



Dance Company Presents 'Hair Stories'

Performance explores politics of African American hair

See story, Metro Page A10



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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Police Say School Safe, But Many Students Stay Home

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — A high school where three teenagers allegedly plotted to use explosives and guns to kill fellow students reopened, but 41% of the 3,300 students stayed home despite a security sweep by nearly 40 officers and five bomb-sniffing dogs.

Afghan Peace Talks Start

KOENIGSWINTER, Germany — With billions in international aid at stake, Afghan factions opened talks on how to share power once the Taliban is defeated. Three Afghan exile groups and the Northern Alliance are part of the talks in Germany. The Taliban was not included.

Bush warns Saddam

WASHINGTON — President Bush warned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to allow United Nations arms inspectors into Baghdad. Bush said Washington would no longer tolerate Baghdad's refusal to comply with terms of the accord that ended the 1991 Gulf War.

Bin Laden's Camps Teach Curriculum of Carnage

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — Plastic explosives, timing devices and sketches of the best places to hide a bomb on an airplane filled the files of Osama bin Laden's terrorist training camps near here.

Researchers' Claim to First Embryo Draws Criticism

BOSTON — A company's claim that it has cloned the first human embryo has drawn swift opposition from anti-abortion and political leaders, who see it as a step toward cloning human beings. The researchers say they hope to develop genetically compatible replacement cells — not human clones.

WTC Count Falls Below 3,900

NEW YORK — The number of people missing or dead in the Sept. 11 terrorist assault on the World Trade Center has dropped below 3,900, according to the city's official tally. The number, which once neared 7,000, has dropped steadily as police eliminate duplicate names and people who were initially reported missing but turned out to be safe.

94-Year-Old Has Anthrax

OXFORD, Conn. — Federal health officials confirmed that an elderly woman is infected with inhalation anthrax, baffling authorities. A family member identified the woman as 94-year-old Ottilie Lundgren. She was in critical condition at Griffin Hospital in southwestern Connecticut.

U.S. Offers \$25M for bin Laden

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military hopes that Afghans seeking a \$25 million reward, not American soldiers, will creep through caves hunting for top al-Qa'eda terrorist leaders, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld says.

Firefighters Disciplined for Harassment

Fire bureau to assess its culture to prevent similar problems

The Portland Fire Bureau has disciplined five firefighters, including three supervisors, for racially harassing an African American firefighter or allowing him to be harassed.

Letters informing the firefighters of the action were delivered Sunday and Monday, following a five-month investigation.

None of the firefighters will lose their

jobs as a result of their conduct.

A battalion chief is being demoted to captain, a lieutenant is being demoted to firefighter, a fire medic will be suspended without pay for two months, another lieutenant will be suspended without pay for one 24-hour shift, and a firefighter will receive a letter of reprimand.

Fire Commissioner Jim Francesconi

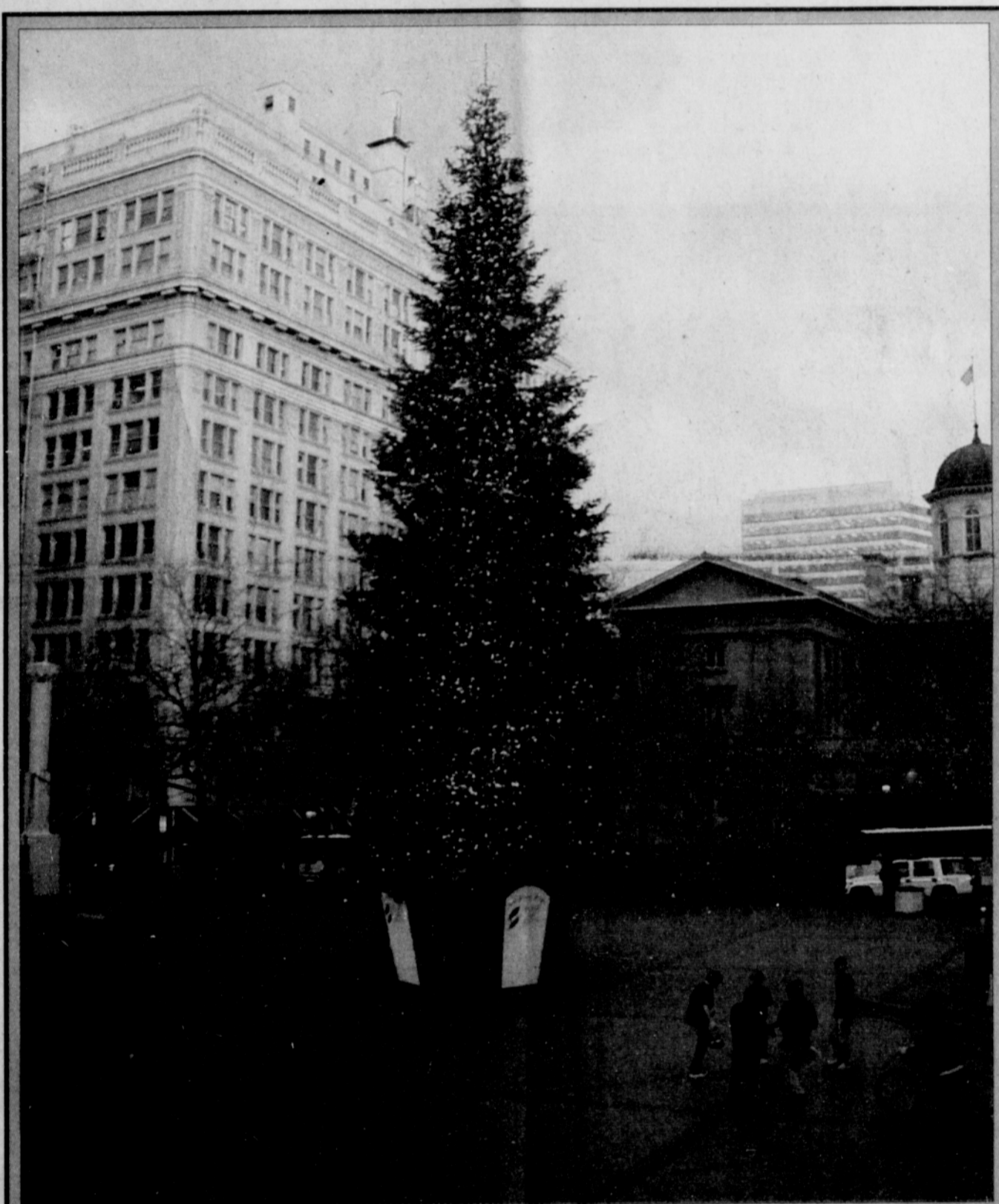
and Fire Chief Ed Wilson say the discipline is part of a broader effort to ensure that racial harassment is not tolerated among firefighters.

