



March Calls For School Justice

Residents demand higher achievement at 14 local schools
See story, Metro inside



The Portland Observer

"The City Of Roses"

Volume XXXII
Number 4

www.portlandobserver.com

Committed to Cultural Diversity
Established in 1970

Wednesday
January 23, 2002

50¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Kmart Files Chapter 11

DETROIT — Kmart, known for its BlueLight Special and discount prices, filed for bankruptcy protection, becoming the largest retailer to seek shelter from creditors under Chapter 11.

Thousands Honor King's Legacy

ATLANTA — Thousands gathered Monday across the USA to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his message of unity. In Atlanta, a crowd of 2,000 packed the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where the civil rights leader once preached. King would have turned 73 last Tuesday.

\$2.6B Pledged to Afghanistan

TOKYO — The world has so far pledged more than \$2.6 billion to rebuild Afghanistan — well short of the \$15 billion the United Nations says is needed to reconstruct a country ravaged by 23 years of civil war, Soviet occupation and Taliban repression.

U.S. Forces Headed to Philippines

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has extended the war on terrorism to the Philippines, sending "several hundred-plus" troops to support the efforts of local forces fighting an extremist group with links to al-Qaeda.

Bail Set at \$2.5 Million for Oregon Fugitive

NEWPORT, Ore. — Bail was set at \$2.5 million for Christian Michael Longo, 27, who is accused of killing his family. He was scheduled to be arraigned today on charges of aggravated murder in the deaths of his wife, 34-year-old MaryJane, and children Zachary, 4, Sadie Ann, 3, and Madison, 2.

Ford Posts \$5B Loss

DEARBORN, Mich. — Ford Motor reported a net loss of \$5.07 billion for the fourth quarter of 2001, as it braced for a restructuring including tens of thousands of job cuts and the closing of at least five North American plants in a bid to return to profitability.

Afghan Leader Urges Women to Shed Burqas

KABUL, Afghanistan — In a dramatic reversal of Taliban policy, Afghanistan's new government is strongly encouraging female workers at national ministries not to wear the head-to-toe covering known as the burqa on the job.

3 Killed in Law School Shootings

GRUNDY, Va. — A law school student upset about his grades went on a shooting spree, killing three people and critically wounding three others before he was wrestled to the ground by students, officials said. The victims were the dean, a professor and a student.

Al-Qaeda Snitch Has Officials 'Jumping with Joy'

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — U.S. intelligence officials are elated over an al-Qaeda member who claims to have crucial information on Osama bin Laden's location. Distrustful of the local warlords, the man directly approached U.S. personnel, the *London Independent* says.

New Generations Living King's Message



Albina Head Start kids from north and northeast Portland celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's Jan. 15 birthday by marching along side the city street named in his honor. The children, ages 3 to 5, have been learning about the civil rights leader in recent days. Next month, they will learn more about American life during Black History Month.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local Torch Bearer Embodies Olympic Spirit

Honor goes to parks center worker dedicated to youth

One of Portland Parks and Recreation's long time employees will carry the Olympic torch as it makes its journey to the Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

Lee Jenkins, University Park Community Center Director in north Portland's Portsmouth neighborhood, will carry the torch Wednesday, Jan. 23 in Longview, Wash.

He was hand picked for this honor due to his life long commitment to the Portland community and youth.

"He is the best of the best. Lee's dedication to the betterment of youth is an inspiration to all who meet him," said Charles Jordan, the city's parks director.

Torchbearers were nominated with a 50-100 word essay by friends and colleagues explaining how they provided inspiration to others and embodied the Olympic spirit.

Chip Avery, his former boxing student, nominated Jenkins.

"Mr. Jenkins has touched and forever altered the lives of the disenfranchised youth in the lower income neighborhoods of north and northeast Portland through his relentless and tireless work with the University Park Community Center," Avery said.

Jenkins graduated from Jefferson High School and Portland State University. He has worked for the parks department for 28 years.

"I feel blessed and honored to be able to share this prestigious event with the likes of Muhammad Ali and Rudy Giuliani. It is something that happens only once in a lifetime and I never would have dreamed that it would happen to me," Jenkins said.



Lee Jenkins on a practice run before his official date as an Olympic torchbearer.

Southeast Portland Relic Destroyed by Fire

(AP) — Officials say it may take several days to determine the cause of a fire that ripped through an abandoned produce warehouse and two former restaurants in southeast Portland on Sunday afternoon.

The fire cracked windows in nearby buildings and sent plumes of smoke into the sky.

No one was injured in the four-alarm fire, Portland Fire Bureau spokesman Neil Heesacker said, but heat from the flames destroyed some cars and set telephone poles on fire.

The produce warehouse was a "total loss," Heesacker said.

The complex of buildings included the abandoned warehouse and the one-time landmark Italian restaurants Monte Carlo and Lido.

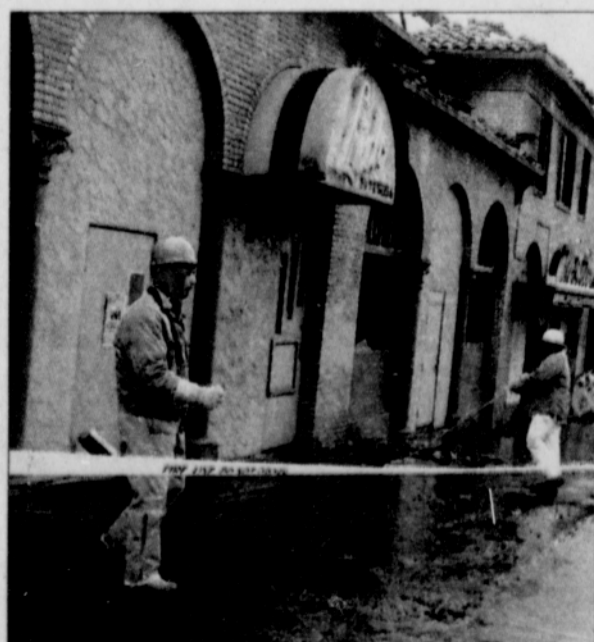
City fire and police officials have re-

sponded to recent complaints about transients living in the building, said Greg Keller, a deputy fire chief. Squatters were evicted from the warehouse in October, he said, but it was not clear if any were in the area again when the fire broke out. At one point, the fire threatened the Multnomah County elections division building with blowing embers that ignited small spot fires before firefighters extinguished them.

Three cars parked on the street were damaged by the intense heat.

James Cereghino, a neurologist at Oregon Health & Sciences University, said his grandfather and his grandfather's brother helped build the complex about 1910, after immigrating from Italy in the 1890s.

"It's a sad day. It's been there forever," Cereghino said.



Workers cleanup debris Monday after a devastating fire sent flames through the vacant Monte Carlo and Lido restaurants on southeast Belmont. The Italian restaurants, along with a vacant produce distribution center, were part of Portland immigrant history, built by an association of local growers in 1910.

PHOTO BY
MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

POSTNET STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT
NO. 1610

Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-1205