



# Ebony Rose Skiers Lured by Adventure

African American ski club hits the slopes

See story, Metro B1



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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Chief Suspect Detained in Reporter's Abduction

KARACHI, Pakistan — The chief suspect in the abduction of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl was arrested, and an official close to the investigation said the suspect told police Pearl was alive.

### Bush Aligns Supports for Showdown with Iraq

WASHINGTON — President Bush is preparing for military action against Iraq and lining up support from allies in the Middle East, U.S. officials and diplomats from the region say. Bush has said Iraq belongs to an "axis of evil" that is trying to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

### U.S. Doesn't Expect to Deploy Troops to Yemen

SAN'A, Yemen — The head of the U.S. military's Central Command said that the United States doesn't expect to deploy combat troops in Yemen to search for suspected al-Qaeda terrorists. The U.S. will provide the government training and assistance in creating a coast guard.

### Study: Lots of Death Penalties = Lots of Mistakes

WASHINGTON — Death sentences imposed in cases that are not among the "worst of the worst" are more likely to be overturned, a new study finds. Overall, states and counties where the death penalty is imposed most often also tend to have the most cases overturned because of mistakes at trial.

### Irradiated Mail Causing Health Problems

WASHINGTON — At least 87 suburban postal workers who handled irradiated mail have reported health problems including nausea, headaches and breathing problems, union leaders say. Postal officials are using irradiation to protect against anthrax contamination.

### Ecstasy Use Among Teens Grows

WASHINGTON — The number of teenagers using the club drug Ecstasy could double in five years and is rising at such an alarming rate that leading anti-drug advocates will launch a campaign against it.

### Arafat Names Possible Successors

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Yasser Arafat named two confidants to eventually succeed him in the two key posts he holds — Palestinian Authority president and head of the PLO. Arafat has long avoided naming a successor, apparently for fear an heir-designate might try to oust him.

### Amtrak Going Private?

WASHINGTON — A congressionally appointed panel says financially ailing Amtrak should be broken up in favor of letting the free market try to improve the nation's passenger train system. Meantime, Amtrak chairman Michael Dukakis calls for the recommendation to be "rejected out of hand."

## Arrest Elusive in Teen's Death



Melissa Bittler



Police hope someone can identify this man, a suspect in the December murder of a northeast Portland teenager. The sketch was drawn after a 1997 assault with similar circumstances.

Portland police are continuing to follow leads in the murder and sexual assault of a northeast Portland teenager, but so far no arrests have been made.

The family and employer of the victim sponsored an advertisement in the *Portland Observer* last week asking the public for information about the case with a possible connection to a 1997 assault. The information is repeated as a public service inside this week's issue on page A2.

Melissa Bittler, 14, was found dead Dec. 14 in the backyard home of a neighbor in the Wilshire neighborhood.

Authorities believe she was abducted off the street on her way to school in the same manner as a 1997 sexual assault near Jefferson High School. In that case, the victim was pulled between two houses and then sexually assaulted, but survived.

A four-year-old drawing shows the suspect in the earlier assault. Police believe the man may be the same person who murdered Bittler.

Detectives are urging anyone with information in this investigation to call 503-823-4731.