The bureau will hire an outside consultant to assess the bureau's culture and recommend changes in policy organization or training to prevent similar problems.

The harassment case stems from the

stress-related disability of Rick Fizer, 31, who joined the fire bureau in June 1999 and worked at the fire station off North Interstate and Going.

Fizer, an African American, was subject to racist comments about "cotton picking in Mississippi," negative comments about the North Portland neighborhoods the firefighters served and demeaning pornographic pranks.



Let the Holiday Season Begin!

Portland's Christmas tree at Pioneer Courthouse Square sparkles beautifully in the twilight Monday. The 85-foot grand fir from the Hampton Tree Farm of Oregon was lit in an official tree lighting ceremony Friday and marks the start of the city's holiday season.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Economic Downturn Made Official

Recession puts to end a 10-year streak of economic prosperity

(AP) — It's official. The National Bureau of Economic Research announced Monday that the United States entered a recession in March, the month in which the longest expansion in U.S. history celebrated its 10th anniversary. The committee, composed of academic economists from Harvard, Stanford and other prestigious universities, posted its decision on its Web site.

It ruled that the long expansion ended in March and the nation's 10th recession since the end of World War II began at the same time.

Even though it dated the start of the recession as March, the NBER panel said a full-blown downturn still might have been avoided if not for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Before the attacks, it is possible that the decline in the economy would have been too mild to qualify as a recession," the group said in a statement.

The group's decision means the longest expansion lasted exactly 10 years. The previous record for uninterrupted economic growth was set in the 1960s, a period of eight years and 10 months lasting from February 1961 to December 1969.

At the White House, President Bush, whose father lost the White House partly as a result of the country's last recession, pledged, "We will do everything we can to enhance recovery."

The president called on Congress to move quickly to pass an economic stimulus so that he will be able to "sign it before Christmas."

The country's last recession began in July 1990 and lasted until March 1991. But the NBER did not officially declare the downturn over until December 1992.

OAME Youth Store Fosters Entrepreneurship

The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs Youth Store has geared up for the holidays with unique products from minority-owned businesses in Oregon.

Nate Moreland, OAME youth program manager, said the retail outlet at 4134 N. Vancouver "is rapidly becoming the showcase for products not available in other retail stores."

Already this season, the Youth Store is featuring Godware, a clothing line by a local designer; Carter's Water, a 62-ounce, refillable, daily supply of pure water; along with the regular OAME line of mugs, t-shirts, pins, and buttons.

"We're geared up for the holidays," Moreland said.

The Youth Store is managed and operated by young entrepreneurs from north and northeast Portland.

Moreland provides training supervision with support and mentorship from



Alex Fountaine conducts business at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs youth store at 4134 N. Vancouver. The retail outlet is managed and operated by young entrepreneurs from north and northeast Portland. Nate Moreland (right) is the OAME youth program manager.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

top companies in corporate Oregon.

"The OAME Youth Store promotes business education and develops young entrepreneurs for Oregon," said Moreland, a business administration graduate from the University of Oregon.

The store is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Shopping is also available online at www.oame.org.

OAME was established in 1987 to support development of minority businesses in Oregon.

Under the leadership of Sam Brooks, founder, chairman of the board and president, OAME's scope has expanded to include resources from local, state, and federal government, educational, financial and office support sources to assist minority women and emerging small businesses and entrepreneurs become successful in business.

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