

# METRO

The Portland Observer



## Love and Diane, an Urban Portrait

A documentary featuring Love Hinson and her family surviving in poverty.

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SECTION **B**

### Community Calendar

#### Fundraise for PALS

The Police Activities League, which serves youth in Portland and Gresham, is sponsoring its 8th annual PAL Campaign for Cops Helping Kids dinner auction benefiting PAL at 5:30 p.m. May 8 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. For more information, call 503-823-0250.

#### Valuable Discussion

A talk about Values, Cultures and Conflict is at 6 p.m. April 6 at WomanTree Resource Center, 2641 N.E. Alberta St. Tickets, ranging from \$1 to \$5, are on a sliding scale. For more information, visit [www.womantree.org](http://www.womantree.org).

#### Benefit Laughter

ComedySportz hosts a benefit show for the Portland Tillamook Cooperative Preschool at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 17 at 1963 N.W. Kearney Street. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 503-236-8888.

#### Get Involved!

A Black Museum committee meeting is at Sylvias, 1301 N.E. Dekum from 1 to 3 p.m. April 3. For more information, call 503-284-0617.

#### Bunny Love

The Oregon Human Society is open Easter Sunday, April 11, for Easter bunny adoptions and a lesson on how bunnies make great pets. The Easter Bunny will be there from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 503-285-7722 or visit [www.oregonhumans.org](http://www.oregonhumans.org).

#### Hospice Training

Kaiser Permanente is offering free training to adults interested in providing physical and emotional support to terminally ill patients. The trainings are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9:30 p.m., from April 27 through May 13. For more information, call 503-499-5285.

#### Bloomfest

Easter Seals Oregon announces BloomFest from April 6-10, asking volunteers to coordinate and sell fresh-cut tulip bunches for \$5. For more information, call 503-228-5108 ext. 317.

#### Interest in Adoption?

A free information meeting for prospective adoptive parents held the third Wednesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Belmont Public Library, 1038 S.E. 39th Ave. For more information, call 503-226-4870 or visit [www.openadopt.com](http://www.openadopt.com).

#### Reunion Watch

Former students and faculty of Girls Polytechnic, James Monroe and Washington-Monroe high schools have the 66th annual all-school dinner at 5 p.m. Monday, April 12 at Our Lady of Sorrows School, 5239 S.E. Woodstock Blvd. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 503-236-6557.

#### Packy Turns 40

Packy, the Oregon Zoo's elephant which became nationally renowned as the first Asian elephant born in the Western Hemisphere in more than 44 years, celebrates his 40th birthday with a cake stomping from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 14. Come by to sing happy birthday to Packy, and have a piece of cake for yourself. For more information, visit [www.oregonzoo.com](http://www.oregonzoo.com).

#### Trees Need Friends

Friends of Trees will plant trees and shrubs in the Piedmont and Cathedral Park/St. Johns neighborhoods on March 27, and in the Goose Hollow and Montavilla neighborhoods on April 3. If you want to be a help to your community and environment, call 503-284-TREE or visit [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org).

