

Martial Arts To Benefit Jefferson Arts Program

FOCUS

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Publisher

Chuck Washington

Editor

Larry J. Jackson, Sr.

Director of Advertising

Tony Washington

Copy Editor

Joy Ramos

Creative Director

Heather Fairchild

4747 NE Martin Luther
King, Jr., Blvd.
Portland, OR 97211

503-288-0033
Fax 503-288-0015

e-mail:
news@
portlandobserver.net

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1999 The Portland Observer

Portland's premier martial artists are kicking in to support the Jefferson Arts Magnet program, best known for the nationally acclaimed Jefferson Dancers.

"ArtForce," a performance of dance, music and martial arts, will be held at 4 PM Saturday, May 15, at Jefferson High School. Tickets for the event are \$10 for adults and \$5 for both seniors and children age 12

and under. All proceeds will benefit Jefferson's Performing and Visual Arts program.

According to Fred Locke, the Magnet Coordinator of Jefferson's arts program, budget cuts and the lack of stable funding remain a major concern for the entire program. The Jefferson Dancers were able to continue to perform this year only because of "a generous one-time grant of \$45,000 from

PGE/Enron." ArtForce will attempt to restore funding to parts of the program whose budgets have been cut.

"There is a natural connection between martial arts and dance," says Gil Johnson, head instructor at the School of Traditional Taekwon-do. "Both are concerned with movement that is at once structured and creative. And if you have seen the Jefferson Dancers, you know they excel because of the same discipline,

commitment and indomitable spirit that creates a black belt martial artist.

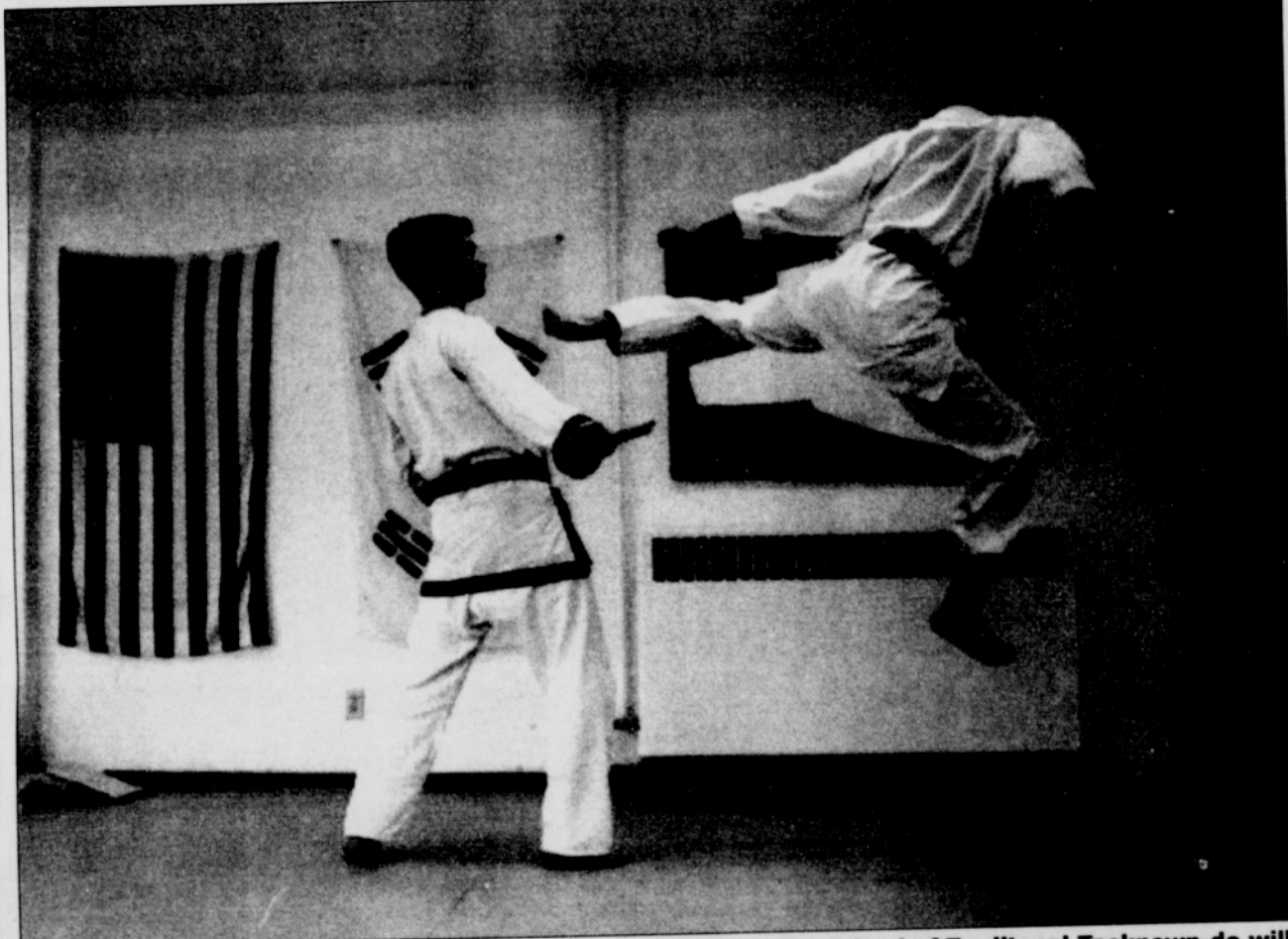
"When we learned that this valuable magnet arts program needed to replace lost funding, we decided to do our part," Johnson adds.

The ArtForce program will feature demonstrations of aikido, karate, kendo (Japanese sword art), kung fu, jujitsu, t'ai chi and taekwon-do. The talent of the magnet arts program will also be

displayed including performances by the Jefferson Dancers, directed by Julane Stites; the Modern Dance Lab, directed by Melissa St. Clair, and the Jefferson Jazz Combo, directed by Ronnye Harrison.

Participating martial arts schools include the Academy of Kung Fu, Garden Home T'ai Chi Center, Obukan Kendo Club, Portland Aikikai, the School of Traditional Taekwon-do and Traditional Okinawan Karate Group.

Proceeds from the event will go to the dance, music, television production, theatre and visual arts departments at Jefferson High School. Tickets will be sold at the high school and at the participating martial arts schools. For more information about purchasing tickets, contact Judy Sanford at Jefferson High School. Call 916-5180, ext. 503.



The high-flying students from the School of Traditional Taekwon-do will showcase their talents May 15 at ArtForce, a benefit for Jefferson High School's Magnet Arts programs. The School of Traditional Taekwon-do operates two schools serving the North and Northeast neighborhoods.

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The Jefferson Dancers

Concert A	May 6 & 8	8 PM
	May 8	2 PM
Concert B	May 7	8 PM
	May 9	2 PM
		7 PM

Newmark Theatre
Portland Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets Available at the
PCPA Box Office (1111 SW Broadway)
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\$16.50 14.50 10.50
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