

METRO

The Portland Observer



Coach Fired

Pilots Coach Michael Holton sees career on bluff end

See Sports, page B6

SECTION **B**

Community Calendar

Habitat Barbecue

Enjoy a great barbecue and Gospel music at Beale Street NW BBQ, 10721 N.E. Sandy Blvd., on Sunday, April 9 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5, and 15 percent of food sales goes toward Portland's Habitat for Humanity's home building efforts in Louisiana.

Chinese Medicine

Portland Community College offers a four-week noncredit series in discovering Chinese medicine, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays, starting April 5 in room 235 of Grant High School. Cost is \$69, for more information call 503-978-5205.

Women in NAACP

Women in NAACP meets from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month at the American Red Cross Building, 3131 N. Vancouver. For questions, call 503-249-6263.

Business Meeting

North/Northeast Business Association meetings are on the first Monday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Albina Community Bank, 2002 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Morning networking meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club, 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd.

Free College Outreach

The first Saturday of each month, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., high school students can get free help from Oregon State University on preparing for any college at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St.

Lead-Safe Remodeling Workshop

Metro offers a free workshop, household lead test kit and home improvement manual for do-it-yourselfers working on homes built before 1978 on Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Historic Kenton Firehouse, 8105 N. Brandon Ave. No registration required.

Get Wet at Portland Parks

All March, spring break extended hours at Columbia, Matt Dishman, Mt. Scott and Southwest Community Center pools. Open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. with open swim times starting at 1 p.m. Register for spring classes by calling Portland Parks and Recreating at 503-823-5130.

Elephant Party

Celebrate Elephantastic! It's Packy's 44th birthday party, Saturday, April 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oregon Zoo. Birthday cake for everyone, Packy too! Cake served at 2 p.m., free with zoo admission. For more information, call 503-226-1561.

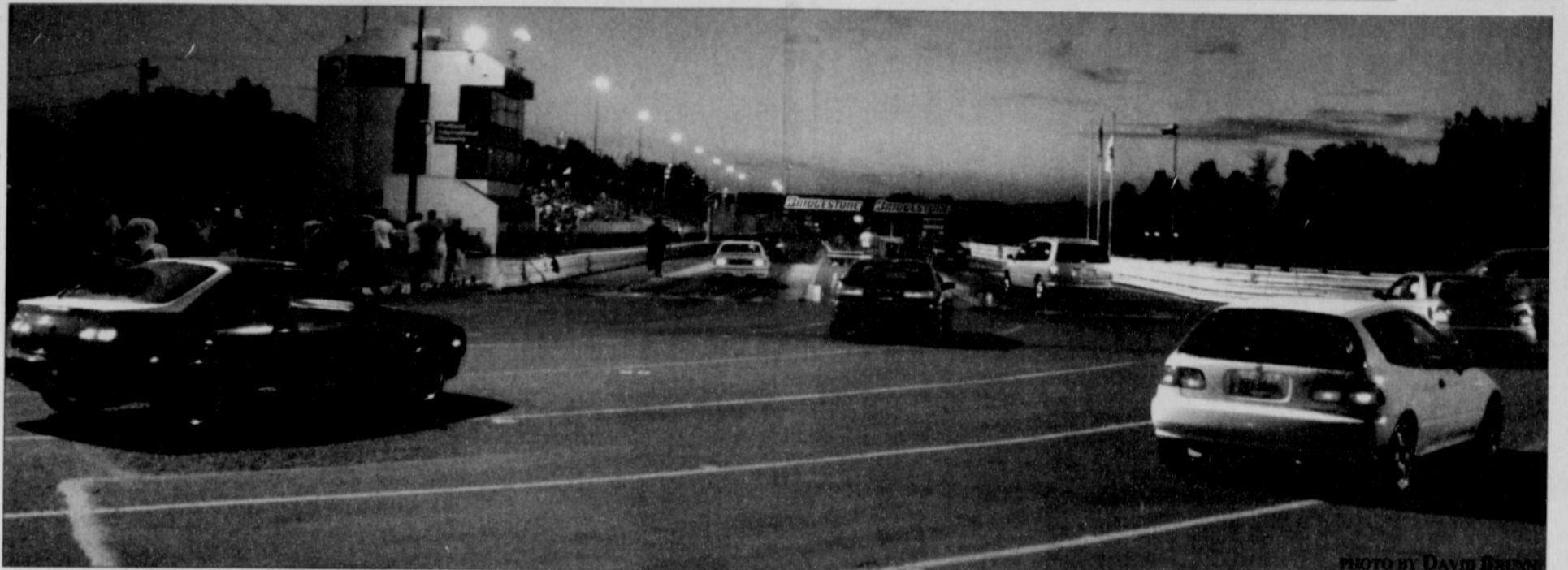
Al-Anon Meeting

"Solutions and Serenity" for anyone affected by another person's drinking. Every Tuesday at 7 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 N.W. 19th at Everett. Free, enter through courtyard. For more information, call Julianna Tassone at 503-367-6115

