested he was overburdened with debt and near bankruptcy. That has led to speculation that the Neverland property, recently assessed at \$12.3 million, would go on the market.



Like a real-life Willy Wonka, pop star Michael Jackson has announced plans to temporarily open to 500 guests his carnival-style Neverland Ranch estate, seen here in a 1993 aerial file photo in the Santa Ynez Valley near Los Olivos, Calif. (AP Photo)

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Take a Trip
Take a trip through time to find the hottest poetry, hip hop and soul influencing Portland Wednesdays at the Ohm. \$7 cover. 31 NW 1st Ave.

Local Notes at McCalls
Blacknotes will perform at Arnada's Café in Vancouver, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Sept. 13 and from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Sept. 19 at Billy Reed's in northeast Portland. Their first CD, "Lend Us Your Ear," is coming soon!

Pumpkin Season
Sauvie Island Harvest Fair kicks off pumpkin season on Sept. 13 and 14 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Howell Territorial Park. Admission is \$4. For more information, call 503-621-3489.

Sunshine Tour
Unlimited Sunshine floods Portland on Sept. 17 at the Roseland Theater. Headliners Cheap Trick and Cake join The Detroit Cobras, The Louvin Brothers and The Hackensaw Boys for an evening of limitless energy and jams. 8 NW Sixth Ave. Call Ticketmaster for tickets or visit the Roseland box office.

Wayward Saints
Lakewood Theatre Company performs A Company of Wayward Saints from Sept. 19 through Oct. 18. The play drops the last traveling commedia dell'arte in Portland. Tickets are \$19. 368 S. State St., Lake Oswego. For tickets, call 503-635-3901.

Get Involved!
The Portland Gay Men's Chorus is currently accepting new members. This energetic group needs people willing to make a commitment to the organization, whether on or off the stage. For more information, call 503-226-2588 or e-mail join@pdxgmc.org.

Coco Performs at Roseland
Tommy Castro and Coco Montoya perform at the Roseland Theater at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 25. \$16 in advance. For more information, call 503-224-8499.

Reparations Thursdays
David Park's band, The Reparations, will play Thursdays at 9 p.m. with DJ Chill and special guest performers and DJs at The Red Sea, 318 S.W. Third Ave. Admission for those 21 and older is \$5.