



# School Custodians, Minorities Fight for Jobs

Workers rally to keep district from eliminating janitor workforce

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Serving Notice On Iraq Not On Cheney Agenda

LONDON — Vice President Cheney said that he won't use his Middle East tour to notify world leaders of an imminent U.S. plan to attack Iraq. But he and British Prime Minister Tony Blair made it clear that Saddam Hussein is in their sights for "phase two" of the war on terrorism.

### Boston Diocese Settles

BOSTON — The Archdiocese of Boston has reached a financial settlement with dozens of people who say they were sexually molested by now-defrocked priest John Geoghan, the plaintiffs' lawyer says. The lawyer would not give a figure, but it has been reported to be \$15 million to \$30 million.

### Goal: Finish Pentagon Exterior by Anniversary

ARLINGTON, Va. — Crews working on the Pentagon are racing to meet a self-imposed deadline to restore the building's exterior by Sept. 11. A construction official says some construction workers lost family members on Sept. 11, and "they have tremendous motivation" to get the job done quickly.

### Ridge Prepares Terror Alert System

WASHINGTON — Homeland security chief Tom Ridge said that he is preparing a five-stage, multicolored alert system to warn the public about terrorism dangers. The system is meant as a response to criticism that alerts since Sept. 11 have been too broad.

### Greenspan: Recovery 'Well Under Way'

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, citing encouraging signs in recent days, painted a rosier economic picture than just a week ago and said that the U.S. expansion was "well under way."

### Missile Nearly Hits Arafat, EU Envoy

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israel fired missiles at Yasser Arafat's headquarters as he met there with the European Union's Mideast envoy, narrowly missing the two. Separately, a Palestinian suicide bomber killed

### Mandela, Carter, Gates Team Up to Fight AIDS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Former South African President Nelson Mandela joined former President Carter and Bill Gates Sr., the father of Microsoft's Bill Gates, in the battle against Africa's AIDS epidemic. They called for treatment and an end to stigmatization.

### Budget Surplus Projected

WASHINGTON — Congress' top fiscal analyst is projecting modest surpluses of \$5 billion this year and \$6 billion in 2003 as the starting point for this year's budget fight, a small but politically significant turnaround from the deficits envisioned in January.

## Ministers Argue Shooting was Unjust



Members of the Albina Ministerial Alliance hold a news conference to allege bias in last week's grand jury decision supporting police in the fatal shooting of a black man.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Byron Hammick Jr. was killed by Portland police Feb. 22 at the Motel 6 on Southeast Powell Boulevard when he didn't obey commands to stop assaulting a child. The following statement is from the Albina Ministerial Alliance regarding a grand jury's decision that the 26-year-old black man's death was justified:

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, the oldest active ecumenical body of churches in the north and northeast of Portland, is called out of our prophetic faith tradition to speak to the injustice in the killing of Byron Clay Hammick Jr.

We believe that the ruling of justifiable homicide by the Multnomah County Grand Jury was bias in supporting the position of the police officer at the expense of the deceased Byron Hammick and the community.

After critical analysis of the Byron Hammick's case, we make the following conclusions:

The officers failed to treat the disturbance call as a hostage situation and act appropriately; the officers jeopardized the life of the child by firing weapons while the child was in the hands of the suspect; and the officers failed to use other possible options than deadly force.

For example, the three officers responding to the motel room could have used batons and physical force

while the suspect (who had no weapon) was lying at the door on the floor with the child; or used less lethal ammunition (bean bags).

The officers demonstrated cultural insensitivity in their interaction with the suspect that contributed to the suspect's death.

Finally, although Byron Hammick Jr. had a criminal record, his life was sacred and valuable in the eyes of

God, his family and the community.

The question is not whether Byron Hammick Jr. should have been arrested and the child secured from harm? But, the question is whether Byron Hammick Jr. could have been arrested and the child secured without the use of deadly force?

