

**Rebuilding our families and our communities**

Author says modern culture erodes the family.



See Metro, inside.

**Welcome Brian Grant, goodbye Clifford Robinson**

Blazers wheel and deal to sign free agent..



See Sports, page B2

**PSU introduces Chicano-Latino studies this fall**

Students to study forces that shaped Mexicans and Latino Americans in the U.S.



See Metro, inside.

# The Portland Observer

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Diplomats defect**

Two North Korean diplomats are in the United States after defecting at the U.S. embassies in Egypt and France. Analysts said at least one of the men could shed light on suspicions that communist North Korea sells missiles and other weapons to Syria, Iran and Libya.

**DeKlerk quits party**

Former South African President F.W. DeKlerk, who won a Nobel Peace Prize for his role in dismantling apartheid, is quitting politics. DeKlerk said he's resigning as leader of the opposition National Party once a successor is chosen and plans to leave active politics altogether. DeKlerk said he will write his memoirs in order to give his version of South Africa's turbulent and racially divided recent past.

**Beef plant on block**

Hudson Foods reportedly wants to unload the beef-processing plant that's at the center of a contamination scare. The Wall Street Journal says the company will try to sell the Columbus, Neb., plant. The federal government ordered Hudson to recall 25 million pounds of beef this month after potentially deadly E. coli bacteria was traced to meat produced at the plant.

**Sergeant's fate pondered**

The fate of the Army's highest ranking enlisted man is now in the hands of a chief investigator. Colonel Robert Jarvis presided over nine weeks of pre-trial proceedings in the sexual misconduct case of Sergeant Major of the Army Gene McKinney. McKinney faces 22 preliminary counts of assault, maltreatment, adultery and obstruction of justice. Six servicewomen are making the charges, which McKinney denies.

**More problems on Mir**

The crew of Russia's ailing space station Mir fixed the oxygen generating systems after a brief time without fresh air but hit another snag Tuesday trying to aim the solar panels they repaired last week. The oxygen problem proved to be short-lived and now the two Russian cosmonauts and their American colleague are looking at the malfunctioning system that controls the station's solar panels.

**Arafat promises security**

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat says that security ties with Israel have improved to an extent that would enable a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Albright has conditioned her first visit to the Middle East on a build-up in Israeli-PLO security cooperation disrupted by a crisis over Jewish settlement expansion and a surge in violence.

**Nuke waste leaks**

A radioactive waste storage facility at a state-run nuclear reprocessing plant northeast of Tokyo leaked low-level radiation over a period of about 30 years. A nuclear official said radiation leaked from about 2,000 drums each containing 53 gallons of low-level radioactive waste produced by uranium processing.

**Berlin Wall conviction**

Egon Krenz, East Germany's last hardline communist leader, lodged an appeal of his manslaughter conviction for the deaths of refugees killed in the 1980s as they tried to flee over the Berlin Wall. A Berlin court Monday sentenced Krenz to 6 and a half years in prison.

## Bryant begins duties at Humboldt

**New principal says parents will support changes when their children come home excited about school**

By NEIL HEILPERN

When Judy Bryant was selected as the new Humboldt Elementary School principal last week, she said she wasn't going to let controversy keep her from being focused on upgrading student test scores.

"Failure is not an option," she emphasized, during a press conference Wednesday at the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, when Superintendent of Schools Jack Bierwirth named her to the post.

"It is important to get students up to standard," said Bierwirth, who recently replaced most of Humboldt's administrative and teaching staff in hopes of raising the school's sagging test scores.

Bryant, 45, will replace popular Principal LaVerne Davis, who Bierwirth said will be reassigned to Applegate school, also in north Portland.

Bierwirth cited successes Bryant has had at Hosford Middle School, where she taught seventh grade for seven years and was assistant principal last year. She also spent three years as assistant principal at West Sylvan Middle School, two years teaching at Whitaker Middle School and seven years in the district's curriculum department.

No child is pre-ordained to succeed or fail," said Bierwirth, noting the need to have a "community partnership" in which "we will all have to work hard to get each child to a level of success."

