



## Black Pioneers in Focus

Our continuing series for Black History Month features Black Pioneers of the Old West. Following their hopes and dreams, adventuresome African Americans made the trek westward despite the brutal conditions and racial discrimination encountered along the way. Through their efforts, they opened the frontier for others to follow. See Focus section, inside.



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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Six Die in Army Helicopter Crash

HONOLULU—Two Army Black Hawk helicopters crashed in a remote area during a nighttime exercise, killing six soldiers and injuring 11 others. The two UH60 helicopters went down while participating in an exercise over Kahuku on the island of Oahu. It was still unclear whether the helicopters had collided.

### 'Gladiator' leads Oscar field

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — *Gladiator*, Hollywood's high-tech return to the glories of Rome, led Academy Awards contenders with 12 nominations, including nods for best picture, actor and director. *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, the Mandarin-language martial arts epic, was close behind with 10 nominations including best picture and best director.

### Human Genome Full of History

WASHINGTON—The first good look at the human genome reveals that a human has only about 30,000 genes, tens of thousands fewer than scientists had expected and only about 5,000 more than a mustard weed. It is the first time anyone has been able to count the number of human genes. Scientists also are startled by the discovery that the 50 percent of the human genome once dismissed as "junk" DNA has a purpose: It is the historical genetic record of our evolution, and may contain the material that triggers future evolution.

### Two Women Cross Antarctica Land Mass

MINNEAPOLIS—Two former school-teacher have become the first women duo to ski unaided across Antarctica. Explorers Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen reached the Ross Ice Shelf, completing a 2,400-mile journey that began Nov. 13. Both women have already accomplished astonishing feats. Bancroft, 45, was the first woman to ski to both the North Pole and the South Pole. Arnesen, 47, became the first woman to ski solo and unaided to the South Pole in 1994.

### Delta Pilots Approve Strike by Wide Margin

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines pilots voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike if contract talks with the nation's third-largest carrier fail, their union said. The company and union have agreed to negotiate until Feb. 28, when they will ask the National Mediation Board to arbitrate any remaining disputes. Pilots could strike as soon as April 1, barring intervention by President Bush.

### Motorola to Lay Off Up to 4,000 Workers

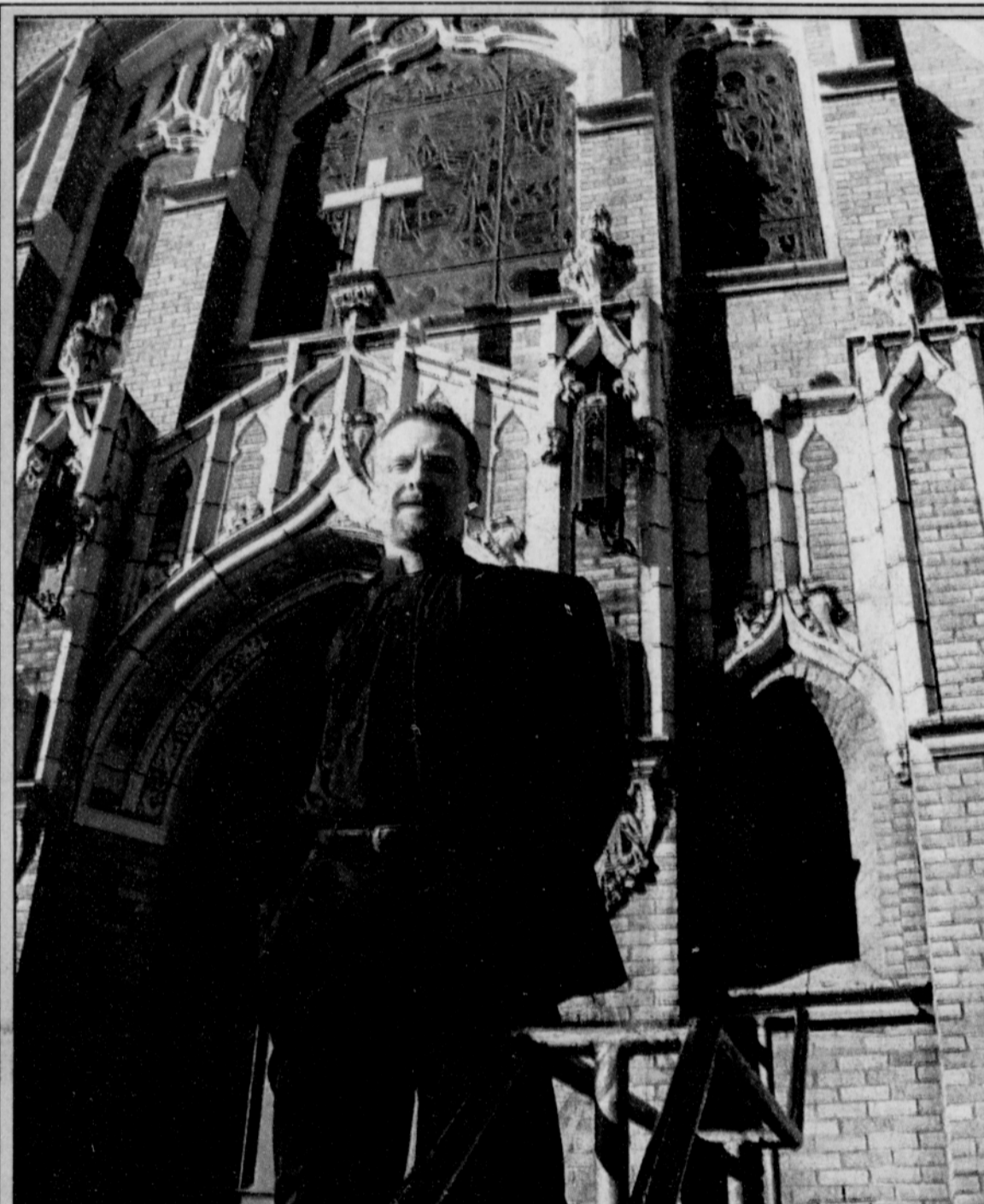
CHICAGO—Motorola disclosed plans to lay off as many as 4,000 workers from its semiconductor operations by the end of the year — its third round of employee cuts in 10 weeks. No specific locations for the layoffs were announced. The Schaumburg, Ill.-based company's semiconductor operations are based in Austin, Texas.

