

**Ambassadors**

Students serve as vital link between their community and Portland State University.



See Education, page A4

**We Are Family**

A 50-year-old white man discovers his mother is black in "A Family Thing."



See pages A5 and B3.

**A Wrinkle In Time**

Classic tale comes to life in April at Civic Auditorium.



See Metro, inside.

# The Portland Observer 25¢

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper Room  
University of Oregon Library  
Eugene, Oregon  
97403

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Bus Driver Assaulted**

A Tri-Met bus driver was beaten and smashed in the face with a beer bottle last Thursday night after ordering three teenage passengers of the No. 4 bus at North Killingsworth and Albina. Police later arrested a female in connection with the crime.

**Vote Due In Congress Race**

Democrat and Republican ballots in the primary race to succeed Ron Wyden in Congress have been sent to voters. Wyden was recently elected to the U.S. Senate, leaving his Third District Congressional seat open. The vote-by-mail ballots must be received by county elections officials by 8 p.m. April 2.

**Menendez Brothers Guilty**

In a decisive rejection of the abuse defense that nearly succeeded the first time, Erik and Lyle Menendez were convicted of first-degree murder in Los Angeles last week in the shotgun slaying of their millionaire parents and could be sentenced to death.

**Prefontaine Film Coming**

The University of Oregon and Warner Brothers have signed a contract to film portions of a movie about Steve Prefontaine, a UO world-record runner who died in a car crash in 1975.

**Land Use Laws Supported**

Land use planning laws in the metropolitan area needs fine tuning according to a report by the City Club of Portland. The organization says more needs to be done to give residents auto travel options, plus the area needs more affordable housing to accommodate a wide range of incomes.

**GOP Vote Out Gun Ban**

House Republicans, keeping a promise that House Speaker Newt Gingrich made to the National Rifle Association more than a year ago, voted Friday to repeal the 1994 ban on 19 semiautomatic assault-style weapons. President Clinton says he will veto the action if the Senate also passes the bill.

**Debit Card Replaces Food Stamps**

People on food stamps and welfare will soon be getting plastic debit cards instead of paper stamps and checks for buying food and paying bills. It's due to happen in the Eugene area late this summer and then go statewide sometime next year.

**New \$100 Bill Debuts**

The Federal Reserve has released a new \$100 bill with an off-center likeness of Benjamin Franklin. The bills are technologically advanced to combat increasingly sophisticated counterfeiters.

## Political Group Sets Agenda

The Oregon Assembly For Black Affairs is in full stride, planning the 1996 Oregon Black Political Convention in preparation for the upcoming elections and the 1997 Oregon Legislature.

Planners said it is very important that community members are prepared to be role players in these most important events.

The theme for the 1996 Convention is "Liberal, Conservation, Independent, The Black Vote Is Not Monolithic."

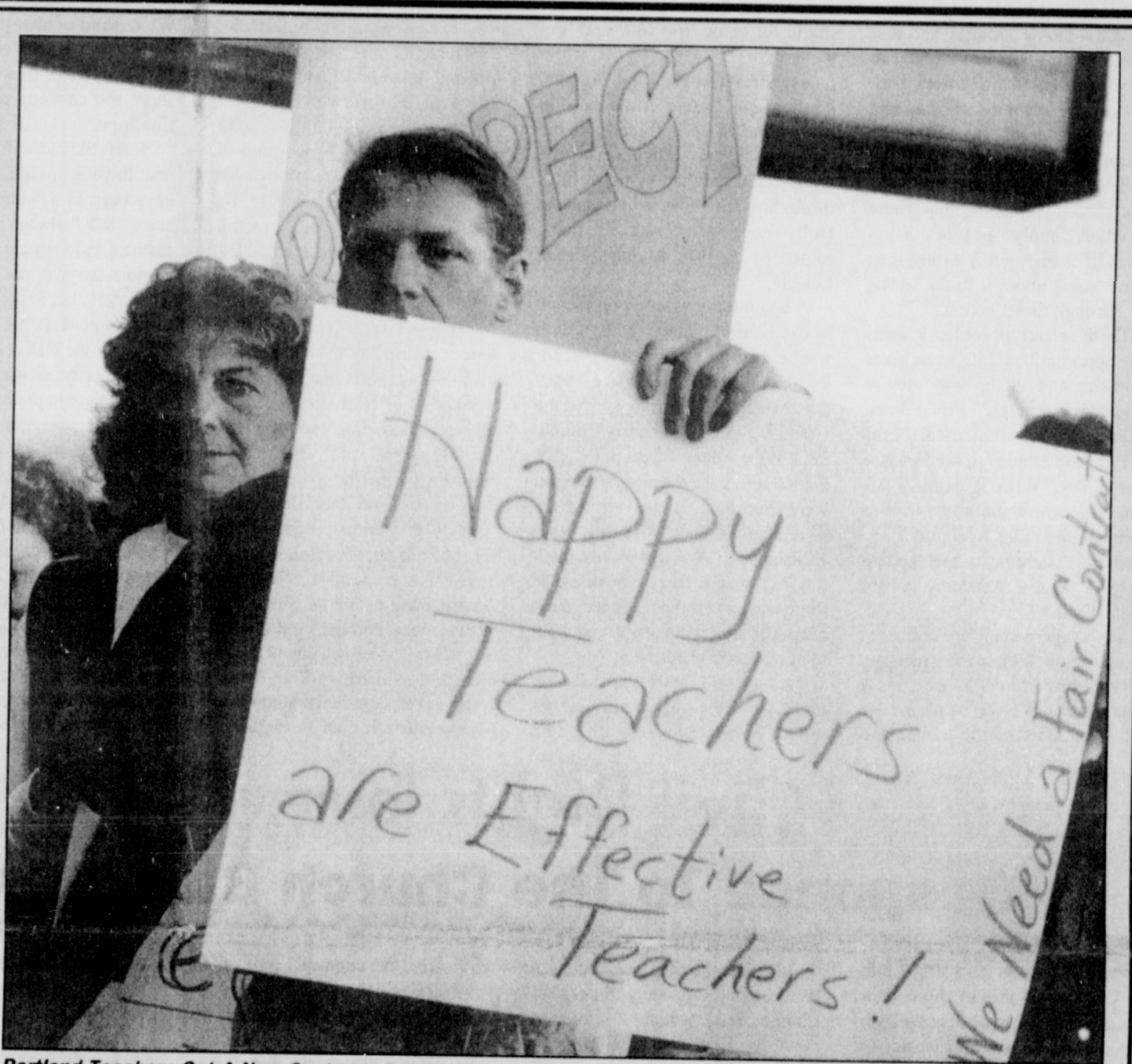
"Our vote cannot be taken for granted by any political party," said Henry Miggins, assembly official.

