



PHOTO BY BASIL CHILDERS

The Jefferson Dancers gracefully bounce, kick and jump their way through a recent performance.

Jefferson Dancers Take Stage

Facing budget cuts at Jefferson High School next year, 24 youth in the Jefferson Dancers will be looking to keep the organization open anyway they can.

Opening night of the Jefferson Dancer's Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 4 will feature a fund-raising gala to help make up

some of these losses. The event, featuring a variety of dance styles, will be held at 6 p.m. in Brunish Hall on the fourth floor at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts.

Subsequent performances will be held Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at

2 p.m. at the Newmark Theater, also located at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts on Southwest Broadway and Main Streets.

Tickets are priced at \$11.50, \$16 and \$20 and are available through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

Hoping for a Second Chance

continued from Front

Some of the schools I've been to, if we get out at 3:45, at 3:46, the parking lot is clear."

White said staffing is one of the biggest improvements for the school.

He said more than 70 other discrepancies found by the state are "being worked on with vigor."

"We have to get all of our policies in place and we're working on that with a school improvement plan," he said, mentioning the use of a consultant to work on every single item named.

Closure of the school would mean more than losing a desk in a classroom.

"Our students are really attached to our school. They're attached to our teachers and staff. It's a special relationship. I've been all over the district and I haven't seen anything better," White said.

Susan Roberts, mother of a seventh grader at Victory, has been a volunteer at the school since its inception two years ago.

"My perception of the difference between this year and the last year is not only my perception, but also of contractors and visitors to the school. There's been an immense difference in student behavior," Roberts said. "I've had one contractor say to me this is like night and day. The current staff is amazing. They look at the whole child rather than just the academic side or what they want the students to fall into."

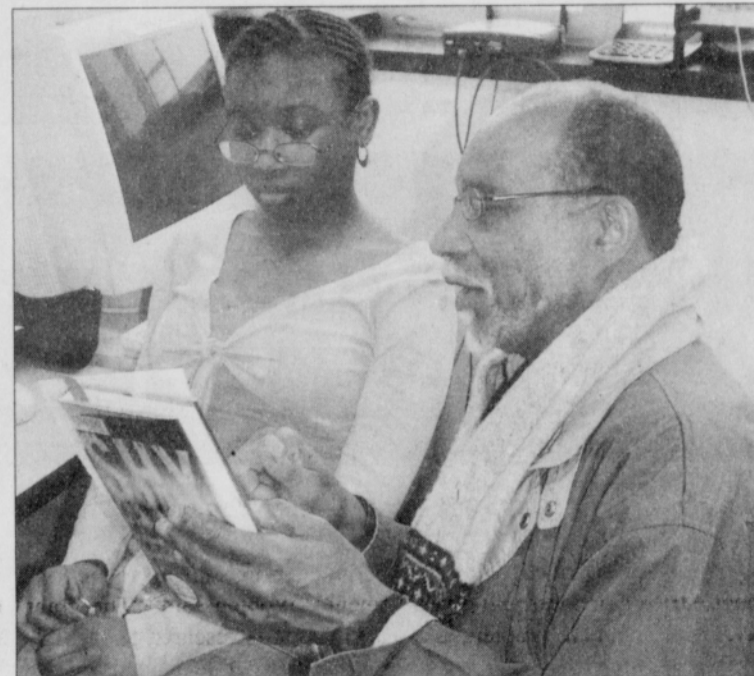


PHOTO BY KATHERINE KOVACICH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Maceo Pettis, a volunteer classroom assistant, helps sixth grader Chevona McDole with a computer project at Victory Middle School. "Some of these kids are struggling," Pettis said. "They need as much encouragement as you can give them."

They love the kids, they spend time just talking with them as well as growing with them academically."

Roberts said she chose to have her son attend Victory because "the public schools in our community have not taken care of business for a long time. I was looking for somewhere he could grow. The current staff totally believes in them and have high expectations."

She mentions an example of a student she knows at Victory that's undergone a dynamic change in the last year.

"He had no desire to participate. He was continually in altercations. His attitude was very angry," Roberts said. "This year when I walked in and saw him voluntarily at Homework Club, that was a major milestone."

She said White has made a major difference in the feel of the school and non-renewal of the school's charter would be devastating.

"It's more like a family here," she said. "We spend so much time everyday together, most of us are here more than we are with our biological families."

Dear Deanna!

I'm in my last year of high school and one of my girlfriends is ready to quit during senior year. She's stressing and going through drama over a boy that used her for sex. She doesn't want to come to school because she can't stand the sight of seeing him with another girl. How can I convince her that he's not worth sacrificing her education? -Gladys; Natchez, MS

Dear Gladys:

Slap her upside her head to knock the sense back into her. Your friend is going through the vulnerable stage of puppy love although she's been dogged by a wolf. Help her make an appointment with your school guidance counselor as well as encourage her to talk to her parents. Continue to be a good friend and encourage her to hang in there because without that diploma, she'll join the ranks of unemployment, welfare and if she's lucky—flipping burgers.

Dear Deanna!

My husband of 7 years left me for a younger woman. He dogged me and broke my heart but I'm over it. The problem is now with this woman. He's putting her through the same drama he put me through and she calls me for advice. The



Ask Deanna!

Real People, Real Advice
An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!

first time I tolerated her because she caught me off guard. I'm at the point where I'm ready to tell her she reaped what she sowed but I can't do it. Why? --Leslie; Boston

Dear Leslie:

You can definitely say she got what she deserved. I guess your husband saw the grass wasn't greener on the other side. When she calls again, let her know in your sweetest voice you appreciate her seeking your advice but you had enough drama from both of them to last a lifetime. Share some words of wisdom that if a married man cheats on his wife, he'll

cheat on anybody and sooner or later, he'll cheat on her too.

Dear Deanna!

My boyfriend of 4 years cheated on me at least 10 times. At first we had an open relationship and we saw other people and later began getting serious about each other. Although he continued to cheat, he showed me love and came home at a decent time. Now he's changed and is always around. I love him but I keep thinking about the phrase "once a cheater, always a cheater." --In Love and Confused

Dear Confused:

Once is too many times for cheating. You played a part in this drama because of the tone in which this relationship began. He disrespected you but you allowed it. Count your 4 years as a learning experience and find a man that'll respect you like the deserving queen you are. You're too good to be seventh fiddle to a man that's supposed to be yours. No, he won't stop cheating, so suck it up and keep it moving.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd, Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

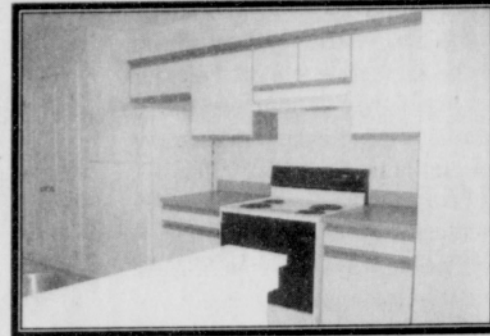


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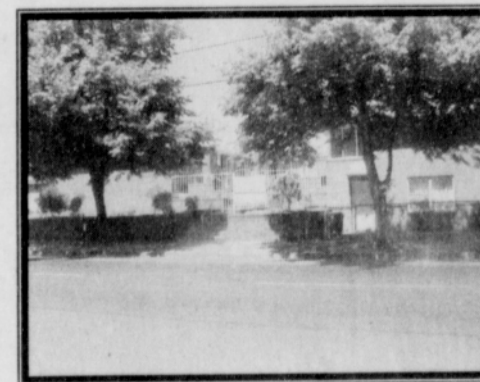
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