

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Gullah Images

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center presents Gullah Images: The Paintings of Jonathan Green. The paintings will be on view through March 28. Exhibition hours are Monday - Saturday from 10 AM - 6 PM. Admission is free. Call 823-2071.

### International Week

International Week at University of Portland focuses on cultural diversity. Cultural diversity will be highlighted during the University of Portland's International Week '98 through February 21. There will be traditional foods offered from representatives of Greece, Columbia, Thailand, Hawaii, Japan, and the Middle East. Performances by the African American Ballet, Milagro Baladores and the Murray School of Irish Dance. Call 283-7367.

### National Dance Festival

The Jefferson Dancers, the performing arm of a nationally-recognized dance program at Jefferson Performing and Visual Arts High School, in existence for over twenty years, have been selected to showcase two works at the National High School Dance Festival in Miami, Florida on March 26-29, 1998.

### Boy Scouts Save Dinosaurs

Know someone with a dinosaur in their closet? On March 7, folks in Oregon and Southwest Washington have the opportunity to save those dinosaurs too and the environment through Goodwill's 47th Annual Good Turn Day. During the last weekend of this month thousands of Scouts invite their neighbors to recycle their reusable clothing and housewares by donating them to a good cause. Good Turn Day is the largest used-goods collection drive of its kind anywhere in the nation.

### Irish Festival

Kells - Portland's Irish Restaurant and Pub are having the Kells Eighth Annual Portland St. Patrick's Irish Festival. This year's festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14 in downtown Portland. The streets around Kells on SW 2nd will be tented and filled to the brim with world renowned Celtic music from North America and Europe, Irish dancing, arts and crafts, pony rides, clowns, face painting and much more. Call 215-2228.

### Library Hotline

Reference help available through Library Hotline. Need information from an automobile Blue Book? An address and phone number for a relative in Nebraska? The correct spelling for a difficult word? Quick information from A to Z is available at 248-5234, the Multnomah County Library's Reference Line. Reference Line is available during Central Library's open hours except for Sundays. There is a limit of two questions per call. Call 248-5498.

### Get Your Library Card

"Get Carded," a countrywide drive to encourage middle school and high school students to get library cards, is currently under way. Students, teachers and other school personnel who sign up for a library card through March 20 will receive a "Get Carded" discount card good for special offers at several Portland-area businesses during the month of April. Call 736-6004.

### Jazz Gospel Celebration

Sunday, February 22nd, 6 PM - Augustana Lutheran Church at the corner of NE 15th and Knott (288-6174). This annual celebration will include poetry, dance and readings woven through Jazz and Gospel songs. Admission is free. A freewill offering will be taken. For more information, call 288-6174.

### See North Korea

Attend a talk and slide show presentation giving insight into some of the things that go on in North Korea with which few Americans are familiar. The event is on Tuesday, March 17 at 7:30 PM at the Galleria on SW 10th and Alder in Room 533. It is free to the public.

## Sean Waller Named Benson Football Coach

By NEIL HEILPERN

Look out Portland Interscholastic League! The blitz is coming back to Benson High School, with the selection of former Techman star Sean Waller as the new head football coach.

Waller is taking over the position held by his former coach Bill Dressell, who directed the Techmen for 21 years, retiring in November as one of the top 10 winningest coaches in Oregon.

"I was a linebacker and utility offensive player for him in 1980-81," Waller told The Portland Observer, recalling earning the most valuable player award in his senior years and making second team all state and all league in his junior and senior years.

Now, at 33, Waller wants to continue the Dressell tradition of hard hitting team players, both on and off the field. "I want to bring back excitement to Benson football and fill the stands."

"Our kids are performing to the best of their ability in the classroom and social environment as well as on the field," said Waller.

Last year the Techmen went 7 and 3, taking second in the league, bowing to the champs at Grant.

"Benson won the state championship in 1988, the first PIL team to win it in the 80s," he said. "I wasn't part of that staff."

"Benson is known for running a five two defense," said Waller, "but I'm a pressure person, and we'll do more blitzing to create turnovers with a more aggressive 4-2-3 defense to reflect my personality."

"When I went to school we were known for our Orange Crush defense, only giving up seven points a game. We are going back to that era, shutting everyone down and scoring points."

Waller said he will build a Techmen defense around line-backer Bill Fairly, defensive end Greg Lewallen and lineman

Brent McAllister.

On offense, he plans to transform Benson's traditional I-formation into "a multiple formation offense with a west coast attitude, spreading the field both horizontally and vertically with more short passing to the backs."

"Speed kills" will be the theme, he said. "I have five speedsters, all fast, skilled position players that can catch and run."

