

METRO *Life*

LIFE IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

The Portland Observer

Les Femmes Debs And Cavs... Growing To Be Men And Women...Phenomenally



Les femmes has trained 29 high school seniors for adulthood and is prepared to present them in their 42nd Annual Debutante and Cavalier Ball in June.

Les Femmes exists to improve the lives of African-American youth, while preparing them for life after high school. Students are encouraged to join the organization as young as the sixth grade, although most join while freshmen or sophomores in high school. All students in the program are required to maintain good grades, perform community service and adhere to a strict code of ethics.

As a reward for successfully completing these tasks each participant is challenged at a private "Rites of Passage" then presented at the formal ball after graduating from high school.

Each week through June, Les Femmes and the Portland Observer will feature three young people who were chosen as 1993 debutantes and cavaliers. This week meet Iana Amauba (Wilson High School), Colette Richey (Benson High School) and Craig

Spinks (Benson High School) who will share with you why they were "chosen."

Amauba--People would say that a debutante is many things. I say that she is a young lady who has not only shown you who she is, but can prove it to you. She has not only been taught what is right and wrong, but can understand and comply by these standards. A debutante is a young lady who has the finesse and determination to do anything and everything she sets her mind to.

So as it all fits together, the whole purpose of being a debutante is knowing yourself. After all the problems are realized and fixed, who I am and what I stand for will shine through like a diamond. Am I a debutante? Yes, I am.

Richey--As prospective debutantes and cavaliers we have been taught everything from how to set a table to how to secure funding for college. We have had the opportunity to hear black professionals from the community speak about different is-

issues. This is something I felt good about in particular because I know for a fact that these people are truly part of our community and serve as role models for us to look up to. This organization is relating much more to us than what I believe most people think. It is more than just teaching us social skills and graces, but shows us how to be caring, sharing and willing to lend a helping hand to some in need.

Spinks--To be a Cav means to "walk the walk." To be a Cav means to "talk the talk." To consider yourself a Cavalier you must understand the recipe: Manhood plus Responsibility equals Cavalier. I know I am a Cavalier because I epitomize all the characteristics and expectations of a man. Even though I'm not perfect, I'm an example. At this point I am considered a prospective Cavalier, because I have yet to survive "Rites of Passage," but this challenge I am ready to meet because I have demonstrated cavalier-like attributes. Point blank, if we had a check list on how to define a Cavalier, I would fit them all

New Guidelines For Diagnosis/Treatment Of Sickle Cell

A federally sponsored panel issued new guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of sickle cell disease, an inherited disorder that make children susceptible to infections and other potentially fatal complications.

The guidelines include a recommendation for universal screening of newborns, protective doses of penicillin to ward off infection and follow-up medical care.

Sickle cell disease is marked by crescent-shaped red blood cells. The most common form, sickle cell anemia, affects one out of 375 African-Americans, causing jaundice and abdominal, muscular and joints pain, skin ulcerations and gallstones. But the disease also occurs in people whose ancestors came from areas such as the Mediterranean basin, Arabian Peninsula, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The guidelines call for screening of all newborn babies for sickle cell disease. The guidelines also call for infants whose initial test reveals sickle cell anemia to be given prophylactic penicillin within two months of birth, even if the diagnosis has not been confirmed.

For free information write: Sickle Cell Disease, P.O. Box 8547, Silver Spring, Md. 20907, or call 1-800-358-9295.

Anne Waldman Appears At Northwest Service Center



Anne Waldman

Poet, editor, performer, wandering scholar and teacher Anne Waldman appears in a dew-claw Spoken Word Event at the Northwest Service Center, 1819 NW Everett on May 15. Waldman's presentation is co-sponsored by Powell's Books and the Mountain Writers Series, and begins at 7:pm. Tickets are \$10 and available at Powell's City of Books, 1005 SW Burnside, tickets can also be purchased by phone at (503) 228-4651.