### Ice, Snow Hits Midwest

A large winter storm system brought snow and ice to the Midwest, sending cars skittering across roads, downing power lines and forcing hundreds of schools to close. Fourteen inches or more of snow was forecast in some areas. The freezing rain and snow were part of a storm system that stretched from Texas to the Great Lakes.

### Book Connects IBM to Nazis

BERLIN—U.S. computer giant IBM has alerted its employees about an upcoming book detailing the company's role in helping Nazis carry out the Holocaust, according to an internal company message. The book, titled "IBM and the Holocaust," claims that punch-card machines built by IBM were a key factor enabling the Nazis to make their killing operations more efficient. The company has yet to see the book.



Kevin Connell is a Jesuit priest and the president of St. Andrew Nativity School, a tuition-free Catholic middle school that will open this fall to serve low-income students of all faiths.

(PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

## Nativity School Coming to Northeast Alberta

Tuition-free middle school to teach kids from breakfast to dinner hour, including some weekends and summer school

Applications from students who will enter the sixth grade this coming fall are now being accepted at St. Andrew Nativity School, a new Catholic middle school being operated by the Jesuits in the former St. Andrew Parish School building at Alberta and Northeast 9th Avenue.

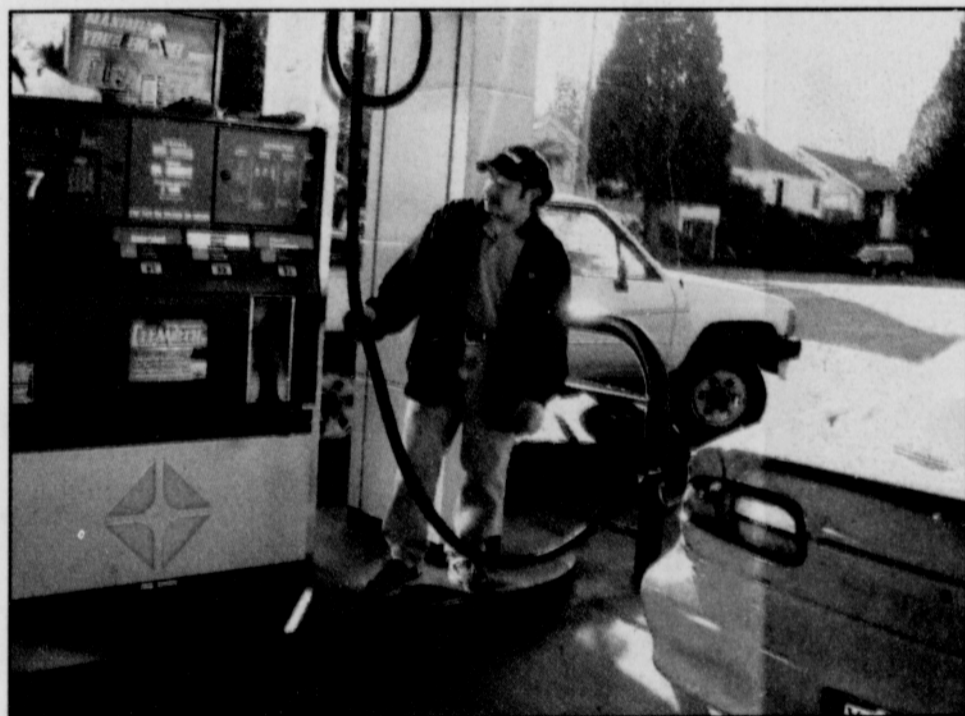
Admission is open to students of all faith backgrounds. Students must come from low-income families and be willing to work hard during an extended school day that will run from breakfast at 7:30 a.m. to a two-hour homework session that will conclude at 6:30 p.m. Weekend cultural and recreational activities will also be part of the program.