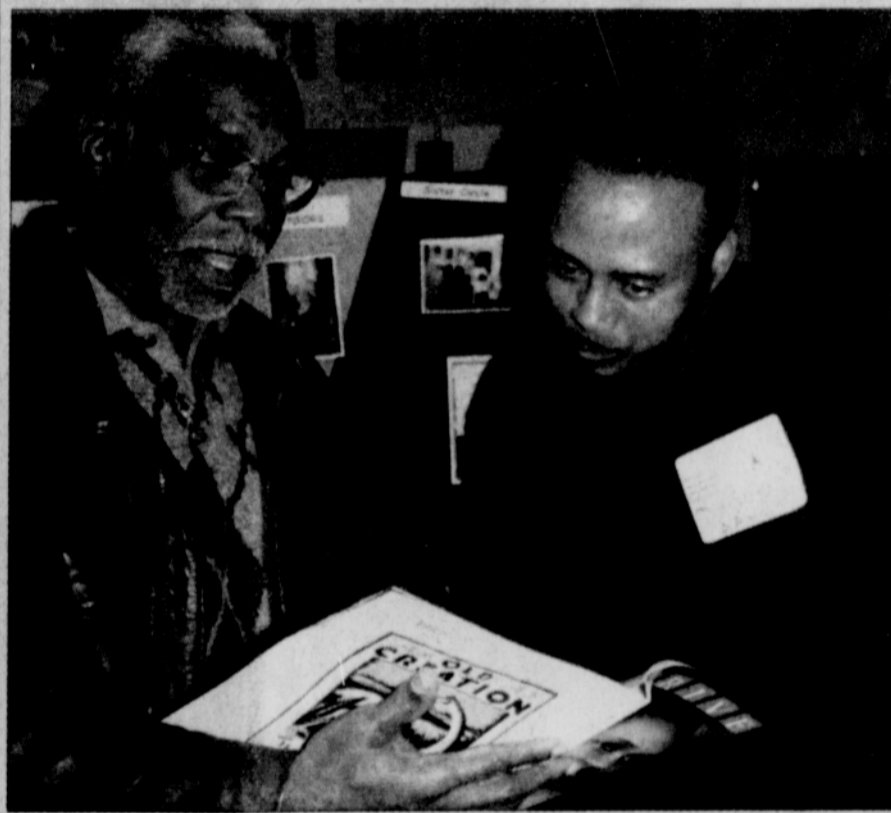
## Paul Gets Ready For a Big Move



Paul Bunyan is fitted with a construction vest and hat in preparation for a big move in the Kenton neighborhood of north Portland. The 43-year-old statue will be moved 50 feet on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. to make room for the Interstate Max Light rail project. Jerry Buxbaum of Studio 23 Productions made Paul's safety gear. The company specializes in visual concepts for print, video and special events.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Education Activists Fight HIV/AIDS



Portland activists Richard Brown (left) and Duane Lewis use African American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day to promote HIV prevention programs by the African American Health Coalition and the Multnomah County Health Department. AIDS is the number one cause of death for African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. "This is a preventable disease," said Corliss McKeever of the health coalition. The event was held Thursday at the Miracles Club on Northeast Mason and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## PCC Expansion Goes to Public Hearings

### Black churches in path of land grab are unhappy with process

BY LEE PERLMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The proposed expansion of Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland is moving into the public hearing stage with some property owners already reaching agreements to sell.

However, two African American churches, in the path of the several-block land grab, are unhappy about what the college is doing and how it is doing it.

PCC spokesperson Susan Hereford told the *Portland Observer* that the college has acquired "about half" of the property it wants. While it has yet to exercise the power of eminent domain against unwilling sellers, the college may be forced to do so in the future, she says.

The city will hold a public hearing on the expansion plans at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 1900 S.W. Fourth Ave.



Bishop Samuel Irving says his church wasn't treated fairly.

Last week, the Portland Design Commission reviewed portions of the plans. The most critical testimony came from representatives of the Salvation and Deliverance Church of God in Christ at 5736 N. Albina Ave., and the Albina Christian Life Center, 5522 N. Albina Ave.

Bishop Samuel Irving, pastor of the Christian Life Center, told the design commission the church has sold its property to the college and is in the process of moving to a new location at 2149 N. Willamette Blvd.

But Irving had harsh words for the process.

"We haven't been treated fair," he said.

Although condemnation by eminent domain was not utilized in his case, the church was "forced to accept less than we wanted," Irving said.

The Salvation and Deliverance Church, represented by church deacon Herman Greene, attorney Ty Wyman and consultant Peter Fry, charged that the college has failed to talk to them, with phone calls to college officials going unreturned.

Wyman noted that the college plans for five blocks of surface parking lots.

"If this was a private development, it would be laughed out of the building," he said.

College officials say there are no immediate plans to acquire the Salvation and Deliverance property, although the parcel is included in a 20-year expansion plan.

Right now the college is taking action to build five new structures: an "advanced technical" complex on Killingsworth, east of the existing library; a new physical education building and community cen-

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