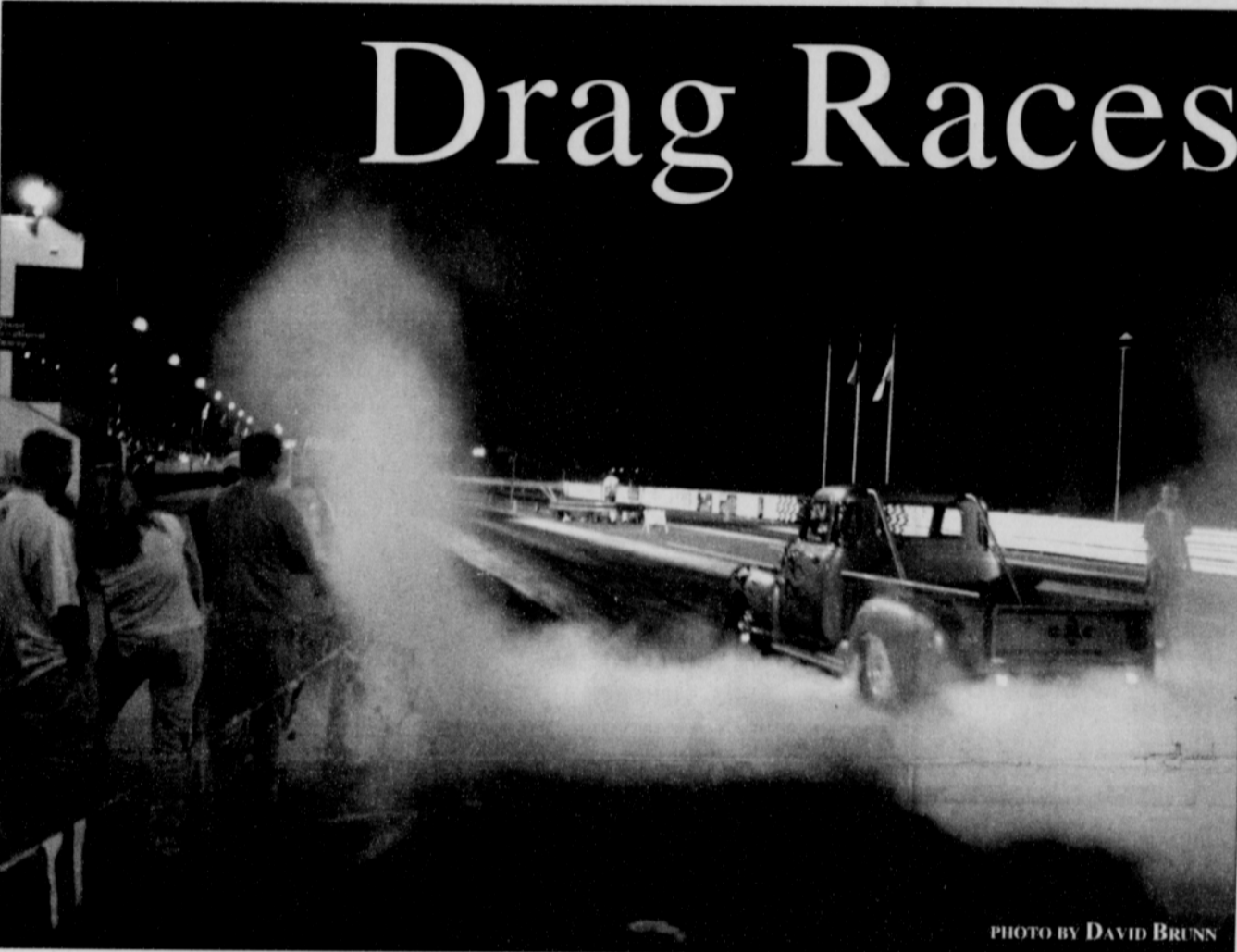
Creative Space For Dance

Aurora Dance Studio, 5433 N.E. 30th, offers an array of classes for children, teens and adults at all levels of ability. Call 503-249-0201 or visit online at www.hevanet.com/auroradance for more information.

