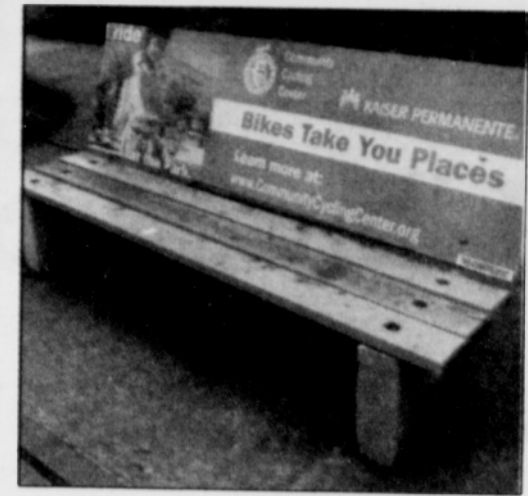


The PO



Summer Splendors
Northwest Dance Project premiers four shows
See page 12

'I Ride' Do You?
Campaign promotes bicycle-riding benefits
See page 3



Portland Observer 41

'City of Roses' 

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Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

years of community service

Character Matters *Old school coach adapts to new school kids*

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Coach Roy Pittman of the Peninsula Wrestling Program is much more than a wrestling coach. He has been a sculptor of responsible young adults and for over 40 years, helping transform rowdy young boys into not only Olympic competitors, but worldly gentlemen.

"The first year you learn how to lose, the next year you learn how to win, and the next year you learn how to be a gentleman," said Pittman about his standard coaching philosophies, which have been implanted on generations of local kids since opening the Peninsula program in 1970.

Girls are welcome too; however as a response to overwhelming statistics showing that young men today lag behind their female counterparts in most disciplined areas, Pittman puts a priority on understanding and ensuring the positive development of boys.

His philosophy is steeped in stats; Boys earn 70 percent of the D's and F's in school; make up 80 percent of high school dropouts, as well as account for over 71 percent of school suspensions and 77 percent expulsions. Boys also read and write on average between 1.5 years and 3 years behind average females.

Further, 14 percent of boys nationwide were diagnosed with ADHD by their 16th birthday and boys are five times more likely

