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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Palestinians Rally on Anniversary of Displacement

RAMALLAH, West Bank — On the anniversary of their uprooting in 1948, tens of thousands of Palestinians jammed town squares throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip rallying on the anniversary of what they call "Al Naqba," or their displacement during Israel's creation in 1948. Four Palestinians were killed and at least 129 injured in clashes with Israeli troops.

Beijing, Paris and Toronto Rated 'Excellent' for '08

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Beijing, Toronto and Paris won ringing endorsements for their bids to stage the 2008 Summer Olympics. Osaka, Japan, and Istanbul, Turkey, were virtually eliminated as potential hosts. Still, Beijing has long been considered the front-runner. The 2008 host city will be chosen by the IOC in Moscow on July 13.

EU Opens Ties with North Korea

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Commission announced it will establish diplomatic relations with North Korea, saying it hopes the move will help bring about reconciliation on the divided Korean peninsula and ease hunger in the impoverished communist North. The South Korean Foreign Ministry welcomed the EU announcement.

Closing Arguments Begin for Teacher Killer

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Closing arguments began in the murder trial of Nathan Brazill, the 14-year-old boy accused of killing his English teacher. Brazill, who is being tried as an adult, faces life in prison without parole if convicted.

McVeigh Might Ask for Delay in Execution

WASHINGTON — Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh is considering whether to ask a judge to halt his execution, while his attorneys review more than 200 pages of potential evidence that the U.S. government failed to disclose during his trial.

Florida Voter Errors Cost Gore the Election

George W. Bush would have won a hand recount of all disputed ballots in Florida's presidential election if the most widely accepted standard for judging votes had been applied. However, the review of 171,908 ballots also reveals that voting mistakes by thousands of Democratic voters probably cost Gore 15,000 to 25,000 votes. That's enough to have decisively won Florida and the White House.

Europeans Mark Anniversary of WWII Victory

MOSCOW — Veterans throughout Europe marked the 56th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. Russia's president laid a wreath to honor the dead and warned Russians that fascism and ambitions for world domination are still a threat to world stability. In France, a military parade marched up Paris' famed Champs-Elysees.

Bush Wants FEMA to Deal with Terrorism

WASHINGTON — President Bush has directed the agency that normally deals with floods and tornadoes to tackle terrorism as well. In a statement, Bush ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish an Office of National Preparedness to coordinate a "seamlessly integrated, harmonious and comprehensive" response to biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.

'Moshi-Moshi', 'Hola-Hola'

Saying 'hello' in a foreign language brings higher standards to Portland schools

BY LORRAINE-MICHELLE FAUST
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Wearing a spiky blue wig and strumming on an inflated rubber guitar, the teachers sing about the different parts of the body in a foreign language.

Elementary students in Portland's public schools are learning the basics of Japanese and Spanish by watching teachers on television perform songs and skits on the programs "Moshi Moshi" and "Hola Hola".

The language instruction is broadcast live on public access channel 28 from Jefferson High School to over 600 kindergarten to fifth grade classrooms throughout the school district.

Mary Bastiani, the project's director and

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(PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER.)
Nurys Herrera (from left) Cecilia Larson and Marisol Rodriguez teach Spanish to elementary students in Portland Public Schools via the television studios at Jefferson High School.

Most Kids Now Learn Spanish

"Hola Hola" is a Spanish language program broadcast in 60 percent of Portland's public elementary classrooms. Next year, the school district will try to raise that to 80 percent. The instruction is part of an effort to have foreign language as a regular part of the curriculum. The idea is to introduce kids to world languages at a very young age, so that they can pass graduation requirement standards in high school. "You've got to build it from the elementary level and build it in as the core curriculum like math and science and everything else," said Mary Bastiani, the project director and executive producer.

PUC Rejects PacifiCorp Rate Hike

The Oregon Public Utility Commission has denied PacifiCorp's request for a 12-percent rate increase, which the company said was needed to offset rising wholesale power costs.

PacifiCorp had asked for a 24.5-percent increase, or \$42.7 million, over three months beginning May 2. When the PUC denied that request, PacifiCorp proposed a \$17.5 million

