

Tony Hopson, Self Enhancement, Inc. chief executive officer, is surrounded by local SEI youth in front of the organization's expansive SEI learning and community services center on North Kerby Avenue that serves Portland's underserved youth and families.

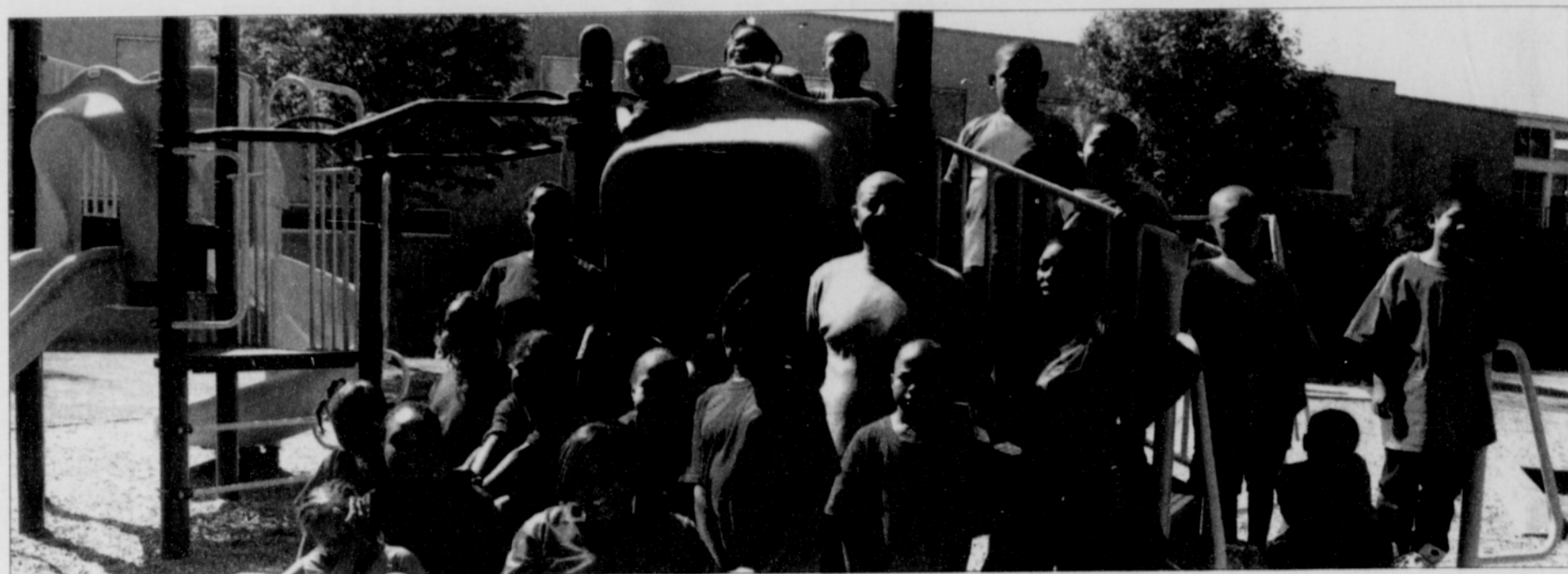


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

SEI Turns 25

continued from Front

land Public Schools; working relationships with 46 schools in the Multnomah County; after-School programming; academic summer programs; basketball camps; and post-high school assistance to SEI alumni and family resource services.

The SEI model has been replicated in Miami at the Overtown Youth Center sponsored by basketball star Alonzo Mourning.

SEI President, CEO and Founder, Tony Hopson Sr. states, "As we

celebrate the 25 year mark, I am most proud of the fact that our organization has grown from a one-week basketball camp in 1981, to now touching the lives of over 2,000 youth and families annually. We're graduating over 95 percent of the kids in our high school program, and the future looks bright for us as we look to impact even more families and communities."

For more information about the festival or programs, visit www.selfenhancement.org or call 503-249-1721.



It'll be just like old times when Clay Aiken (left) and Ruben Studdard go head to head on the pop charts with the release of their new albums.

'Idol' Rivals to Battle Again

Both plan album releases

(AP)—Two former "American Idol" rivals—second-season winner Ruben Studdard and runner-up Clay Aiken—will battle again when their new albums are released next month.

Aiken's third album, "A Thousand Different Ways," will be in stores Sept. 19. The new CD combines 10 cover versions of well-known songs from the '70s, '80s and '90s with four new songs.

Studdard's "The Return" will be released Sept. 26 on J Records. It

follows his 2004 gospel album, "I Need an Angel."

Studdard narrowly beat out Aiken to win the "American Idol" contest in May 2003. Their debut albums — Aiken's "Measure of a Man" and Studdard's "Soulful" — were released later that year.

The first track on Studdard's new CD is "The Return of the Velvet Teddy Bear," the 27-year-old singer said.

Tracks on Aiken's new disc include Bryan Adams' "Everything I Do (I Do It for You)," Celine Dion's "Because You Loved Me" and Elton John's "Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word."



Contestants dance as they enter the Rose Bowl at the Los Angeles area auditions for the 6th season of the "American Idol" television talent competition Tuesday. (AP photo)

Thousands Flock to New 'Idol'

Thousands of "American Idol" hopefuls showed up at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. on Tuesday with wide-eyed dreams of becoming the top-rated show's next singing sensation.

After waiting all night and standing in line for hours, most contestants got less than a minute to sing a few bars - and then the boot.

Michael Taylor, 21, of El Monte, who works at a customer call ser-

vice center, was among those quickly dismissed from the tryouts. Fox publicity representatives were more sensitive, saying he "was not moving forward."

"This is just a stepping stone for me and I'm looking past it," said Taylor, who asked an observer if he could sing a few notes to demonstrate his talent. He had a nice soulful style - but obviously not nice enough.

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