36
years of
community service



Amatur racers take a curve during the Les Schwab Late Night Drags held at the Portland International Raceway in north Portland. For a \$20 fee, racers of all abilities can compete a safe environment.



A truck burns rubber in one of the heats at Portland International Raceway's Late Night Drags. The events are a safe alternative to illegal street racing, opening up the PIR track to racers of all shapes and sizes from April through October.

Drag Races

Temper Need for Speed

Safe alternative to illegal street racing

For those who feel the need for speed, Late Night Drags is gearing up for its sixth season at the Portland International Raceway in north Portland. Beginning in April, racers of all calibers can put their two- or four-wheeled dragsters on the track and compete against others all night. Races are held on most Friday and Saturday nights beginning at 6 p.m., and runs through October.

"We are in a new era of horsepower in street cars right now," said Mark Wigginton, PIR track manager. "It's best to let people experience that performance in a place that's safe, where there's no cross traffic, pedestrians or the rest of the accidents-in-waiting that you find on the street. And it isn't just for the racers. It's for their families, their boyfriends or girlfriends, and people who just want to see the excitement of fast cars on the track."

But it wasn't always like this. Officer David Sessum of the Portland Police Bureau said prior to 2000, illegal street racing was a constant problem on

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Send Off for New Orleans Musicians

Billy Reed's to host special concert

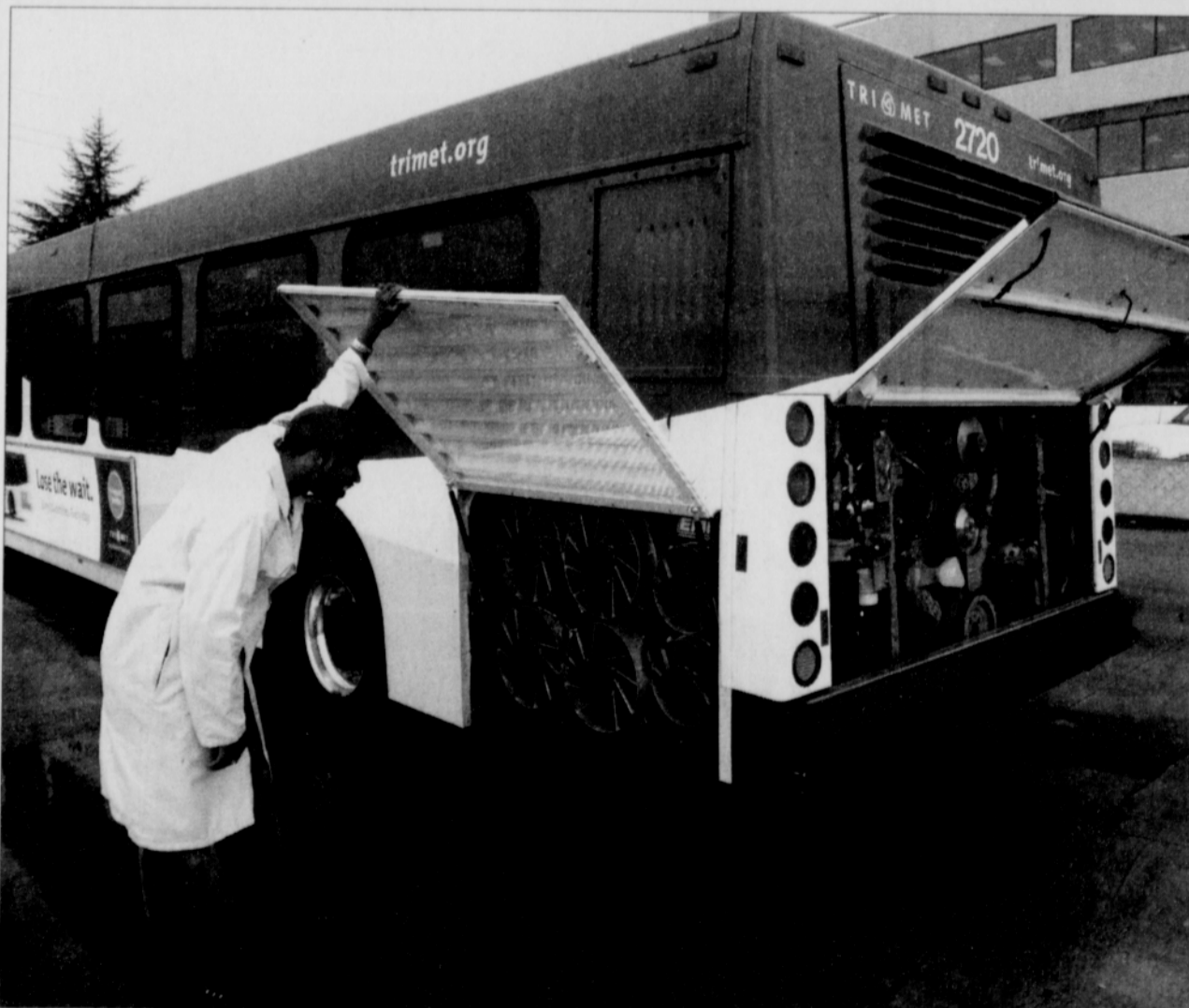
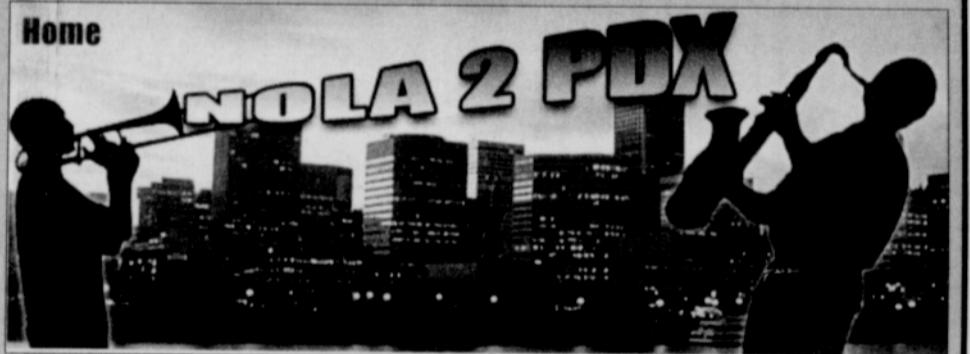
In the days following Hurricane Katrina, Portland sent out a call to New Orleans jazz musicians -- you are welcome here. Seven months later, NOLA2PDX - the temporary program created by the Portland Jazz Festival and Azumano Travel to support the musicians who responded to the invitation - is sending them off in style.