In her life and work, Anne Waldman has traveled through realms of art and politics, mythology and warfare, and has developed an international reputation as a powerful performer of her work. Her collaborative performance include readings with William Burroughs, Diane di Prima,

Andrei Codrescu, John Giorno and Gary Snyder; with Allen Ginsberg, Waldman has performed extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe, including a recent Waldman/Ginsberg performance tour of Czechoslovakia.

In addition to her published work and performances, Waldman has been highly influential as an organizer and educator. As director of the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church-in-The-Bowery in New York, she arranged hundreds of poetry readings, during the '70s. She currently teaches full time at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado where along with Allen Ginsberg, she founded the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics. As director of that program she designs and organizes the poetics and writing programs at both the B.A. and M.F.A. levels.

The Library Journal says of Waldman: "The power of Waldman's poetry comes from the internal tension generated by conflict, between the celestial and the everyday, the public and the private, male and female, disclosure and secret."

Waldman's many books include *Nice to See You*, *Lokapala*, *Helping the Dreamer*, *Out of This World*, *Skin Meat Bones*, and her latest, *Iovis*, all of which will be available for purchase at the event. Waldman's May 14 reading will include musical accompaniment by cellist Glen Moore.

For more information about Anne Waldman's May 14 reading at the Northwest Service Center, please call Joanna Rose at (503)228-0540 Ex.241.

The Black Women's Gathering Features Conference On Leadership Development



Rose, Author, Clinical Sociologist, Professor of Sociology, Drew University, and workshops on Health, Business, Parenting, Art and much more.

Dr. Rodgers-Rose has lectured extensively throughout the United States on topics dealing with the Black woman, the Black family, stress management, youth motivation, school discipline, teenage pregnancy, parental readiness, school desegregation, Workforce 2000: Culture Diversity and Gender Issues, and self growth. Dr. Rodgers-Rose conducts a very popular workshop on Male/Female relationships.

She is also the author of *The Black Woman*, acclaimed as the most comprehensive social psychological book written on the Black woman. She is the author of *Health Awareness: Black Women in Crisis*. Dr. Rodgers-Rose has also co-authored with her brother, Dr. James T. Rodgers of *Strategies for Resolving Conflicts in Black Male and Female Relationships*.

There is no cost for the conference and childcare will be provided. All participants are requested to wear soft soled shoes. For more information call 282-7973.

Parents Anonymous of Oregon

Volunteers needed for Child Abuse Prevention Program at Waverly Childrens Home. Four hours of your time once a week can make a difference in the life of a family! To volunteer call Carole at 238-8819.

The 11th annual celebration of the Black Women's Gathering will be held on Saturday, May 8, 1993 from 9am to 6pm at the Salvation Army 5335 N. Williams Ave.

This year's gathering will feature a leadership development conference, entitled "The Hidden Leader Within You", which is being co-sponsored by the Black United Fund of Oregon. Highlights of the conference include: a noon time tribute to Gladys McCoy; keynote address by Dr. La Franics Rodgers-

Alvin Ailey In Portland May 5

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will be at the Portland Civic Auditorium 8pm on May 5. The 40 member company will present three works in their Portland appearance. Tickets are available thru Fastix.

Things are goin' on at Lee Owen Stone.



Lee Owen Stone Preschool is registering students for fall. We'll be closed for summer, so now's the time to register. There's art, dance, gym and music for kids age 2 1/2 to 5. Register now for some serious fun!

Lee Owen Stone
Cooperative Preschool

120 NE Knott, Portland 281 5882 or 282 6574
(Across from Matt Dishman Community Center)

Certified Teacher - Scholarships funded by Child Centered - The Black United Fund of Oregon - Multicultural / Multirethnic / Antirbias

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PDC
PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING

Date: May 12, 1993
Place: Portland Building
1120SW Fifth Ave., 11th Floor
Portland, Oregon
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC or by calling 823-3200. Citizens with disabilities may call 823-3232 or TDD 823-0868 for assistance at least 48 hours in advance.

