

METRO

The Portland Observer

Eye-Opening Visual

Hurricane on the Bayou' at OMNIMAX

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SECTION B

Video Students Share Jefferson's Story

Challenge media spin with introspective film project

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Everyone has an opinion about Jefferson High School, but have you heard from the students themselves?

You are likely to get a unique view from those who walk the halls each day. But these students' voices rarely rise above media images of drive-by shootings and drug deals, or concerned board members keeping the school in a constant state of upheaval.

A group of 31 Jefferson sophomores got behind the camera last spring to share their own story through a documentary called "Reading Between the Lines." By producing their own film they learned not only the technical aspects of the craft, but were able to challenge the stereotypes plaguing Jefferson's identity.

The documentary allows students to share their opinion of the school's reputation as well as their own ambitions. City leaders, including Portland activist and former broadcaster Lew Frederick and City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, contributed to the film as well.

The 21-minute film received a standing ovation at its premiere at the Portland Art Museum in November. A second screening and reception took place Jan. 11 at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland.

The teens took part in the Young Filmmaker's Program at the Northwest Film Center, working with



PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local documentary filmmaker Sue Arbuthnot (left) and Jefferson High School junior Tiffany Stewart attend a screening of "Reading Between the Lines: Jefferson - Our Story" at Portland Community College in north Portland.

resident artist and local filmmaker Sue Arbuthnot. The substance abuse prevention organization Oregon Partnership secured a grant for the film project, with the intention of studying how media filmmaking

positively impacts prevention measures.

Arbuthnot offered the students technical experience while the teens lent their own ambition to dispel preconceptions of gangs, drugs and violence.

"It was very clear to me they had a passion and a unified message to change the perception," Arbuthnot

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Portland Community College student Gente Traylor (left) and college district president Preston Pulliams.

Finding Strength to Go and Do Anything

PCC student overcomes obstacles

Gentè Traylor may look like the stereotypical 18-year-old, but in reality she possesses maturity and wisdom beyond her years.

Traylor, who is studying to get her associate's of arts degree in psychology at the Cascade Campus in north Portland, helped raise her brother and care for her mother, who battled a crack cocaine addiction for ten years.

"Her addiction began when I was four," Traylor said. "Although she was an addict, my younger brother and I had clothes, food and a house, however, we just didn't have a 'home.'"

But don't think that Traylor is a statistic. She has overcome this experience and used it to develop her

character.

Traylor grew up in Jackson, Miss., attending Murrah High School. While there, she maintained a high grade-point average, was honored with inclusion in the Who's Who Among American High School Students, National Honor Roll and Principal's List Award. She was also a member of the school's ROTC and its Color Guard.

Her family recently moved to Portland where her uncle is a pastor. The move was hard enough but getting back to school took a lot of courage too.

"The experience of my mom's addiction taught me

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Community Calendar

Scholarships Available

Deadlines are approaching for college scholarships from the Black United Fund of Oregon. For detailed information, contact bufor@bufor.org.

Neighborhood Election

The Historic Mississippi Business Association in north Portland reminds members of the importance of attending the election meeting; which has been rescheduled for Noon, Wednesday, Jan. 31, at Mississippi Pizza.

People of Color Activism

An 'Action Academy' to galvanize communities of color to take action regarding issues affecting their communities in the Oregon Legislature will take place Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Chemeketa Community College, 4000 Lancaster Dr. N.E., Salem, Building 2. For more information, call: 503-984-6816 or email aeryca@causaoregon.org.

Black History Foundation

The Black History Museum of Oregon is seeking the brilliant minds of concerned individuals to help in restructuring the museum foundation's committee. Call 503-284-0617 for more information.

Valentine-A-Grams

Extra-special Valentine gift boxes loaded

with delicious goodies and with 100 percent of the \$24.95 cost benefiting the Meals-On-Wheels program can be ordered through Monday, Feb. 5. Call 503-736-6325 or visit: loavesandfishesonline.org.

Camp Fire Candy Sale

Local kids from Camp Fire USA will be outside many storefronts in Multnomah and Washington counties through Feb. 5 selling delicious candy boxes. The proceeds help with summer camp expenses. Call 503-224-7800 or visit portlandcampfire.org.

Free Eye-Screening

The Devers Eye Institute at Legacy Health Systems will conduct free visual field screening test for glaucoma and other serious eye diseases. No appointment is necessary. The testing schedule is Thursday, Jan. 25, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 19300 S.W. 65 Ave. in Tualatin, Monday, Jan. 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2211 N.E. 139 St. in Vancouver, and on Wednesday, Jan. 31, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1225 N.E. Second Ave. in Portland.

Community Support

The African American Health Coalition, a non-profit that touches the lives of millions of African Americans each year, reminds you to support your community organization. All donations, grants, and gifts are tax deductible. For more information, visit aaah-portland.org.

Men's Wellness Screening

Saturday, Feb. 10, from 8 a.m. until Noon at Legacy Emanuel Hospital, Lorenzen Center, for a minimal fee of \$10, a men's health screening test will be available, appointments are required by calling 503-335-3500.

Weight Loss Series

New Seasons Market at Northeast 33rd and Killingsworth Street will host free weight loss classes on Jan. 31, Feb. 28, March 28, and April 25 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Diabetes Support Group

Legacy Emanuel Hospital hosts a diabetes support group the first and third Thursdays of every month, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Room 1027.

Bradley-Angle House

The Bradley-Angle House needs volunteers to help its outreach against domestic violence. Women of color and bilingual women are encouraged to call. For more information, call 503-282-9940.

Parenting Classes

Newborns don't come with instruction manuals but parents and parents-to-be can attend classes through Providence Health Systems to learn about a variety of topics from pain and childbirth to breastfeeding to infant CPR and much more. For a schedule of events, call 503-574-6595 or visit: providence.org/classes.

Girl Scouts Screen Video

Sunday, Feb. 11, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Kennedy School theater, the Girl Scouts will raise funds for its Family Giving Program with the screening of the locally produced video "A Circle is Round". Call 503-287-5140 or 503-977-6805 for more information.

Work Against Abuse

Community Advocates invites those interested in protecting children from abuse to become an event volunteer, event outreach, technology expert, graphic artists or office support team member. For information, call 503-280-1388.

Women in Community Service

Volunteer female mentors are being sought by Women in Community Service to work with incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The women provide support and encouragement for inmates transitioning from prison back into the community. For information, call 503-570-6614.

Oregon Food Bank

The Oregon Food Bank seeks volunteers on Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, to sort and repack perishable foods. Call 503-282-0555, extension 272 or visit Oregonfoodbank.org.

Volunteer for Crisis Line

Want to make a difference in your commu-

nity? Volunteers and advocates are needed for the Portland Women's Crisis Line. The needs include on-call advocates to respond in person or over the phone, outreach and educational efforts, and fundraising and administrative duties. Call 503-232-4176 for more information.

Home buying Classes

Portland Community Land Trust helps first time and low-income homebuyers purchase homes at below market price. Attend a free, one-hour class to learn more about the program. Contact Kelly@pclt.org or call 503-493-0293.

Stroller Class for Moms

Are you a new mom or have a toddler? Get some exercise and meet other moms at the free Stroller Strides class, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursday at Peninsula Park. All you need is a stroller, water, a mat or towel and comfortable shoes. Call Helen at 503-260-5018 for more information.

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years of
community service