The NOLA2PDX Finale featuring Devin Phillips and New Orleans Straight Ahead will be held on Friday, April 7 from 7 p.m. to

11 p.m. at Billy Reed's, 2808 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. A private reception to meet the artists will be held from 6-7 p.m. The finale is open to the public with a \$5 cover charge to off-set program expenses.

Over the course of six months more than 50 New Orleans musicians traveled to Oregon as part of jazz festival program. A dozen musicians have decided to make

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TriMet Maintenance Trainer Mark Tellis inspects the six electric fans retrofitted to a test bus. By running electrical fans instead of a standard fan that runs on belts and hydraulics, TriMet hopes to see a 5-7 percent increase in fuel economy.

Technology at Work

TriMet tests fans to save fuel costs

On the outside, it looks like an ordinary TriMet bus, but under its engine panels is a one-of-a-kind cooling system that makes it unique in the transit industry.

TriMet is the first in the nation to combine cutting edge technologies from the racetrack and military field in a bus that should get better fuel economy and require reduce maintenance.

For the next eight months, the bus is testing military components and NASCAR racecar cooling technology to potentially boost fuel economy by 5 to 7 percent and reduce maintenance costs. Switching the engine and transmission cooling systems over to electrical motors should produce the fuel gains.

Traditionally, bus-cooling systems work off hydraulic and coolant pumps powered directly by the diesel engine. The original equipment cooling system draws up to 50 horsepower off the engine, draining power and fuel efficiency.

Six variable speed electric fans, an electric variable speed water pump and an electric mixing valve are computer controlled to deliver optimum heating or cooling to the bus' engine, transmission and heating systems.

One of the agency's goals is to reduce costs by commercializing technology that has both military and commercial uses.