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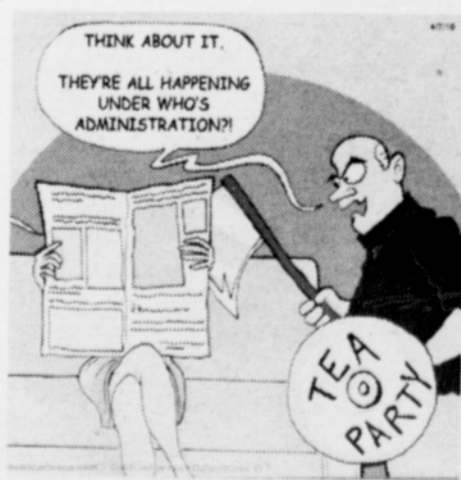
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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

Suh Could Go No. 1

Former Grant star awaits Thursday's NFL draft

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

During his four years at the University of Nebraska, Ndamukong Suh established himself as a dominant force on the football field as a defensive lineman, breaking records and racking up awards.

On Thursday, the former Grant High School star could become the number one pick of the National Football League draft and by most accounts will come in no lower than the number three pick.

Back home where Suh grew up, he is still remembered as the soft-spoken and focused student who was a steamroller on the football field.

Growing up together, Ngum Suh remembers eliciting chuckles when introducing Ndamukong, who measures 6 foot 4 inches and weighs 300 pounds, as her little brother, whom she has never considered to be an "intimidating" person.

She stresses that she would hate for her brother to be thought of as a two-dimensional football player, who communicates in grunts and can barely think past the next play. She remembers him being fascinated with all things mechanical, and would bombard airline pilots with questions on family trips. She also recalls



Ndamukong Suh

another instance where he disassembled the family phone, only to re-assemble it in complete working order after drawing the chagrin of their mother.

Expectations were high in the Suh family.

Ngum Suh remembers their Cameroonian father and Jamaican mother telling them that nothing comes for free and that academics always came before sports.

"We didn't have any excuses to not do our best or not try," she said.

During his freshman year at Grant High School, Ndamukong was kept from playing sports for the first semester by his mother, a school teacher, who wanted to make sure

he transitioned smoothly and stayed focused on academics, said Ngum.

Ndamukong and Ngum's father, an engineer who goes by "Michael," remembers his son, being quiet and very large, which drew teasing from other kids, but never let it take anything away from him.

While playing football at Grant, Ndamukong Suh, whose name means "house of spears" in his father's native language, became Parade All-American Honors while playing defense, in addition to earning the 2004 Portland Interscholastic League Defensive Player of the Year and the state Class 4A Defensive Player of the Year.

Jacque Sage, the athletics director at Grant High School, remembers Suh from his days as a student there when he played football and basketball.

"He really grew up in his sophomore and junior years," recalls Sage, when he developed the focus and drive that propelled him to where he is now.

At the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Suh continued to excel racking up a number of awards and was a finalist for the coveted Heisman Trophy in 2009, while graduating

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Police Union Leader Resigns

Road rage incidents bring downfall

Sgt. Scott Westerman, the head of the Portland police union, resigned on Monday in the wake of revelations that he was involved in two road rage incidents.

Westerman was not on active duty when he had a January altercation with Virginia Thompson in southeast Portland.

According to Thompson, he was driving a Grand Prix when he whizzed by her rental Smart Car while exiting I-84 and then got out of his car and approached her window yelling at her to dim her



Scott Westerman (KGW photo)

lights. She said he then flashed his police badge and said he could get her arrested.

Just two days later, Thompson's husband, Jerry, was driving in southwest Portland while she was riding as a passenger. They say that Westerman pulled up at a stoplight on Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway

and approached them screaming about their lights.

Both incidents are now under investigation.

The Police Bureau has also come under scrutiny after it was revealed that Sgt. Kyle Nice, an officer involved in the 2006 death of James Chasse, was involved in a separate road rage incident in Washington County.

Westerman has taken responsibility for his actions.

"My recent off duty behavior has added another negative spotlight to the honorable work being performed everyday by the men and women of the Portland Police Bureau and law enforcement of the

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