

# In the Neighborhood

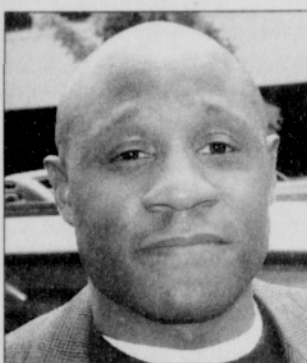
What do you think about the American Idol scandal between judge Paula Abdul and former contestant Corey Clark?

It's just a bunch of publicity. Paula Abdul is sexy and has a right to do what she wants. If he consented, he should keep it out of the media. It takes two to tango.  
**Elishua Goldsby**  
Customer service agent



Innocent until proven guilty. It's all politics. Look at all the celebrities that have shady backgrounds - no one cares about them.  
**Kristen Katz**  
Courier

I don't know if it's true. If it is then they should find a new judge. People like Clark always want something for nothing.  
**Joe Mack Arnold**  
Banquet server



If she had no involvement then she should be allowed to remain a judge. If she did have relations with Clark then she needs to extricate herself from the competition.  
**Brian Hall**  
Associate product manager

I think it's weird that Clark brought this up right before his album comes out. I think if it was really an issue it would have been brought to our attention before.  
**Yusuf Word**  
High school student

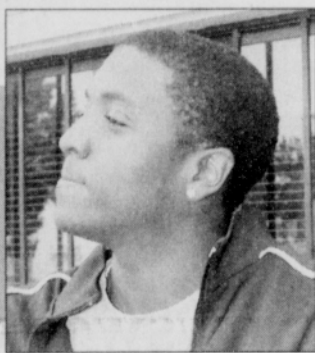


PHOTO BY KATHERINE KOVACICH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Writing instructor Samuel Irving works on a Japanese poem with fifth grader Brianna White at King Elementary School.

## Writing to Survive

*continued* ▲ from Front  
instead of other vehicles that could use that would be derogatory."

This year's classes begin June 20, with writing workshops featuring poetry, autobiographies, fiction, academic work and hip hop for ages 12 to 17.

Last summer, Irving said, the program "produced a great wealth of knowledge to the kids." More than 150 youth were involved.

Primary goals of the workshops include exploring the cre-

ative process, improving writing techniques, strengthening language and reading skills, enhancing artistic development and examining publishing options.

Expressing oneself on paper, a centuries-old practice, isn't like talking to a friend or school counselor.

"It's a freedom in words. There are no boundaries, there are no restrictions," Irving said. "You can just write what you feel. A lot of people such as myself, I can write better than I can express it verbally. Children are

the same way." Beyond getting out current feelings, Irving said that keeping a journal can help keep a person in check about their personal growth.

"It's important for them to write it down so a year later they can look back and see this is where I came from. It's just a stepping stone to healing," Irving said.

Even for those who suspect they're unable to write creatively or academically have surprised themselves with Irving's direction. His approach to teaching,

he said, is comforting, friendly, free and creative.

He says kids often say they can't write poetry and don't know how to describe their feelings, but "When I just have them sit down and write, the feelings just come out."

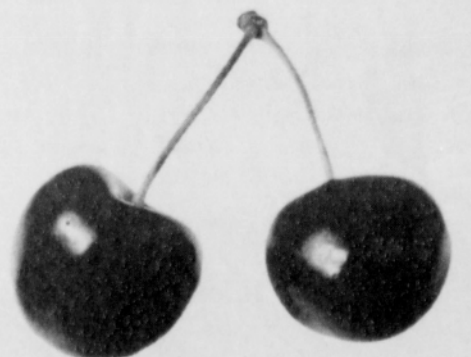
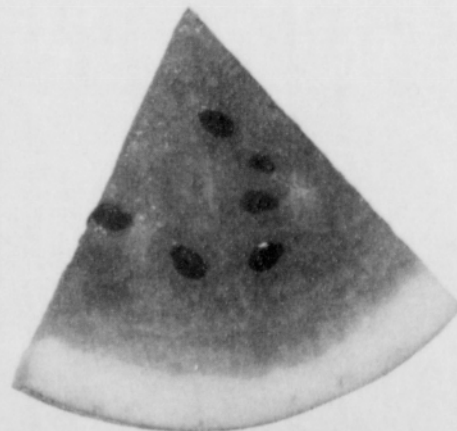
For more information on workshops, dates and prices, visit [www.poetrylifeline.com](http://www.poetrylifeline.com). Each workshop is limited to 20 students. Irving encourages those who would like to see a disadvantaged student go through the courses to sponsor a child.

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