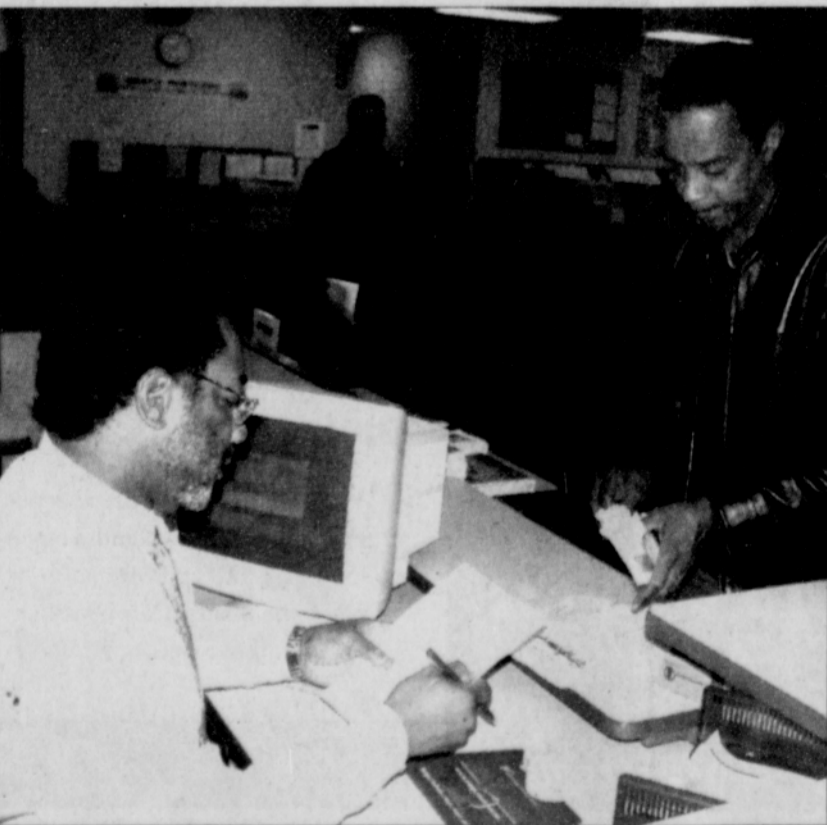
The Albina Ministerial Alliance, after assessing the facts of the case, believes that the death of Byron Hammick Jr. was unnecessary.

In order to prevent the future deaths in hostage situations like Byron Hammick Jr. and Nathan Thomas (a child inadvertently killed by police 10 years ago), we advocate the following changes in the Portland Police Department policies:

The design and implementation of policies to guide officers in hostage situations; and the implementation of stronger mandatory cultural sensitivity training and retraining for both recruits and veterans, periodically, throughout the career of police officers.

*The ruling of justifiable homicide by the Multnomah County Grand Jury was bias in supporting the position of the police officer at the expense of the deceased Byron Hammick and the community.*  
— Albina Ministerial Alliance.

## Employment Picture Gets Worse



Joe King is on a job search, consulting with Curtis Mays, a longtime supervisor at the Oregon Employment Division office on North Webster. He's one of many local residents in the job market as Oregon suffers from one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. Last week, the state economist predicted the Oregon unemployment rate will get worse, peaking sometime this summer.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Calls for Slavery Reparations Grow

Portland will be represented next week at convention to demand compensation

BY JOY RAMOS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Momentum is gaining nationwide as black civil rights leaders organize, demanding reparations for descendants of enslaved Africans in America.

Representatives from the Portland area plan to attend a national reparations convention and march next week at DePaul University in Chicago.

The convention will call on the government to financially compensate blacks for their economic exploitation since slavery began in 1610, and the vestiges of their enslavement and colonization.

A larger gathering will follow later in the year with a "Millions for Reparation" march on Washington Aug. 17.

Demanding compensation for slavery, from both the private industry and the federal government, is considered the next phase of the civil rights movement.

Determining the amount of money owed has yet to be determined. But the estimate given by the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America is \$8 trillion. The figure is based on the extent of damage to black communities and the numbers of people impacted.

Adding support for the national reparations movement is a proposed law by U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich. that calls for a study on the impact of slavery and proposals for remedies. However, Congress has not allowed any hearings on the proposal since the bill's introduction in 1989.

Early this year, a Reparations Coordinating Committee consisting of "heavyweight" attorneys and professors began laying the legal groundwork to sue dozens of corporations who profited from slavery before 1865. The companies range from banks to textile makers. Making the task more difficult is the fact that no company accused of profiting from slavery broke the law because slavery was legal.

Ultimately, the reparations committee wants Congress to issue a national apology and make massive reparation payouts to African Americans.

In the Northwest, the reparations issue was discussed Feb. 23 at a meeting in Seattle.

Dorothy Tillman, national chairperson for

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## Many Witness Downtown Murder

(AP) — A man was shot several times in the center of the busy downtown shopping district during lunch hour Monday.

Richard James Ballantine, 42, died about two hours after the shooting. A warrant issued Tuesday charged Robert E. Heinz, 34, of Beaverton with the murder.

Witnesses said the gunman shot Ballantine a couple of times, reloaded his handgun, fired again and then casually walked away.

Susi Wallace, an off-duty paramedic, was about to board the MAX train with her husband when they heard shots.

They spotted a man lying on the street who was "in shock and shaking," she said.

"He said 'I've been shot, I know the shooter,'" Wallace said.

She said the man told her his assailant had demanded that he give him Xanax, a tranquilizer used for anxiety disorders.

Christina Lawrence, 17, a student, said she saw the shooting from the other side of Broadway.

She said the gunman put the gun in his pocket after the shooting and began walking away until a crowd of people started to chase him.

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