

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

**SECTION B**

## Community Calendar

### Enjoy African Music, Jazz

Portland State University student groups are observing Black History Month with authentic African soukous music and jazz. L'Orchestre Afri-Sound of Seattle and Thara Memory and his super band, are the opening acts at a concert Friday in the PSU Smith Center Ballroom. Food, beer and wine will be available. Doors open at 8 p.m. with the starting at 8:30 p.m.

### Shakespeare Festival Opens

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival begins its 1996 season this month with four indoor plays: Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," Nagle Jackson's "Moliere Plays Paris," William Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" and Drury Pifer's Strindberg in Hollywood." Discounted preview performances begin Friday with the season officially opening Feb. 23. For tickets and information call (541) 482-4331.

### Foster Grandparents Needed

The Foster Grandparent Program is looking for older adults to work part time to help children who have special needs. Under the guidance of a supervisor, the foster grandparent would give individual attention and personal care to help children grow academically, socially and emotionally. Call 284-4322 for more information.

### Live Music On Stage

Mel Solomon and Boyd Small perform Friday and Saturday nights at the Tianon Restaurant and Lounge, 9225 S.W. Allen Blvd. Norman Sylvester takes the same stage on Feb. 23 and Feb. 24.

### Tax Help At Mall

The IRS and the Oregon Department of Revenue are teaming up with Tax-Aide volunteers to provide free income tax help. This Saturday, a special Mall Days program gives people an opportunity to ask questions and get information. The help is offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Portland at Beaverton Mall, Clackamas Town Center, Eastport Plaza, Jantzen Beach and Mall 205.

### Jackson Brown At Schnitzer

Jackson Browne performs in Portland on Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets are available at Fred Meyer FASTIXX Locations.

