

# The



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Volume XXXXI, Number 40

Wednesday • October 5, 2011

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

# Last Thursday

PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As the sun goes down on Northeast Alberta Street, crowds during Last Thursday multiply and fill the street. Art vendors, music performers and dancers hold the attention of visitors outside, while others are kept amused inside Alberta's popular restaurants, bars and art galleries.



## Partying crowds test patience of neighbors

BY CARI HACHMANN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On what may have been one of the last warm nights before Portlanders turn in for the winter, a huge crowd showed up to revel in Last Thursday on Northeast Alberta Street last week, the final celebration of the spring and summer season when the street closes to accommodate the monthly event.

From hoola-hooping children and body-bending acro-

bats to native drum circles and dread-locked rappers, most everyone in attendance seemed well-entertained and all smiles.

According to Friends of Last Thursday, a grass roots organization formed a year and a half ago after the event turned controversial due to rowdy after-hours crowds disrupting surrounding neighbors; the event has become "increasingly mellow."

Police agreed the fair seemed to be winding down after the peak summer months.

Officer Curtis Chinn, standing at one of the street's crowded intersections, said the most common complaints are from the neighbors who are upset about noise, litter, illegal parking, and public urination.

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