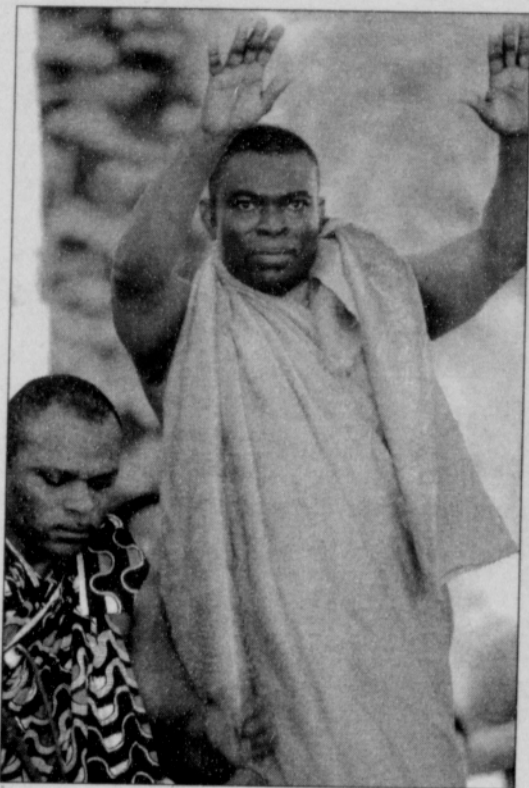
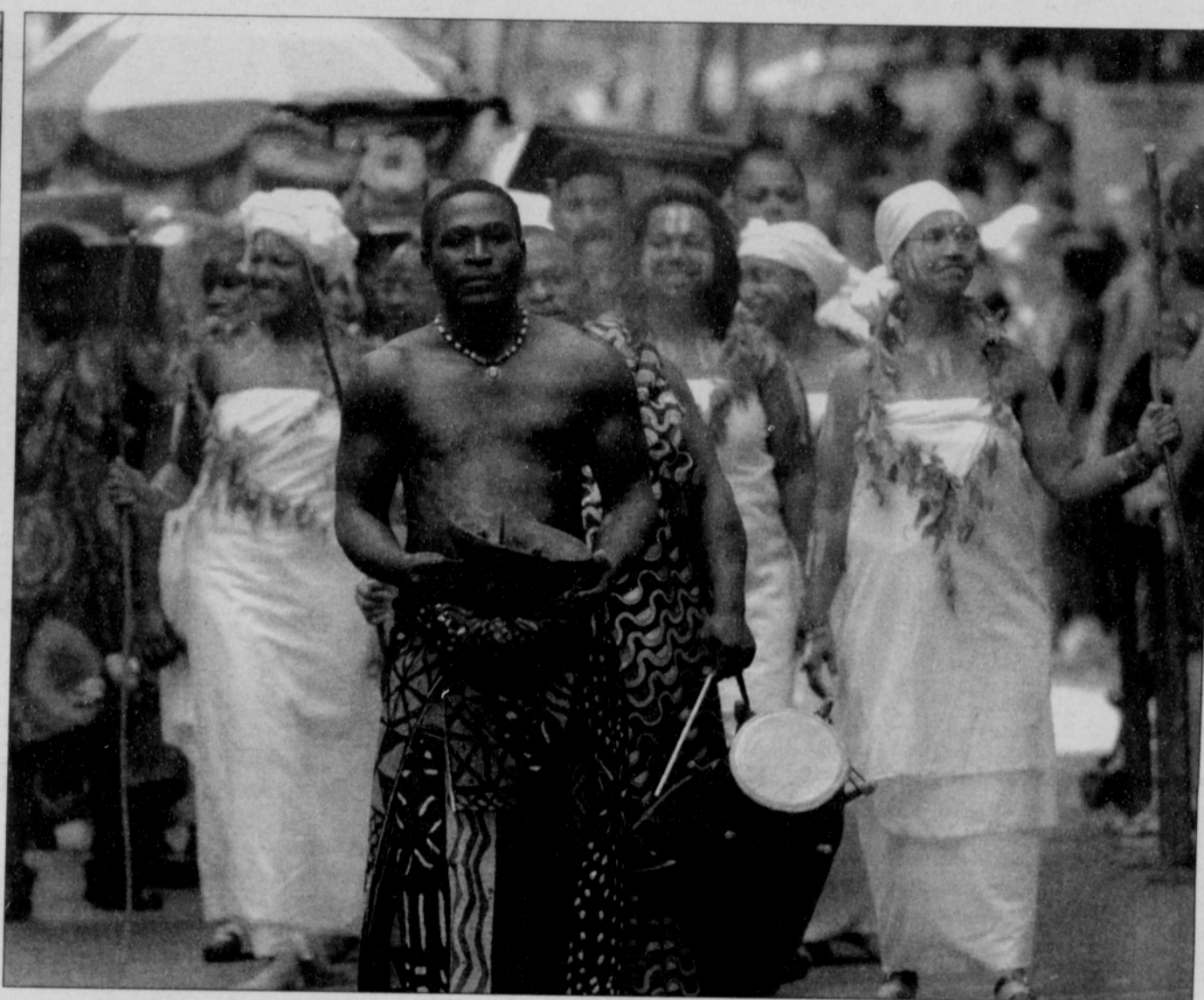


Homowo Festival Gather Round The Fire



Portland's Homowo (pronounced ho-mo-wah) Festival replicates the traditional Ghanaian harvest festival held annually in West Africa. Activities include a processional (right) and traditional music by Obo Addy (above).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JULIE KEEFE



An evening of African folklore

The Homowo Festival of African Arts, a celebration of a traditional harvest festival from the Ga people of Ghana, West Africa, is the largest cultural festival of its kind in the Northwest. The festival will celebrate its 15th year on Aug. 6 through 8. The event kicks off at 7 p.m. on Aug. 6 at Jamison Square, 810 N.W. 11th, with an evening of African folk stories told around the glowing embers of a fire. The main event continues at a different venue on Aug. 7 from noon to 7 p.m. and August 8 from noon to

5 p.m. at the South Park Blocks on the Portland State University Campus between Southwest Harrison and College streets. Admission to the festival is a suggested donation of \$5; children are free.

Portland's Homowo (pro-

version in 1990, blending African music, dance, pageantry, crafts, food and demonstrations to create an authentic ethnic celebration.

The festival transcends cultural boundaries in its celebration of community. The weekend

a broad range of African cultures, with folk art demonstrations; an African marketplace; a community stage featuring a variety of talent, from interactive dance demonstrations to African-American poetry; a children's craft area; and ethnic

national groups including Obo Addy of Ghana, Mamadou Diabate of Mali, Maya Soleil of a Worldbeat sound, and Borrina Mapaka of Congo.

The philosophy of the Homowo Festival mirrors that of its founder, Addy: to build on the strength of community to create a welcoming, vibrant place for people of diverse international origins. Addy is a cultural ambassador and a source of enrichment whose music speaks to these values and celebrates a connection between cultures. His performing groups of musicians and dancers are living examples of the strength of African performing arts.

For more information, contact Homowo African Arts & Cultures at 503-288-3025 or visit www.homowo.org.

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nounced ho-mo-wah) Festival replicates the traditional Ghanaian harvest festival held annually in West Africa. Obo Addy, a master drummer from Ghana, established the Portland

draws in thousands of spectators with its thunderous drumming, colorful costumes and exotic aromas.

The scope of the festival extends beyond Ghana to embrace

food vendors from the African Diaspora.

Throughout it all, traditional and popular African music and dance take center stage, with performances by regional and