

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

Forum of Radical Women

Women say "Basta!" to U.S. Foreign Policies. Local organizers will report on the current struggles women are waging against the brutal impacts of U.S. foreign policies. The public forum will be at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. An international buffet will be served at 6 p.m. with a donation. Low-income and work exchange is available. For childcare, rides, or more information, call 503-228-3090.

Weatherization Workshop

Don't let your heating bills take you hostage. Come to a workshop and learn how to save energy through material installation, behavioral changes and simple maintenance around your home. Qualified participants receive a free kit of materials worth \$150. The next workshop will be at the Dishman Community Center, located at 77 N.E. Knott on Tuesday, Oct. 2, from 6-8 p.m. Call 503-284-6827.

Elders in Action Commission

The Elders in Action Commission invited interested citizens to join them at their monthly meeting. Hot topics on the agenda include: Senior Forum hosted by Elders in Action and Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey. The event will be on Wednesday, Sept. 19, from 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call 503-823-5269.

Women of Achievement

The Annual Women of Achievement Award is a semi-formal gala attended by politicians, corporate principles and citizens who support women's rights. Their dinner reception and silent auction will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel Lloyd Center in the Lloyd Center Ballroom, located at 1000 N.E. Multnomah. Call 503-725-5889.

Year Begins for New Catholic High School

Minority kids make up 50 percent of new De La Salle North Catholic student body

De La Salle North Catholic has opened its doors to 71 ninth graders, beginning the return of a catholic high school serving north and northeast Portland.

Located in the former Queen of Peace Elementary School at 7600 N. Delaware, La Salle North is a co-educational, college preparatory high school comprised of a 50 percent minority student body.

Catholics in north and northeast Portland have waited for a new school since North Catholic High School burned to the ground on July 14, 1970.

The new school is the first in the county to replicate a unique approach to education found at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago, Ill.

All students work one day a week in full-time, entry-level clerical positions for businesses around the Portland area.

The school day and the school year are longer to complete the proper number of instructional hours. The students learn valuable work and life skills while earning 71 percent of the cost of their education.

Efforts are underway to replicate this model in low-income areas in seven other cities across the country, including Austin, Boston, Cleveland, Denver, Los Angeles, New York and Tucson.

The effort to create these schools is being funded in part by the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation, a \$22 million fund established by B.J. Cassin, a California Venture Capitalist and the Chairman of Cerus, a biotech company in Silicon Valley.

Local corporate sponsors include: Nike, Providence Health System, MKG Marketing, Guardian Property Management, Rails Credit Union, Archdiocese of Portland, University Of Portland, Pacific Northwest Title, Chrome Data, Ronald McDonald House and Schwabe, Williamson, & Wyatt.



The De La Salle North Catholic Choir performs during the opening celebration for a new high school serving kids mostly from north and northeast Portland.

The former grade school at the Queen of Peace Parish, 7600 N. Delaware, is the new Catholic high school in north Portland.

PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Fall Color in Drinking Water

Have you noticed a slight color change in the drinking water at the tap?

Portland Water Bureau officials say a pale tint is typical for the Bull Run supply during the fall when seasonal variations occur in the unfiltered water supply.

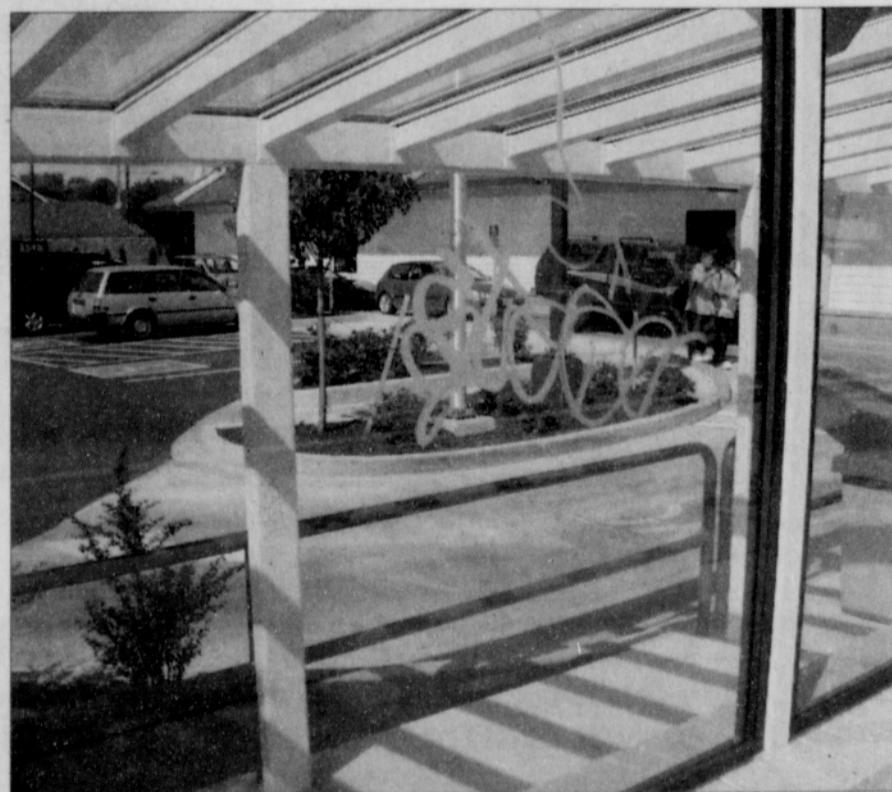
Each summer the reservoirs start brim-full and lower until the rains come again in the fall.