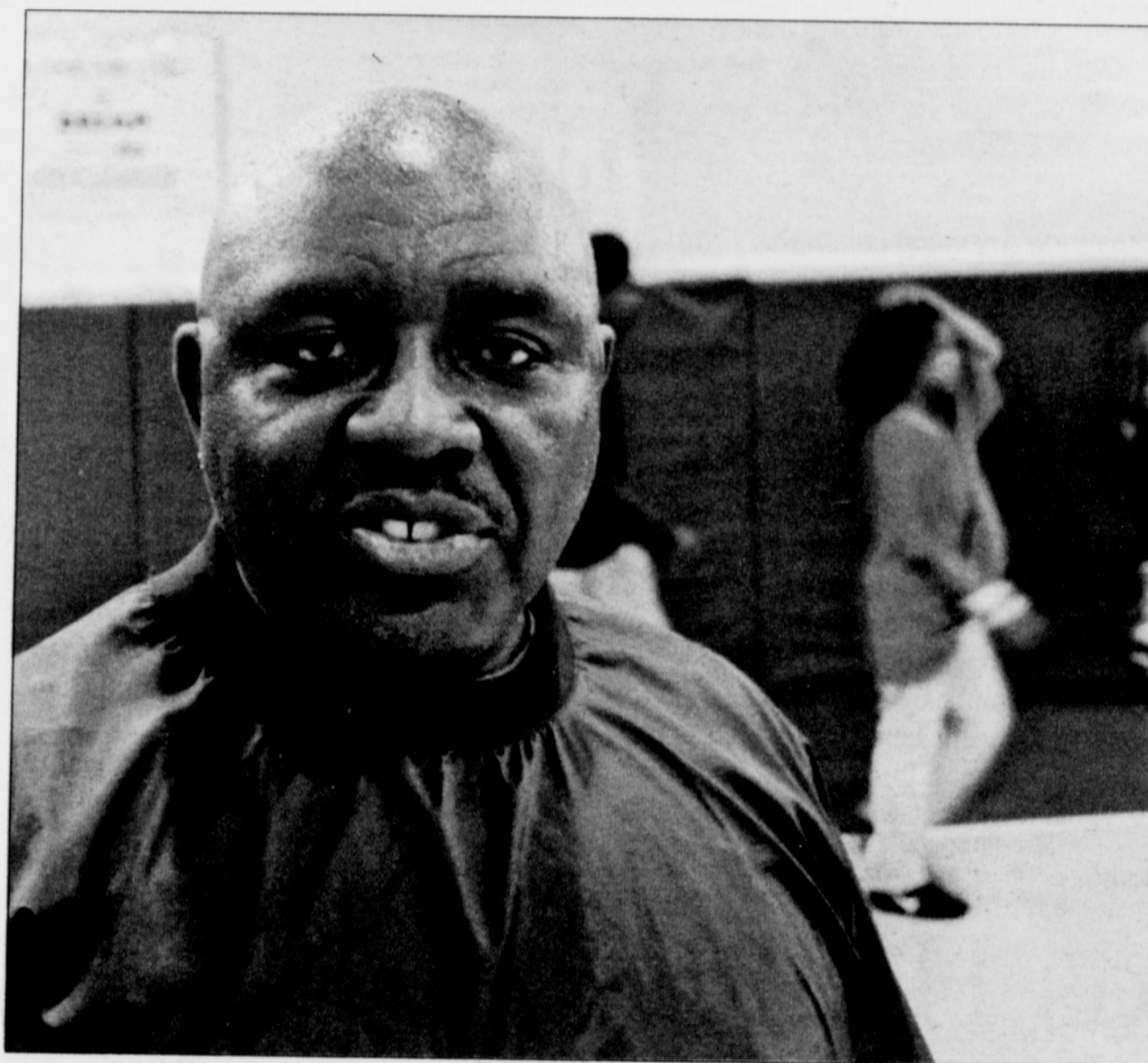


PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A well-respected, community legacy, coach Roy Pittman is known for exposing character in his young` wrestlers at the Peninsula Park wrestling program in north Portland. His love and mentorship for kids has shaped and affected lives for 40 years.

to commit suicide. Of people incarcerated in U.S. prisons, 93 percent are males. It's estimated that 40 to 50 percent of African-American males will enter the criminal justice system sometime in their lives.

Pittman believes boys are often misunderstood in today's society because they are socialized differently, naturally more aggressive and active, but slower to develop and less communicative than girls.

Focused more on the process of growth and risk-taking than on winning, Pittman has worked with thousands of boys and girls from all backgrounds, offering them an alternative to the streets and the sometimes restrictive structure of public classrooms.

Tivon Abel, a former wrestler and Jefferson High School student, said learning and training with Pittman transformed him "from being a Ritalin-dependent, unfocused, irresponsible and undisciplined 7th grader to a respectable, worldly young man, ready to take on challenges and responsibilities."

Having earned two Masters' degrees, pursued a career in teaching, and started a family, Abel lives happily today.

Pittman also is a natural ally of kids, parents and teachers.

When parents drop their kids off at practice every day after school, they are not only

continued ▼ on page 2

Making Kids Healthy and Ready to Learn

School-based health centers reduce barriers

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

For over 25-years, School-based Health Centers have eased access to medical services for local youth; reducing barriers, which have historically prevented adolescents from attaining the healthcare they need.

"With everything going on with healthcare reform and scarce resources, sometimes we are the best kept secret in town," explained Jill



Daniels, program director for Multnomah County's School-based Health Centers. "I want all of the families and school-aged youth to know we are here to support them."

Currently, there are 55 certified SBHCs and 7 sites in development in 22 counties throughout the state; and 13 of the health centers exist in Multnomah County alone.

One defining goal of the centers is that, regardless of race, insurance status, national

continued ▼ on page 2

A student receives needed health care from a nurse at school because of Oregon's School-Based Health Centers program.