

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE DEMOCRATS



By Lennie Edwards

As the 1999-2000 school year begins and the 90th class of seniors prepares to graduate from Jefferson High School, the school of champions and the school of pride, students will encounter year after reconstitution, returning Democrats find the same Principal, Lela Roberts and Vice Principals - Kevin Bacon, Ken Berry Curriculum and Performing Arts. They will also see most of last year's teachers return. A big change from the beginning of last year when familiar faces were few and far between.

Along with familiar faces, Jefferson students will have the same four specialized programs available for them: Performing Arts, providing

beginning instruction and professional training in Dance, Theater, Music and Television Production; the Financial Services Academy, Preparing students for work in the world of business and commerce through classwork, mentoring, site visits and work experience; the Health/Biotech Magnet, preparing students for medical related careers through advanced science courses, site visits, and partnership with OGSU, Legacy Emanuel and others;

and the Technical Opportunities Program, where students prepare for jobs in the carpentry, electrical, automotive and computer science and repair trades. In cooperation with Intel, Associated General Contractors, the City Of Portland and others, students who complete this program will be able to enter apprenticeship programs with earned credit after high school.

Students can look forward to the same support programs at Jeff such as Self Enhancement, Incorporated (SEI), whose on-site coordinators work with students and teachers to improve academic achievement. I Have a Dream has 14 Americorps volunteers in the building to work with the students to prepare them for their college experience. Project

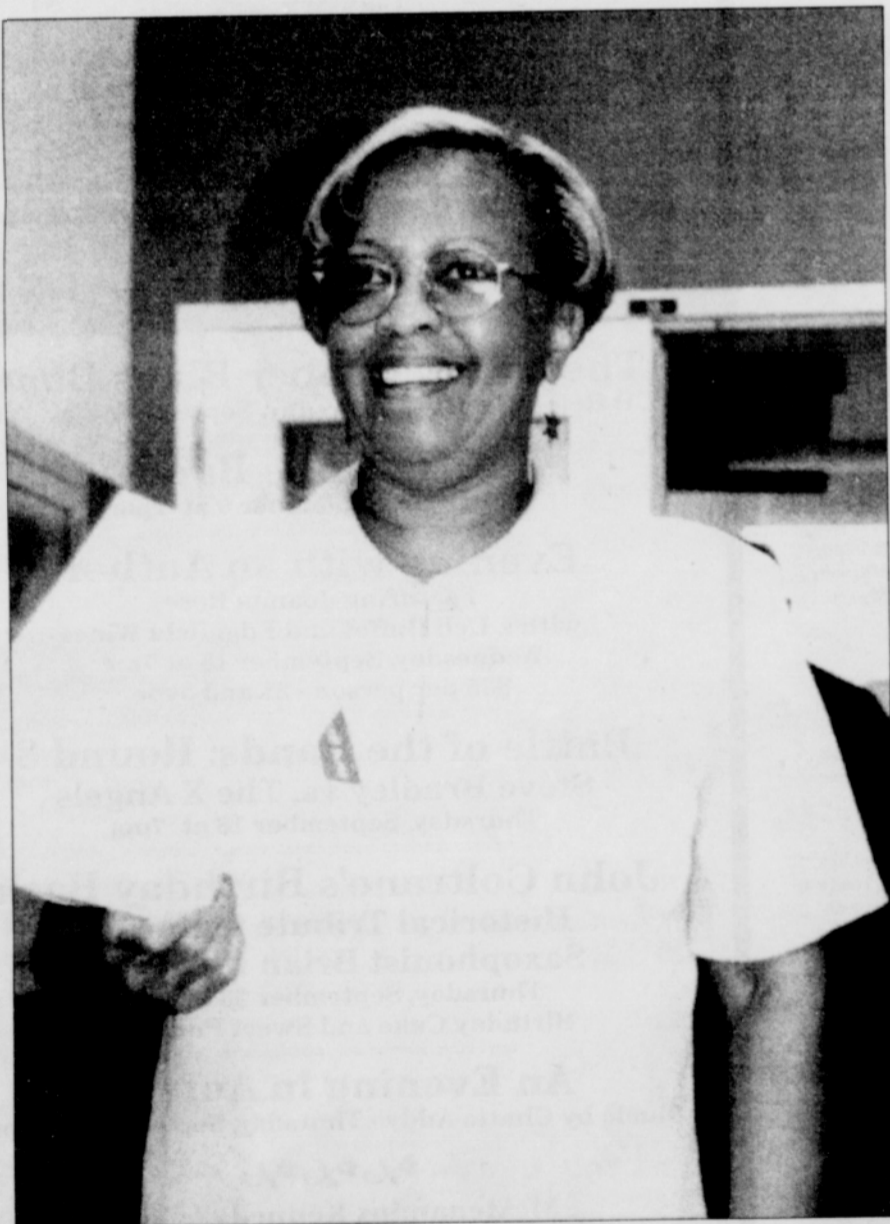
Plus is a college preparatory program that works with students who may not be part of the I Have a Dream program. The Betty Shabazz Academy works with freshman and sophomore girls providing mentoring and cultural experiences. Students will also enjoy the opportunity to be the latest in a long history of athletic champions when they participate in and engage Jeff's athletic program. For students wishing to play sports but unable to pay the \$90 fee, there are some fee waivers available. The Students Health Clinic will continue to provide health care on a confidential, free and sliding scale fee basis.

This year students will have a number of

new programs and opportunities available to them. A second foreign language, French, is being offered. Advanced Placement classes are now available in Chemistry, Art, History and English, giving college bound students the opportunity to go beyond the course work offered in the regular curriculum. For those working on preparing to meet State Benchmarks in math, the PLATO computer lab allows students to work on self-paced modules designed to teach and reinforce those basic skills on which they will be tested. While the Sylvan Reading Lab will still be in operation for 9th

and 10th grade students seeking to improve reading skills to meet the State Benchmarks, an additional Corrective Reading program is in place for students needing extra help. Also new are the hours of the school day. This year the school day is 8:15-3:00, still with 4 academic blocks but with a ten minute rather than a five minute passing time.

The Renaissance Incentive Program headed by Raina Beavers, host of NorthEast Spectrum, is designed to reward students for doing the right things. Ms Beavers is not looking at a top down program, "the ...plan is to develop and implement



Photos by M. Washington

For over 80 years, Jefferson High School has educated Portland's young people. In 1974, Jefferson was designated a magnet high schools, offering a specialized performing arts program to students throughout the city. Combined, the Performing Arts Program with the Financial Services Academy, Health/Biotech Magnet and Technical Opportunities Program make the school a trendsetter in education. Jefferson's current principal is Lela Roberts (shown above).

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