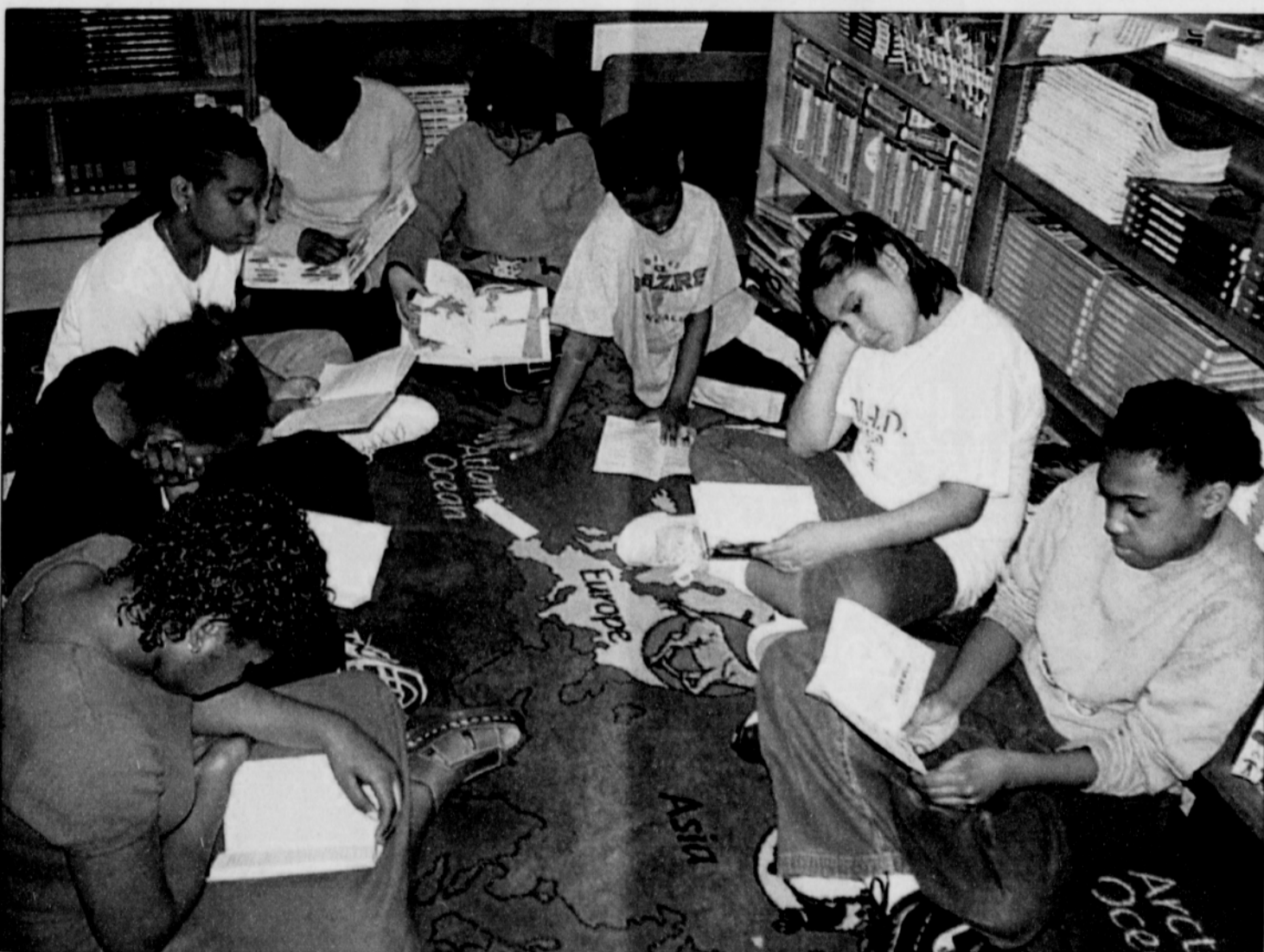
increase over three months, beginning Tuesday. "I am not comfortable that I have enough information to make a decision at this time on an increase of this size," Commissioner Roger Hamilton said Monday in a written statement. "We will continue to consider reasonable requests and price plans that reward consumers who reduce consumption and

dependence on wholesale markets."

PacifiCorp said the PUC's usual 10-month approval process for rate increases would take too long in the current wholesale power market. "This was a short-term request and we were asking for it fairly quickly. To do that we have to meet a very high burden of proof," said Jan Mitchell, a PacifiCorp spokeswoman.

She said the company has several other filings pending.

Disruptions in the market for power, high natural gas and oil prices, unusually dry weather in the Northwest and generating capacity that has failed to keep up with demand have combined to push prices up throughout the West.



Reading Milestone at Humboldt

Humboldt Elementary students in north Portland were in the final dash last week to set a goal of reading 2 million minutes. The record, expected any day, doubles the school's achievement of last year. The students set the mark by reading at least 20 minutes each night, each morning and during breaks.

(PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER)

Unanimous Court Strikes Down Medical Use for Marijuana

BY LARRY MARGASAK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Supreme Court handed medical marijuana users a major defeat Monday, ruling that a federal law classifying the drug as illegal has no exception for ill patients.

The 8-0 decision was a major disappointment to many sufferers of AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis and other illnesses. They have said the drug helped enormously in combating the devastating effects of their diseases.

Justice Stephen Breyer did not participate because his brother, a federal judge, initially presided over the case.

"In the case of the Controlled Substances Act, the statute reflects a determination that marijuana has no medical benefits worthy of an exception (outside the confines of a government-approved research project)," Justice Clarence Thomas wrote for the unanimous court.

Thomas noted the act states marijuana has "no currently accepted medical use."

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