"We selected a woman with an outstanding career in Portland," he said. "Most important, she believes what the district is trying to do is possible."

Susan Hagmeier, chairperson of the Portland school board, described Bryant as an "excellent problem solver and energetic" person.

"Children can succeed," said Bryant. "I know this. I came from a poor background



Judy Bryant answers questions after Superintendent of Schools Jack Bierwirth (right) names her the new principal for Humboldt Elementary School. Rev. Amzie Bailey (center) of the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church hosts the announcement. (Photo by Neil Heilpern)

and someone believed in me."

Most of the students at Humboldt come from economically challenged families.

One of her first challenges will be facing parents who said they would keep their children out of school in protest if outgoing principal Davis wasn't rehired.

"That is using children as a pawn" for a political statement, Bryant said. "We want students at school, learning."

Bryant said most parents had expressed support for the plan to create wholesale

changes in the school's faculty.

The parents who object to the change will come around, she noted, "when they see their children coming home excited about school."

"That will win the parents over," she said.

Bryant also noted that some criticism of Humboldt parents who do not show up at schools is unjust because many hold two or three jobs.

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## Violence outdoes resolve

(Editor's note: The following is written as a "statement of the Portland Observer to the community it so proudly serves.")

They say that a community is required to raise a child but what is required to raise a community? To raise the lives of its residents to that level of security and sense of well-being as permits the enjoyment of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The escalating wave of murder, assaults and other violence being inflicted on the persons and property of our loved ones, acquaintances or strangers has brought about a frightening perception of an imminent danger to our well-being at any time of day or night; in our homes, in our cars, on public transportation, at our workplace, at school, wherever!

This ever-increasing crescendo shows no sign of abatement.

We are all of us, youth or adults, the elderly or babies, motorists or gang members, imminent victims of the stray or intended bullet.

The loud, but sporadic concerns expressed by our leaders, legislators and other politicians do not evidence a sufficient resolve to bring about an early end to this murderous and unpredictable social chaos that has besieged us.

Whatever our social station or walk-of-life, we all seem so terribly vulnerable, and markedly so because the sources of the violence are as equally diverse. No longer available is that clearly identifiable "criminal element" to which we may smugly assign our woes.

And there is no further refuge in statistics such as those recently released by the FBI or in the social analyses released by the "think tanks" in Washington and at the major universities - "our problems result from an array of complex and interacting forces" (well, so does the weather).

We are in serious trouble in our nation, in our communities, and consequently, there must be a serious problem in the organizations that serve them, and quite likely in our homes and in ourselves to a great extent.

It is quite natural that being at the hub of communications in the community, this newspaper receives a great number of ideas and comments on this traumatic situation from its readers, from community leaders and activists as well.

As you might suppose the suggestions and directives are as diverse as the population we serve. But then, too, the amount of thought and concern expressed in these responses is in itself a reassurance that within our community (and other communities) lies the social structure, commitment and the spirituality that can retrieve our lives from the current chaos.

We even have had the viewpoint expressed that the right people are not marching on Washington: "Why haven't 50,000 of the nation's police and sheriffs stood on the White House lawn demanding that the borders and ports be closed to the drugs that are making law enforcement all but impossible. The government has no difficulty sealing the border to fruits and vegetable contaminated with insecticides."

Others, after viewing the thinly supported demonstration by the Rev. Willie Banks who recently lost his son to the senseless violence that is destroying our youth, have asked "why weren't there a hundred ministers of all races and denominations marching down Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard that day -- and on City Hall?"

The Portland Observer wants to hear your opinions on these matters and wishes to play a major role in aiding in the implementation of needed solutions.



## SEI kids benefit from challenge

Olympic Dream-Teamer David Robinson of the San Antonio Spurs is joined by Portland achievers Ahquoya Brooks (from left) Brandy Brooks, Garland Neal Brown, Brandy Offord and Rodrick Edwards at a Nike-sponsored community challenge golf tournament at Pumpkin Ridge. The event is a major fundraiser from Portland's business community for Self Enhancement, Inc., the non-profit organization dedicated to keeping our youth off drugs and away from gangs and violence.

(Photo by David Brunkow)