

Single Sex Academies Delayed

Jefferson changes off to rough start

Portland School District officials say they need an additional year to develop the Jefferson High School Academy of Young Women and the Academy of Young Men.

A team implementing the male-only school has asked for a full planning year to develop a rigorous program and culturally relevant instructional strategies unique to male students. Just eight students had signed up for the men's acad-

emy. Superintendent Vickie Phillips says an academy administrator for the male school will be hired to recruit and ensure the curriculum and partnerships are designed to embrace the cultural knowledge, prior experiences and frames of reference of all students, including African-Americans, Latinos and other minority groups.

The Academy for Young Women was prepared to open in the fall at Harriet Tubman Middle School with about 50 potential students signed up. But, according to Title IX federal law, there are legal issues in opening one academy without the other. Therefore, both

academies are scheduled to welcome their first class in the 2007-08 school year.

The Academy for Young Women will use the planning year to hire an administrator and teachers who can build a culture of achievement. The eight components of the female school are small, personalized learning environments for young women, integrated seventh through 12th grade programs, rigorous, college-preparatory core curriculum, extra support for students who need it, after-school, Saturday, and summer enrichment opportunities, service to the community, support for non-educational

needs, and college preparatory activities for students in grades 7-12.

In January, the school board approved a series of changes at Jefferson High School based on advice from a community-based Jefferson Design Team.

The changes were recommended to deal with the issues of low achievement and flow of students leaving their neighborhood.

A newly reconfigured Jefferson Academy of Arts and Technology and Jefferson Academy of Science and Technology will open in September, but is already drawing complaints for a lack of course offerings.

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Neighborhood Welcomes Albina Bank

Albina Community Bank, a minority-owned financial institution, has just opened its fifth branch at 5636 N.E. Sandy Blvd in the Rose City Park Neighborhood. Since opening on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in 1995, the bank has used deposits to assist first-time homebuyers, create and maintain local jobs and revitalize or redevelop underserved areas of the city.

Racist Attacker Violates Parole

Parole officers have arrested Kyle Brewster, 37, for alleged violations of his parole. The alleged white supremacist was convicted of manslaughter in connection with the death of Ethiopian immigrant Mulugeta Seraw in Portland on Nov. 13, 1988.

Multnomah County parole officers obtained information that Brewster has been associating with members of the white supremacist gang Volksfront. By tracking the connections of gang members on social networking Web sites like MySpace.com, parole officers found evidence that Brewster had been in contact with Volksfront members. Parole conditions prohibit him from being involved in gang activity.

Brewster was sentenced to 15 years in prison for Seraw's death. He was released in November 2002 and was scheduled to complete his parole in 2008.

Brewster has no other convictions, but had several disciplinary actions while in prison.

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The Tragic History of Doctor Faustus (2005). Ensemble Intimate Apparel (2006). Cwereldyn Mulumba, Tiffany Adams. Photos: David Cooper and T. Charis Frickson

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