PDC is the City of Portland's urban renewal, housing and economic development agency.

Legal Aide Services Part Five: Emergency Assistance

We've all had one of those days: the electricity is shut off, the rent is due, the kids are hungry and pay day is a long way off. Unfortunately for some, every day seems like "one of those days." But there is help for people coping with life's spitballs, through an Adult and Family Services program known as Emergency Assistance.

Emergency Assistance gives families with children up to \$350 to meet unexpected needs. If, however, your need springs from domestic violence, there is no limit to the amount of Emergency Assistance provided. You may qualify for this program if you are homeless, you are facing eviction or foreclosure on your home, your gas, electricity or water will be shut off or you cannot afford home repairs to fix a fire hazard or other threat to your health and safety. You are also eligible if you haven't enough money or food stamps to eat, are fleeing an abusive situation or require medical treatment with no way to pay doctor bills.

Not everyone facing these problems can get Emergency Assistance. To qualify, you must have a family with children, have a child living with relatives within the past six months or be a woman in their last month of pregnancy. You must also prove you don't have enough money or resources to meet the emergency and show the problem was beyond your control (unless you are a victim of domestic violence). If you're turned down, quit or caused yourself to be fired from a job without good cause within the past 30 days, you are not eligible.

AFS may ask for proof of your emergency, such as an eviction or utility shut-off notice. But no one type

of proof is required, and any proof that is clear and convincing will do, including a written statement from someone who knows what you're going through. You'll also have to prove the emergency was not your fault. For example, if you're broke because you quit your job, you would have to show you had "good cause" for leaving. "Good cause" may include illness, discrimination, dangerous working conditions, lack of childcare or transportation, among other reasons.

If AFS grants you Emergency Assistance, you can also seek money to cover other emergencies that crop up within 30 days after getting approval. But you cannot get more than \$350 within that 30-day period, unless you are victim of domestic violence. After 30 days have passed, you must wait 12 months before seeking Emergency Assistance again. If, however, the Emergency Assistance you received in the last year was from another state, you can still get it in Oregon. And the other state's money will not be subtracted from your \$350 limit.

To apply, go to the AFS branch office (welfare), and ask to fill out an application for Emergency Assistance. Before you apply, be sure you can explain why the emergency was not your fault. You can ask the person at the counter for the AFS Emergency Assistance flyer, which explains the program in detail.

If you are turned down for Emergency Assistance or get less money than you need, don't panic. You have options. First, ask for a written explanation of exactly why you were denied. If you disagree, ask to speak with the operations manager. If you don't get any further, request a hearing.

Emergency Assistance hearings must be held within five days of your request. The hearing officer must give you a decision within three days of the hearing. Also call Legal Aid's Welfare Rights Hotline at 241-4111. We can answer your questions, negotiate with AFS for you and, in some cases, represent you at our Emergency Assistance hearing.

You have a legal right to be seen and fill out the application right away. If a worker or receptionist turns you down, ask to talk to an operations manager. If your worker tells you he or she is too busy to talk to you or won't return your phone calls within a reasonable time, ask to talk to an operations manager or ask to file a grievance. You can also file a grievance if a worker or receptionist is rude or gives you the wrong information. Filing a grievance gives you the right to meet with the operations manager within eight working hours. If you're not satisfied with that meeting, you also have the right to speak with the senior operations manager within another eight working hours. If still not satisfied, you can ask to see the district manager at the Adult and Family Services District Office within another 16 working hours. Grievance forms are available at every AFS branch office.

Multnomah County Legal Aid Services provides legal advice and representation to low-income people living in Multnomah County who are having welfare problems. Appointments may be made by calling our North/Northeast Community Law Office (on the Portland Community College Cascade Campus) at 295-9494. For advice over the phone, call Legal Aid's Welfare Right Hotline at 241-4111.