

# METRO

The Portland Observer



## Roy Makes All-Star Roster

First Blazer player in seven years honored  
See sports page B10

## Johnson to Notre Dame

Lincoln High School star wins high acclaim  
See sports page B10



SECTION B

# Cultural Center Celebrates Black History

## 'Facets of Africa' honors diversity

In honor of Black History Month, the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave., presents "Facets of Africa" with matinee theater performances and art exhibits that celebrate the rich texture and diversity within African-based cultures.

In this vibrant family show, IFCC presents artists and storytellers from a variety of African countries and African-based cultures. From Ghana to New Orleans "Facets of Africa"

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The local cast of 'Black Like Me' features Victor Mack, Omar, Jerrod Neal, Aly'ce Williams, Jalyn Owens, Yolanda Suarez, and Kwik Jones.

## 'Black Like Me' Kwik Jones' tragic tale

Local playwright Kwik Jones brings his play "Black Like Me" to the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland for a series of performance during Black History Month.

This will be Jones' last full production in Portland before he moves to New York to produce the hit play "Voices."

Black Like Me was inspired by members of the

Los Angeles chapter of the Black Panther Party.

Lane, a college student, fights alongside with friends in hopes to bring change. But she quickly finds herself in a war that leaves her scarred, scared and wanting out of the movement. Trapped, she struggles with where and who she can turn to.

The local cast is comprised of Victor Mack,

Omar, Jerrod Neal, Aly'ce Williams, Jalyn Owens, Yolanda Suarez, and Kwik Jones.

Shows are scheduled through Feb. 24 with nightly performances at 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 with discounts for groups by calling 503-473-6649. The IFCC is located at 5340 N. Interstate.



Caton Lyles, who specializes in traditional West African and Afro-Cuban styles of hand drumming, will perform in Facets of Africa at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland.

# Advocates Vie for Mayor, City Council

## Share passion for city, social issues

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Two advocates from Portland's black community are the latest candidates seeking election to the City Council.

Mayoral candidate Beryl McNair and commissioner candidate Fred Stewart share a passion for housing, health, education and equality.

Both candidates face a May 20 election date with understanding that the results will significantly change Portland's political landscape. They seek positions that would guarantee high levels of city government filled with those who care about basic needs.

For McNair, the mayor's position is about taking care of everyone, no matter what their background or struggles may be.

"My main goal is to get in the trenches for those who have been underserved," says McNair, who currently works at the Portland veteran hospital. "Being a people's candidate, I know I can make a difference in this city."

Stewart sees high stakes for the coming terms of office.

"We're going to be tested over the next several years," he says. "We've



Beryl McNair's running for mayor to take care of everyone, no matter their background or struggles.

got a recession coming here, and that's one way or another going to effect how much government can invest."



Fred Stewart enters a race for City Council with years of experience as a neighborhood activist, professional and father.

McNair argues for a systematic reevaluation of the city budget for smarter use of resources. The newly

returned Human Rights Commission, for example, would receive more support with her as mayor, and she plans

to make sure more buildings are constructed to house homeless and low-income people.

On the growing demand for low-income homes in the city, Stewart says, "The bottom line is that the future of solving the housing issue is the partnership between public and private," a sentiment that McNair upholds with her vision of equal allocation in the endeavor toward respectable places of employment and residence for all.

Stewart, 43, who was president of the King Neighborhood Association for almost 10 years, draws on experience struggling as black bank worker and real-estate agent in Oregon to argue that the only way to approach city priorities appropriately is to have a good understanding of what it takes to survive here.

"What we need is a person, whether they're black or white, who comes from a wide breadth of understanding," he says. "That person needs to be able to walk into any room and be an active participant, an active partner, with everybody and every group that wants to make positive changes in this city."

Stewart's earliest memory involved the grief surrounding Martin Luther

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## Community Calendar

### Politics and the 2008 Elections

Sunday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. in Reed College's Kaul Auditorium, Mary Frances Berry, former chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and co-founder of the Free South Africa Movement, will give a talk on race, politics and the 2008 elections, to help celebrate Black History Month.

### Tax Help in Rockwood

VITA tax aide for low-income families will



Mary Frances Berry

assist clients by appointment only on Wednesdays, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Rockwood Community office, 18709 S.E. Stark. For reservations, call 503-816-1530.

### Homebuyer Programs

PDC's homebuyer-assistance programs address the gap in home ownership rates between whites and communities of color. For information about the new and expanded homebuyers' assistance programs, visit [pdc.us/nhp](http://pdc.us/nhp) or call 503-823-3400.

### Vocabulary of Architecture

Saturday, Feb. 9, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., the

Architectural Heritage Center, 701 S.E. Grand Ave., hosts a seminar to demystify the language of architecture. To register, call 503-231-7264 or visit [AHC.org](http://AHC.org).

### Catch the Authors

Thursday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m. In Other Words, 8 N.E. Killingsworth St., will host the reading night featuring five gay/lesbian/transgender authors. For more information, visit [inotherwords.org](http://inotherwords.org) or call 503-232-6003.

### 82nd Avenue Roses Parade

Saturday, April 19 at 9 a.m. the second annual parade kicks off, the parade commit-

tee recently announced the availability of sponsorships and requests for entries and volunteers. For more information to about participating, contact 503-484-6225. For volunteer opportunities, contact 503-252-9143.

### King School Benefit

Tuesday, Feb. 26, from 5 to 11 p.m., bring your family and friends to McMenamin's Chapel Pub; half of the evening's proceeds will be donated to purchase much-needed playground equipment for King School.

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