As a result, the two large reservoir lakes are lower in the fall than at other times of the year. Streams flowing into the reservoirs travel farther along the creek beds to reach the reservoirs, running through sediments that are not exposed in other seasons. This can add color to the water.

"We get some calls about color every fall," acknowledges Mort Anoushiravani, interim administrator of the Portland Water Bureau, "but the color only affects the appearance of the water, it does not affect the taste or the quality. Our water continues to meet all state and federal standards for safe drinking water."

"We monitor routinely for all water quality standards. It's likely we will continue to see some color in the water until fall rains refill our reservoirs in the coming weeks," he said.

New Vandalism Blight Brings Acid Etched Graffiti



BY SEAN P. NELSON,
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

North Portland resident Dennis Kemple rises at 3 a.m. a few times each week to fight an increasingly troublesome problem in his Peninsula neighborhood.

He works until 6 a.m., as he has for the past 13 years, as a volunteer to rid the area of vandalism.

Kemple still remembers his first encounter with acid etched graffiti, a milky white graffiti left by taggers in the area.

"I put my hands on it and it was sticky,"

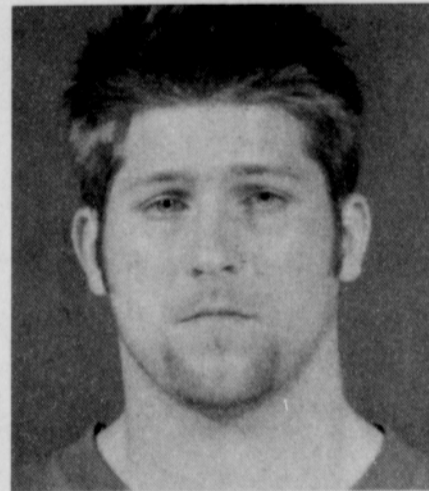
he said. "My fingers were burned."

Kemple worries that the same fate may befall others.

He read about another case on the Internet involving a man who literally lost his leg and died from blood poisoning caused by the acid.

"The chemicals in the acid act like a pain killer to where you really don't know it's working and causing complications," he said.

City of Portland Graffiti Prevention Coordinator Hugh McDowell said the



Travis Wallender (above) is charged with acid etching vandalism in SE Portland. An example of the milky white acid that's nearly impossible to remove is found etched into the glass at a McDonalds Restaurant on North Lombard.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

materials in acid creams are hazardous and dangerous.

Taggers put the cream on the surface and it burns itself into the glass. Artists have been using it to etch glass for years.

But while regular graffiti often can be removed with solvents, acid etched graffiti leaves a milky white stain that is next to impossible to remove.

"We're seeing a proliferation of it all over the city at this point," McDowell said.

Acid etched graffiti is considered crimi-

nal mischief, legally defined as causing substantial inconvenience to the owner, and tampering or interfering with the property of another, and having no right to do so.

If there is less than \$100 worth of damage the offense is a class C misdemeanor. Anywhere from \$100 to \$750 worth of damage is a class A misdemeanor. More than \$750 is a class C felony.

Penalties range from community service and public apologies to up to 24 months jail time.

Suspect Arrested, Another Sought

The Portland Police Bureau is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for the arrest of a second suspect involved in a spree of spraying acid etched graffiti on businesses on Southeast Belmont.

The Aug. 16 vandalism caused \$15,000-\$20,000 worth of damage, mostly to windows.

Police Officer Teresa Utke of Southeast Precinct's Neighborhood Response Team was able to arrest one of the suspects while patrolling on the morning after the destruction.

Travis Wallender, 24, has been charged with 11 counts of criminal mischief in connection with the case.

"Based on my experience with graffiti culture, I recognized one of the tags and called in that I had probable cause to arrest the suspect," the police officer said.

Police say anyone with information about the case may call 503-823-2143 and your identity will be kept confidential.