Families will be asked to pay a \$25 monthly activity fee and to support the school by volunteer hours. Students will be asked to participate in an after school program and a summer day camp in July as part of the application process.

There are now 28 "Nativity Schools" like St. Andrew Nativity operating around the country, preparing low-income students of all faiths to enter college prep high school programs. Graduates of these schools—nearly all of whom are young people of color—attend and graduate from high school and college at rates far higher than national averages. Eleven more Nativity schools are preparing to open soon. St. Andrew will be the first Nativity school in the Northwest.

To pick up an application, please stop by the school office at the South end of the ground floor of the St. Andrew School building at 4919 NE 9th. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applications will not be sent out through mail. The deadline for submitting an application is Monday, March 26. For more information, please call the school office at 503-335-9600.

## Self Service Ban Stirs Lawmakers to Action



A gasoline station attendant is on the job at the Arco on Lombard and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

(Photo by Mark Washington/Portland Observer)

(AP) - State lawmakers are once again considering whether to give motorists the choice of pumping their own gas.

No session of the Legislature has gone by without a bid to bring Oregon closer in line with the 48 other states that allow consumers to fill their own tanks. This time, Sen. Randy Miller, R-Lake Oswego, is pushing Senate Bill 506 to allow self-service gas but require stations to provide "attended service" to customers 55 and older, disabled or those with a medical condition that makes it difficult or dangerous for them to pump their own gas.

"To me, it's important to provide choice to those who want to get in and out of a gas station quickly or, for whatever reasons, want choice," he said. Miller is joined in the effort by Reps. Bill Witt, R-Portland, and Jim Hill, R-Hillsboro.

Witt's House bill would allow large gasoline retailers to let customers pump their own gas but would require the retailers to provide attendants to pump gas upon re-

quest. Hill's bill would repeal the self-serve ban but have the state fire marshal require attendants at stations where evidence shows self-service presents hazards to a majority of customers. The lawmakers figure the timing is right. For one thing, gas prices spiked after the last legislative session adjourned, and some blamed Oregon's highest-in-the-country prices in part on the expense of attendants.

For another, with most stations equipping their fuel pumps with devices to process ATM and credit cards, self-service customers don't have to leave their cars and stand behind convenience-store shoppers to pay for their gas. And there's a political factor at work: Few small, independent gas stations exist to fight for the self-service ban. In the 1970s and '80s, they were a major force against big oil companies, which pushed the repeal efforts. The small stations believed good service and customer relations helped them compete against industry-owned stations.

## Drug House Explodes North Portland Home Destroyed

A methamphetamine lab in a house at 904 N. Baldwin exploded Friday shattering the home's windows and shooting debris across the street.

Police said the explosion was so powerful it lifted the roof off the house for a split-second.

Upon hearing the explosion, a neighbor called 911, then watched as two women ran from the home and left in two separate cars; a blue Jeep Grand Cherokee and a white Thunderbird. Methamphetamine is known to be an ex-

tremely volatile and unpredictable substance and the explosion caught many neighbors off guard.

"All these windows and doors, frames and glass flying into the street, I thought, 'Who is throwing their stuff into the street?' Then I walked up to the house and thought a bomb had gone off, or realized it could have been a natural gas explosion," said Jeremy Killian.

The women left two dogs behind. Both dogs were okay and were taken away by animal control workers.



Authorities boarded up this house after a methamphetamine lab exploded sending debris across the yard and into the street. (PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)