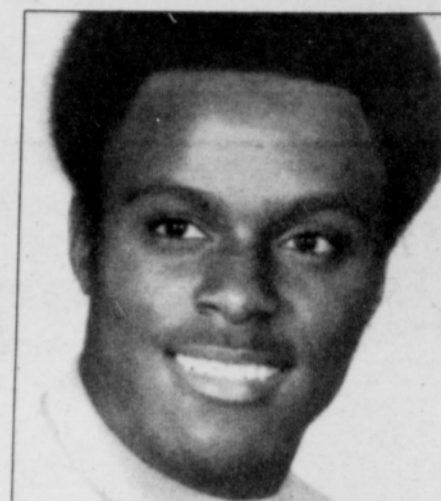


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Clocks turn back 1 hour for Standard Time Sunday at 2 a.m.

Hall of Fame Honors
Late Portland Observer publisher inducted into sports group
See Local News, page 3



The Portland Observer 43

'City of Roses'



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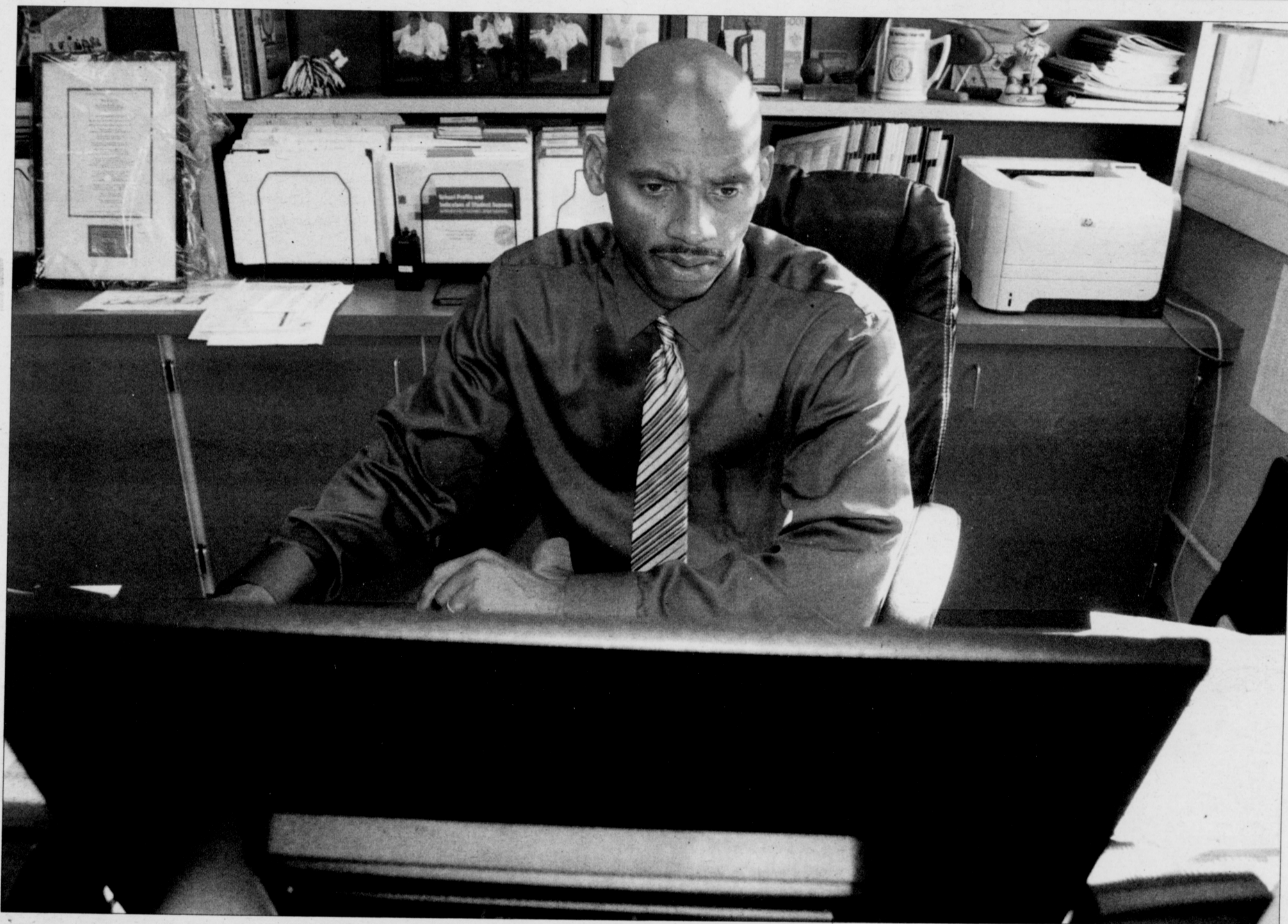


PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Benson High School's new principal, Curtis Wilson Jr., takes aim at returning 'vigor and excellence' to the school's technical education programs.

New Visions for the Techmen

Benson principal moves to shore up signature programs

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Curtis Wilson Jr., the new principal of Benson Polytechnic High School, may not need an introduction for many in the Portland area.

With 23 years under his belt working in the Portland School District and a Portland native who graduated from Roosevelt, Wilson has seen many-a-classroom during his

impressive tenure. Now he has his first job as a school principal at Benson after serving as vice principal at Grant.

Wilson, 43, says he wants to return the 96-year-old tech-centric institution to a place that has historically been associated with academic rigor and excellence.

"I want to bring back Benson to where people are challenged to come here, where they know if I come to Benson I'm gonna work. Because it's hands on, the courses are very intense, and it's a very rich tradition school," he says.

And one of the ways he says he's hoping to accomplish his goals is by focusing on bolstering the school's Career Technical Education (CTE) program. The aim is on the

technical sciences the school was founded on, subjects today which include engineering, manufacturing, computers, and new technology.

The instruction comes with hands-on situational learning. Currently the technical education students, for example, are teaming up with geometry learners to build a house. The structure will serve as a drug and alcohol free safe-haven in the transitional housing community known as Dignity Village in northeast Portland.

This year, Benson is also adjusting to a new 850 enroll-

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