

# Focus

## Jefferson's Other Dance Group

Dance Lab to thrill audiences with energetic, multi-ethnic shows

Many people have heard of the nationally acclaimed Jefferson Dancers—a dance company at Jefferson High School. What people may not know is that there is another equally vital

and exciting training ground for students interested in the art of movement and dance at Jefferson: The Modern Dance Lab.

Local audiences will be thrilled at this creative, high-energy, multi-ethnic dance troupe at their upcoming performances on Thursday, May 15 and Friday, May 16 at 7 p.m. in the Jefferson High School Auditorium, 5210 N. Kerby.

"You won't want to miss seeing these wonderful dancers in action," says Aaron Wheeler—



Performances by the Modern Dance Lab at Jefferson High School take place in the north Portland school auditorium on Thursday and Friday nights.

Kay formerly with Do Jump Theatre. "They'll bring you cheering to your feet."

Each evening's program will be wide-ranging from upbeat, dynamic hip hop to haunting contemporary dances.

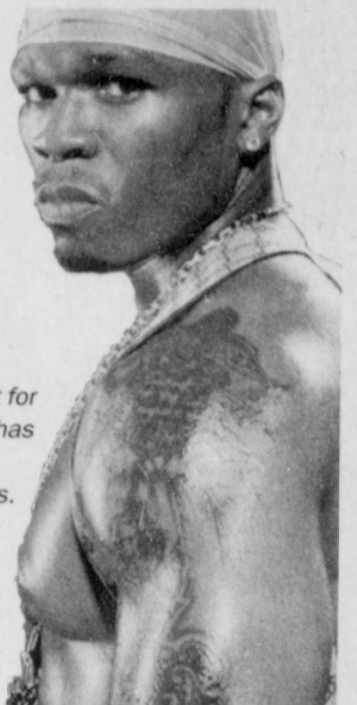
The performances will include an African courtship dance celebrated at full moon and accompanied by local drummer and cho-

reographer Derrell Sekou Walker. Choreography for the dances is set by four former Jefferson High School dancers, Eric Skinner of BodyVox, and the dance lab's internationally acclaimed Artistic Director, Melissa St. Clair.

Doors for both performances open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets at the door are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students with ID, senior citizens and children five years old or younger. For more information, call St. Clair at 503-916-5180.

## Unpaid Surgery Hounds 50 Cent

A surgeon who treated 50 Cent for bullet wounds three years ago has sued the rapper for more than \$32,000 in unpaid medical bills. Nader Paksima says in papers filed in Manhattan's State Supreme Court last week that he operated on 50 Cent (born Curtis Jackson) in May 2000 for several gunshot wounds.



## Funk Brothers Find New Fame



Funk Brothers, Joe Hunter (from left), Eddie Willis, and Joe Messina comprised the house band that played on most of Motown's biggest hits and are credited with helping create the Motown sound. (AP Photo)

Motown originals rebound out of obscurity

(AP)—Jack Ashford of the Funk Brothers, the Motown band that was the subject of a recent documentary, says band members haven't heard from any of Motown's big stars in years. "And don't expect to hear from any of them," the percussionist said. "We never think about those people. Their names never come up."

The Funk Brothers were the house band that played on most of Motown's biggest hits and are credited with helping create the Motown sound. They toiled in obscurity behind stars such as Smokey Robinson and Stevie Wonder. The group disbanded when the label moved from Detroit to Los Angeles three decades ago, without any notice from

Motown. But the Funk Brothers are enjoying newfound fame with the documentary "Standing in the Shadows of Motown," which was released in November. The DVD of the documentary was released earlier this week.

Music from the film netted the group two Grammys in February.

Ashford said despite their recent success, none of Motown's former stars have tried to reach out to them, even Wonder, of whom

*There's a lot of closure here. Whatever bitterness may have existed 30 years ago on the way we have been treated, that's gone.*

— Funk Brothers percussionist Jack Ashford

Ashford says: "We only taught him half the stuff we knew."

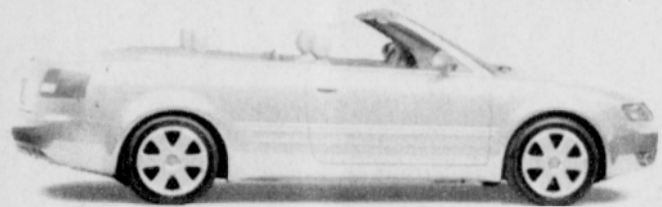
However, Ashford says the group holds no grudges against the Motown greats.

"There's a lot of closure here," he said. "Whatever bitterness may have existed 30 years ago on the way we have been treated, that's gone."

## The Portland Observer World of Autos

REVIEWS ON EXCITING NEW VEHICLES BY THE WORLD'S LEADING MANUFACTURERS

### 2003 Audi A4 Convertible



Price tested.....\$46,585.00  
Engine.....3.0 liter dohc 30-valve V6  
Transmission.....5-speed automatic with Tiptronic

Audi steps-up to the plate with the A4 Cabriolet to be in the running for a benchmark sports sedan. It offers a high-quality driving experience. The engine is powerful and offers a smooth ride from acceleration to braking. But be careful because when making a quick dart out in to traffic the tires will let you know the power hidden under the engine by letting out a little squeal. The five speed automatic Tiptronic transmission communicates well with the V6 engine offering reactive performance. The suspension is firm, smooth and ready for the driver to test. It maneuvers quickly through the traffic delivering a balance of crisp handling and ride comfort. The A4 comes if fully loaded with all the amenities, however the center armrest/cup holder is in the way and too far back to be convenient. The convertible top easy one touch operation with a compartment that automatically opens to store the top makes it a pleasure to drop the top. Normally I would not like the trunk space because it would be too small, however the convertible compartment turns 180 degrees to make the trunk bigger if the top is not in use. Audi has made the A4 Cabriolet a practical package with excellent performance. A4 is staying strong in sales even with all the competition. I can say that first impressions are not always correct sometimes it just takes a little longer to enjoy the full experience of a automobile. I suggest that you take the A4 for an extensive test ride.

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## Vandross Breathing on His Own



Luther Vandross is struggling to survive after an April 16 stroke. The Grammy-winning singer

remains in intensive care and has not regained consciousness. (AP Photo)

(AP)—Luther Vandross, who had a tube inserted in his throat to help him breathe after a stroke, is breathing on his own, his publicist said last Thursday.

However, the Grammy-winning singer remains in intensive care and has not regained consciousness since the April 16 stroke, publicist Lois Najarian said.

"There's been no radical change in his condition," she told The Associated Press.

# BOOKIES

Thurs:  
**Soul Food** Music, Poetry & Food for the Soul

This Saturday...  
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9pm - 2am \$5  
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89.1 Jimmy Mak's, NW 10th & Everett, 503-295-6542 for details.

**IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!**

Portland Public Schools needs a positive change in leadership and direction. There is an opportunity to make this change happen with the May 20th election of four new School Board members.

The members of Portland Association of Teachers strongly recommend the following candidates:

**RICHARD GARRETT\*\*JOHN BALL  
DAVID WYNDE\*\*EAMON MOLLOY**

Please vote and return your ballot right away.  
Thank you from your Portland teachers.