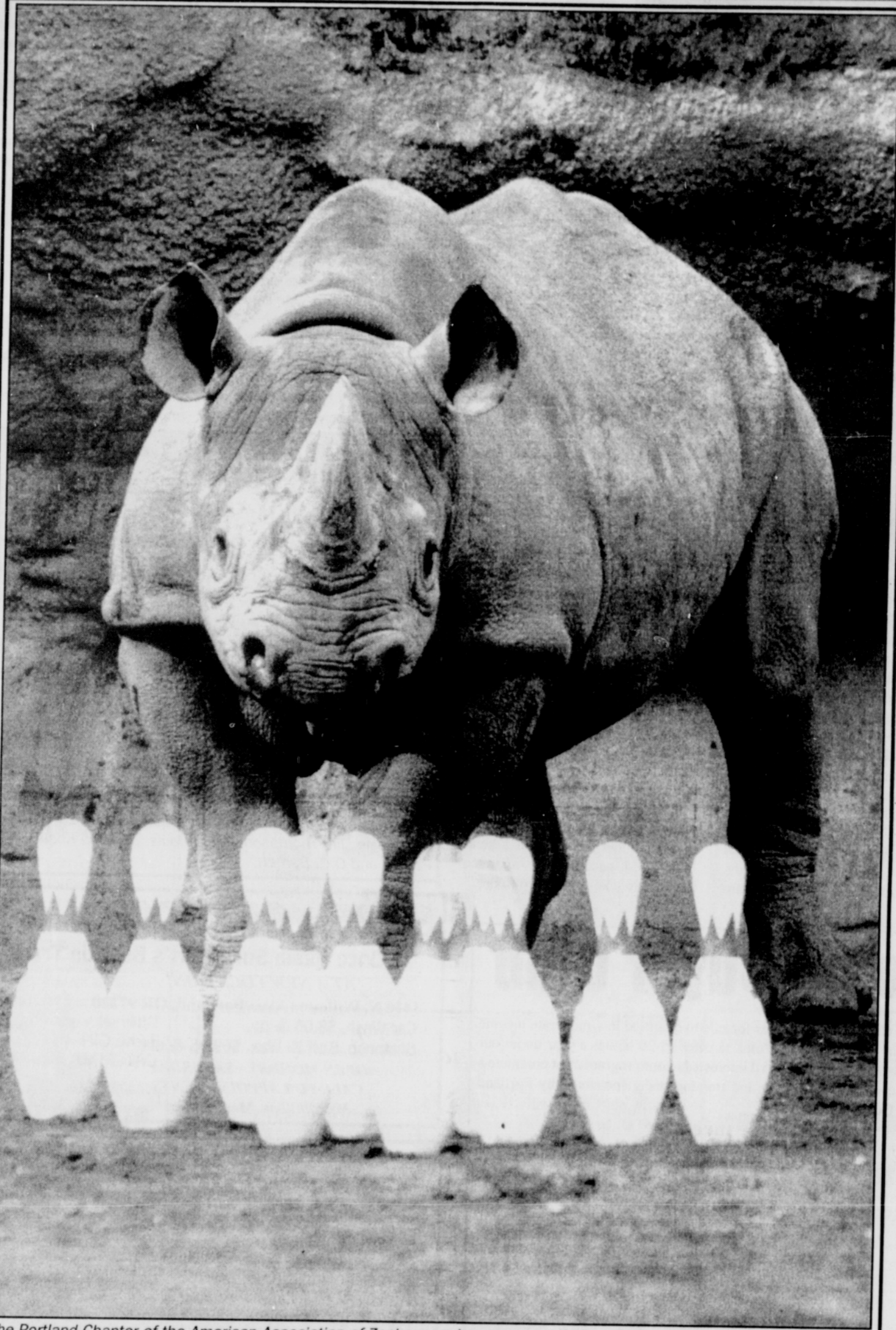
### Bridges Features Brewers Dinner

Bridges will hold the third in a series of monthly "brewers dinners" with a gourmet menu designed to complement a selection of BridgePort ales. A representative of the BridgePort Brewing Co. will discuss the "secrets" of Portland's best ales. Bridges is located at 2716 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Call 288-4169 for reservation.

### Water Center Sets Celebration

A pancake breakfast followed by family activities will highlight the grand opening of Vancouver's new Water Center on Saturday, Feb. 24. For more information call the Water Center at 696-8478.

**SUBMISSIONS:** Community Calendar information will be given priority if dated two weeks before the event date.



The Portland Chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers has announced plans for its annual Bowling for Rhinos fundraiser. Local bowlers can make a strike for conservation and win great prizes including a trip to Africa, during the event set for March 30 at Beaverton's Sunset Lanes.

## School Seniors Prepare For Honors

**F**rom the west hills of Portland, the cultural announcement - 1 Am A Man - will be made by 14 area high school seniors honored at The Cavalier Affair, a "Rites of Passage" annual celebration.

The event, held at the Pittock Mansion, Saturday, Feb. 24 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., will honor more than 50 African American high school students. However, the spotlight is on the 14 seniors who make their entrance into adulthood with a "Rites of Passage" announcement.

In the spirit of Black History Month, the affair promises to be a celebration of cultural expressions. Performances will include the Puget Sound Conference Youth Choir of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Cavalier step team.

The prospective Cavaliers will also give tributes to individuals or "community angels" who are improving the quality of life for African American youth.

According to Thomas Parham's "Black Men, An Endangered Species," 70 percent of all African American males will be unavailable to African American women by the year 2000. To combat this trend in the Portland area, the Les Femmes organization has been working with youth since 1951.

Les Femmes is comprised of African American women dedicated to the development of youth by creating a highly-structured program and encouraging their academic and social success. Each child who successfully completes the club's requirements is presented in the Les Femmes Annual Debutante and Cavalier Ball at the end of their senior year.

To specifically address the challenges of being an African American male, the club endorses a "Rites of Passage" curriculum in which all prospective Cavaliers participate. "Rites of Passage" is an African custom that marks the transition of bring a male adolescent to becoming a man.

By understanding and applying "the seven barometers of manhood" to their daily lives, the prospective Cavaliers are preparing themselves for adulthood and the rewards of being an African American man.

The seven barometers, identified in Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu's "Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys," are spirituality, scholarship, cultural awareness, community service, time spent with positive adults, respect and time management.

The affair is open to the public at no charge, although a \$25 donation is requested. To reserve your attendance or for more information, contact Kevin Fuller, director of Cavaliers at 294-4108.

## Coast Guard Rides Wave Of Diversity



More than 900 young men and women attend the Coast Guard Academy in London, Conn.

BY PROMISE KING

**A**rchie Chapman is the Coast Guard point man in Oregon and lower Washington state. His duty is to seek out qualified applicants especially among minorities for recruitment.

Chapman joined the force 21 years ago after his high school. And he's one of the few African-Americans in the service that has more than 39,000 active duty men and women nationwide.

"My experience has been very beneficial. It has taken me to Alaska, Europe and Asia,"

said Chapman.

For the next four years the Coast Guard, according to Chapman, is poised to become an organization that is recognized as the employer of choice for a diverse workforce.

Part of the force strategy is to develop a working and social environment in the Guard that is free from all forms of repression by recognizing and drawing strength from cultural differences and removing cultural barriers.

And to achieve this goal, Chapman explained, that the Coast Guard is changing the composition of its workforce to better reflect the nation's population.

"The Coast Guard is changing the workforce environment to guarantee equal treatment and opportunity. And part of the plan is to assign individuals, from groups targeted in diversity goals, to top management positions so they could compete successfully for flag offices and other selections," Chapman said.

The Guard is currently accepting applications. It requires recruits to have a high school diploma and be between the ages of 18-27 years old.

Training received from the force, according to Chapman, are accorded college credits.



Radioman is one of the 23 enlisted specialties available to active duty members of the Coast Guard.

The possibilities of continuing your academics, a \$14,000 college education fund, plus salary are part of the attraction that Chapman hopes will draw the best applicants.

The Coast Guard recruits about 3,400 men and women into its ranks yearly.