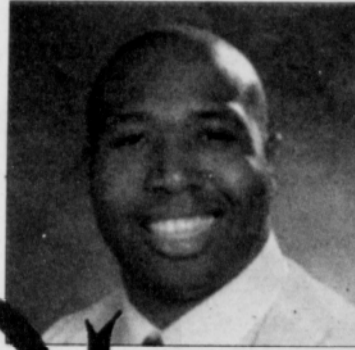




**Nothin' but  
the Blues**

*Esperanza Spalding  
and Thara Memory  
team up for benefit  
concert  
page 3, inside*

*Diversity Special Edition*



# The Portland Observer 43

'City of Roses'



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Established in 1970  
Committed to Cultural Diversity

years of  
community service



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ernest Richie gathers signatures to his petition outside of Matt Dishman Community Center in northeast Portland. He's part of an effort to permanently return relics from the center's historic Knott Street Boxing program to its former sole trophy display case.

## Fighting for History

Memorabilia from  
decades past  
cause friction  
at Matt Dishman

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The historic Matt Dishman Community Center in north Portland is the focal point of a battle that essentially questions the relevance of the celebrated relics of decades-past to the 63-year-old site's immediate future.

Matt Dishman's boxing program brought the national spotlight to Portland during the 1960s and 1970s after local fighters like Ray Lampkin Jr., Chuck Lincoln, Thad Spencer, and many others made the center one of the most successful amateur boxing programs in the country. Mostly African

Americans, they competed with the best fighters of the day, including renowned boxer Muhammad Ali to represent the United States of America in U.S. Boxing Trials and at the Olympics.

With the accomplishments came a number of accolades that are documented in historical write-ups from newspapers, to trophies and championship belts, all of which were once displayed prominently in the center's only display case.

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