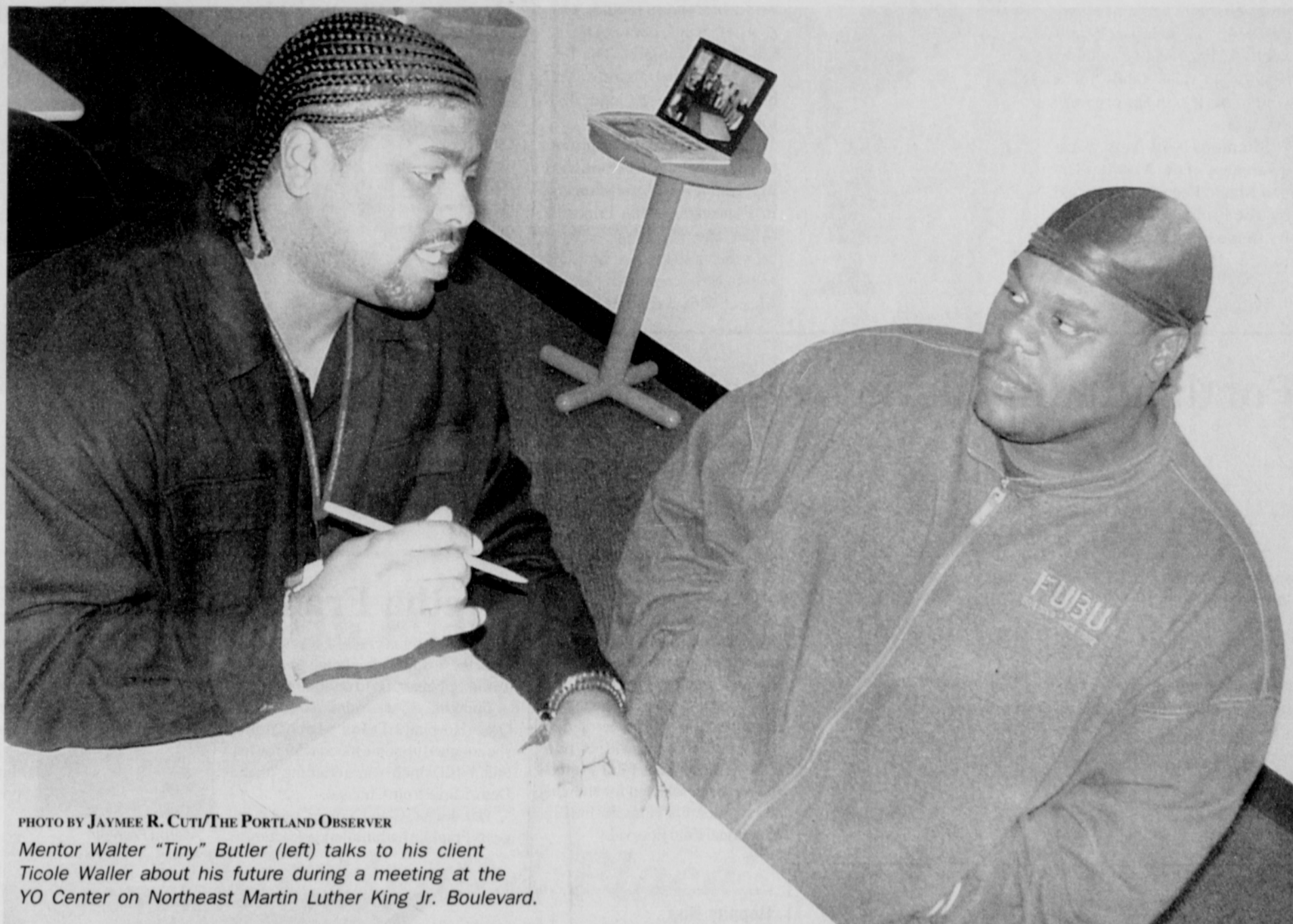


PHOTO BY JAYMEE R. CUTI/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mentor Walter "Tiny" Butler (left) talks to his client Nicole Waller about his future during a meeting at the YO Center on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

## LENDING A SHOULDER

### Community mentors change lives

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

If it takes a village to raise a child, mentors say they are preparing young people to take their place in that village.

Harold Williams and Walter "Tiny" Butler often see kids who are mixed up in gangs, crime and problems at home. They are community mentors, working through community organizations such as CH2A, Commu-

nities of Color, Janus Youth Programs and the YO Center.

From the looks of their towering statures, one might expect these men to coach or play professional sports, but these gentle giants have dedicated their lives to Portland's kids.

Williams and Butler say their approach to mentoring is holistic.

"It's kind of hard to just deal with the client and not to deal with the other issues in his life," Williams said. "It kind of trickles down."

Often, mentors find themselves connecting entire families with counseling, housing

needs or job opportunities.

Many of the clients Williams and Butler work with are assigned through the Oregon Youth Authority or by probation officers.

"We wanted to give kids somebody who would be in their corner when their corner was empty," said Butler.

High school and middle school-aged clients come to them with problems ranging from homelessness and a lack of education to drugs, alcohol and gang involvement, they say.

Williams is a lifelong Portland resident and Jefferson High School graduate. He

says his former coaches in track, wrestling, football, golf and Midnight Basketball helped show him the value of mentors.

Butler mentors to give back to his community. A Madison High School graduate, Butler found himself in trouble and in jail for what he calls "bad choices."

"I want to make sure kids don't go through some of the things I went through," he says.

Ticole Waller, 22, has been Butler's client for three years through the YO Center in northeast Portland.

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## Candidate Pledges Support for Minorities

### Woodlawn resident runs for state representative

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A neighborhood activist wants to build ties to the local African-American community in her pledge to support minority issues in a race for state representative.