Waller mentioned Antjuan Tolbert, Benson's leading receiver; Devon Saahir, a 100 yards per game rusher; Jimi Henderson, "Our best possession receiver", Ryan Sharp, who is moving up from the JV program; and his own son JR Waller, last year's leading scorer who runs the 40 in 4.2 seconds.

Emphasizing "bigger and stronger," Waller envisions his players spending a lot of time in the weight room.

"I'm going to build community, increasing avenues for parents to get involved with a booster club," said Waller.

He red shirted at Linfield College, but a car accident stopped him cold, and he went into coaching. Last year his freshman program went 4-2 in league play, with a 4-4 overall. He has coached 11 years, including two sixth grade teams in Dayton and Oregon City.

Waller has been on the gridiron since age eight as a Pop Warner team player in Los Angeles.

"My mother has never seen me play, because of the violence in the sport, but she always asked about it."

At 12, he moved to Portland to live with his father, who "pulled me out of the program in the middle of the eighth grade because of my grades. That impacted how I raise my two children and athletes not earning at least a 2.3 grade point average must sign a contract before being allowed to continue in football."

CONTINUED TO PAGE B2



Former Benson High School football player Sean Waller, with his own most valuable player trophies, has been named Benson's new head football coach. (Photo By Neil Heilpern).

## AT&T Wireless Services' School Safety Program Gets Underway

Ten Portland Public Schools' elementary and middle school principals met yesterday at the Portland Public School District administration offices to receive AT&T Safe Schools phone training. The AT&T Safe Schools program provides schools nationwide access to digital wireless phones and free local airtime. Of the 1,000 schools across the United States that were awarded AT&T Safe School grants, fifty-two went to schools in Oregon and Southwest Washington, and ten of those were issued to Portland Public Schools. Awards were based on the school's level of need, the school meeting the defined limits of the program, and the availability of AT&T Wireless Service in the local area.

Principals participated in a training seminar with AT&T Wireless Services and Ericsson Mobile Phones to receive their phones and learn how to use them to assist their school's particular safety issues. Each school received two digital wireless phones and unlimited minutes of local airtime from AT&T Wireless Services.

The Portland Public School District is one of five school districts in Oregon and South-

west Washington selected to participate in the AT&T Safe Schools program. The program is designed to improve the learning atmosphere for students by increasing safety on and around school campuses.

"The districts we're working with, to tell us that one of the ways to improve student achievement is to help improve the environment in which students are trying to learn," said Neil Grubb, general manager of AT&T Wireless Services in Oregon and Southwest Washington. "We are thrilled that school officials believe our technology can indeed help improve student and teacher safety."

The AT&T Safe Schools program increases the safety of students in the classroom, on the playground and in a number of other school settings by providing phones to teachers and faculty to use in emergency situations. Safe School phones will be utilized in a variety of ways, including but not limited to: parent-volunteer school safety patrols, communications in portable classrooms which are situated in high-crime areas, medical emergencies during field trips and on playgrounds, etc.



Sheila Lang, principal of Capitol Hill Elementary in SW Portland, gets some personal training on her school's new digital wireless phones.



Principals from ten Portland elementary and middle schools participated in training seminar.

"The AT&T Safe Schools program will allow us to stay in communication with faculty at all times, especially during playground time," said Allison Couch, principal at Claredon Elementary in North Portland. "We have several students who have severe allergic reactions to bee stings. These phones will be beneficial to have quick contact with the office if the students were outside."

Grant recipients include Arleta Elementary, Capitol Hill Elementary, Chief Joseph Elementary, Claredon Elementary, William Clark Elementary, George Middle School, James John Elementary, Kenton Elementary, Metropolitan Learning Center and Skyline.

"Our school is part of the Urban Ecology Program with Portland State University where studies are held off school grounds," said David Masunaga, principal at George Middle School in North Portland. "These phones will allow our students who participate in these environmental studies quick access to the school in case of emergencies."

"With school budget cuts and lack of phone lines, this program provides the quick, vital

communications necessary at schools in a safety situation," said Lew Frederick, Portland Public Schools' Director of Public Information. "The AT&T Safe School program will play a great role in school security so that our children can study and learn in a safer environment."

The AT&T Safe Schools program is an outgrowth of the AT&T Learning Network, the company's \$150 million nationwide commitment to support teacher training and learning through innovative uses of technology. AT&T Safe Schools will be an on-going program and will issue grants on a school year basis. Schools interested in receiving an application by mail for the participating in the 1998-99 program year can call 1-888-482-9995.

AT&T Wireless Services, Inc., is the largest wireless carrier in the United States, serving nearly eight million customers. AT&T Wireless is a wholly owned subsidiary of AT&T Corp. (NYSE:T). AT&T Wireless provides wireless voice communications, data, in-flight phone services and advanced messaging.