"We do have a voice and that voice must be heard and heeded. We, blacks in Oregon, must take responsibility for our political welfare by being involved in the political process and holding all elected officials accountable," Miggins said.

The convention will be held on April 27 and 28 at the Quality Inn in Salem. The meeting is hosted by the assembly through its political action committee.

The event is nonpartisan. It is held during the spring of election years. The purpose to serve as a forum for delegates to discuss issues and to establish a position for the black community.

Delegates will also endorse candidates running for public office based on their sensitivity and responses to the issues and conditions of blacks in Oregon. The Convention's focus is statewide and it is open to the public.



**Portland Teachers Get A New Contract:** Portland school teachers were not happy when picketing a recent school board meeting. But by Monday, a tentative settlement was announced on a new labor contract. A strike was averted, however, the school district still faces funding problems. (Photo by Michael G. Halle)

## Mandela Marriage Ends In Divorce

Nelson and Winnie Mandela ended their 38-year marriage last week after divorce proceedings that were as complex as their lives.

The 77-year-old South African president accused his wife of infidelities, while Winnie Mandela countered that it was a pro-apartheid plot to disrupt the marriage.

The proceedings saw Nelson Mandela on the witness stand - the first time since 1964 when he received a life sentence for opposing

apartheid.

When Mandela was released from prison in 1990 after 27 years, it appeared that they would re-adjust and go on together. However, by the 1994 all-race elections that ended white minority rule, there was open conflict between them.

They separated and Winnie ran for election to parliament on a platform that opposed Nelson's policies. She criticized his plan to reform the South African government and

charged him with acting too slowly to rectify the massive poverty that is the legacy of apartheid.

In spite of the apparent collapse of their marriage, Winnie tried to postpone the divorce hearings. She recalled her suffering during Nelson's imprisonment - arrests, internal exile, and the struggle to raise their two daughters.

The president agreed that she had endured much, but said many South African women

suffered under apartheid and her ordeal was not uncommon.

Towards the end of the hearing, Judge Fokker Eloff asked for a direct answer to the allegations of infidelity.

Without a word to the court, Winnie fired her lawyer on the spot.

The judge called the maneuver a ploy and closed the case dissolving the union that once symbolized the struggle for equality in South Africa.



Job seekers visit one of the many booths at Career Connections '96, a job fair held Saturday at Memorial Coliseum. Sponsored by the Urban League of Portland, the focus of the event was on employment recruiting for minorities and women, but was open to all.

## Portland Observer Family Thanks You

The Washington family and the staff of the Portland Observer would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the outpouring of sympathy at the death of Joyce Washington.

"There were so many cards, letters and phone calls. Your warm and overwhelming response reminded us of how significant her contributions were," said Chuck Washington, Joyce's son and Observer publisher.

"She was a beacon; not only to her family, but to the community. Even though we would like to, the family is not able to personally acknowledge every one.

"We will all miss her and the Observer is committed to maintaining her dedication to this city. A great lady is gone, but her spirit will always be with us," Washington said.

## Saudi Prince, Jackson Open Joint Venture

Singer Michael Jackson and Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, of Saudi Arabia said they will join forces to build theme parks and hotels and produce movies, CD-ROMS and music.

"The Prince and myself will combine human and financial resources to be successful in all phases of the multimedia revolution," Jackson said.

The two, in their Paris press conference March 19, refused to say how much the newly formed company, Kingdom Entertainment, will invest or what their first projects will be. They only stressed a commitment to "peace and love" and "finding solutions to the world's problems."

Although the prince will sponsor and manage Jackson's worldwide "HIStory Tour", there will be no albums recorded with the

new company while Jackson is under contract with Sony.

Questions were raised about the effect of Jackson's tarnished reputation on the launch of the business. Analysts ask will they be able to compete with companies like Disney and MCA who plan major international expansions.

Jackson is reportedly strapped for cash and agreed last November to sell his

publishing rights to 250 Beatles songs to Sony Corp as part of a \$500 million venture. In return, Sony agreed to combine its music publishing division with Jackson's ATV music catalog and pay the singer more than \$90 million.

Grandson of the founder of Saudi Arabia and nephew of King Fahd, al-Waleed is a key investor in Euro Disney and Citicorp with holdings estimated at \$10 billion.