Tina Kotek promises to build the necessary relationships and coalitions to champion smart public policies in the State Legislature that are important to local residents. She is running for election in the May Democratic Primary for House District 43, representing north and northeast Portland.

Kotek's central campaign theme is making a positive difference for children and families. The effort meshes with her job experience as policy director for Children First for Oregon, a non-profit children's advocacy group, and as a public policy advocate for the Oregon Food Bank.

She said her district needs an experienced activist like herself to promote health care, affordable childcare and getting at the root causes of hunger.

"No family should be left out," she said. Kotek moved to northeast Portland three

years ago, lured by an affordable home in her Woodlawn neighborhood and a diverse community. A native of Washington, D.C., she fell in love with Oregon after enrolling at the University of Oregon in Eugene in the late 80s.

Kotek serves as secretary and land use chair for her Woodlawn Neighborhood Association. She previously served in the Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood Association of southeast Portland.

She promotes the revitalization of local



Tina Kotek wants to represent north and northeast Portland in Salem.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

neighborhoods, but not the economic consequences when minority and low-income populations are driven out, a process often referred to as gentrification.

"Revitalization is important, but we want to keep the diversity," she said.

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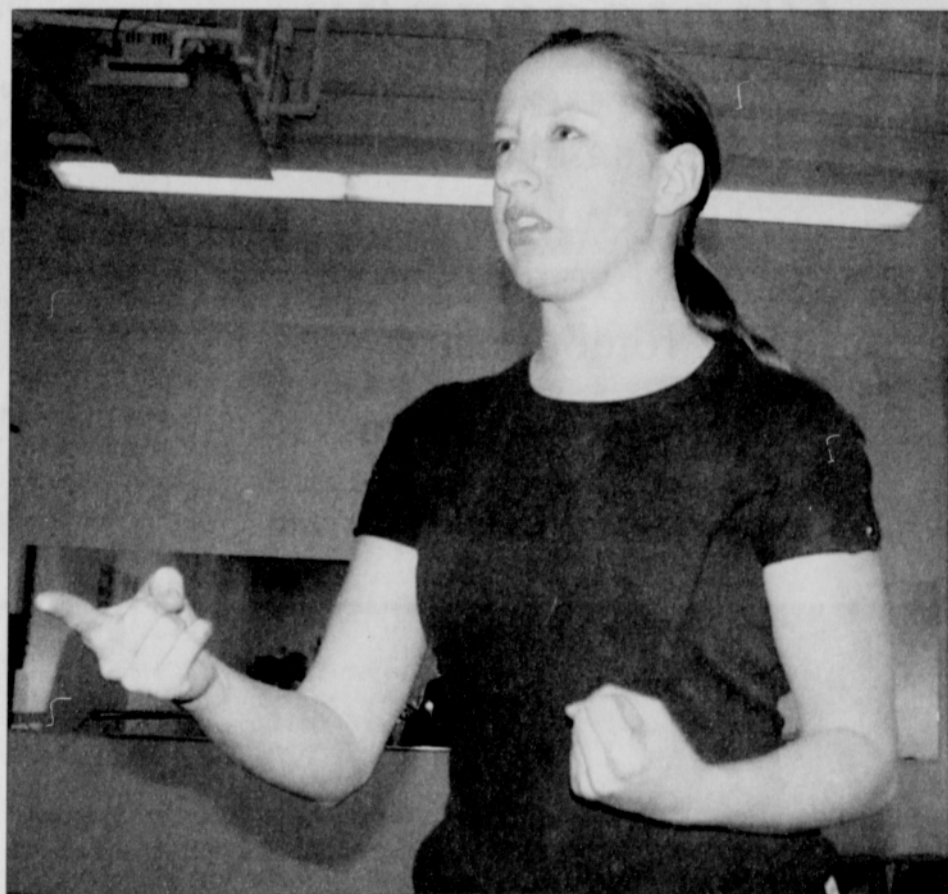


PHOTO BY JAYMEE R. CUTI/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

WomenStrength instructor Brooke Brown simulates an aggressive stance to take when approached by a stranger.

## Women Find Strength

### Free self defense class empowers participants

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The reasons that brought more than 20 women together for a free self-defense class were as diverse as the women themselves. Some attended the three-part

WomenStrength series to participate in programs empowering women. For others, they have been victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse themselves, and want to learn skills to break that pattern.

WomenStrength, a program funded through the Portland Police Bureau, has been active in Portland since 1979, educating and training women to defend themselves from attackers. The strength of the

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