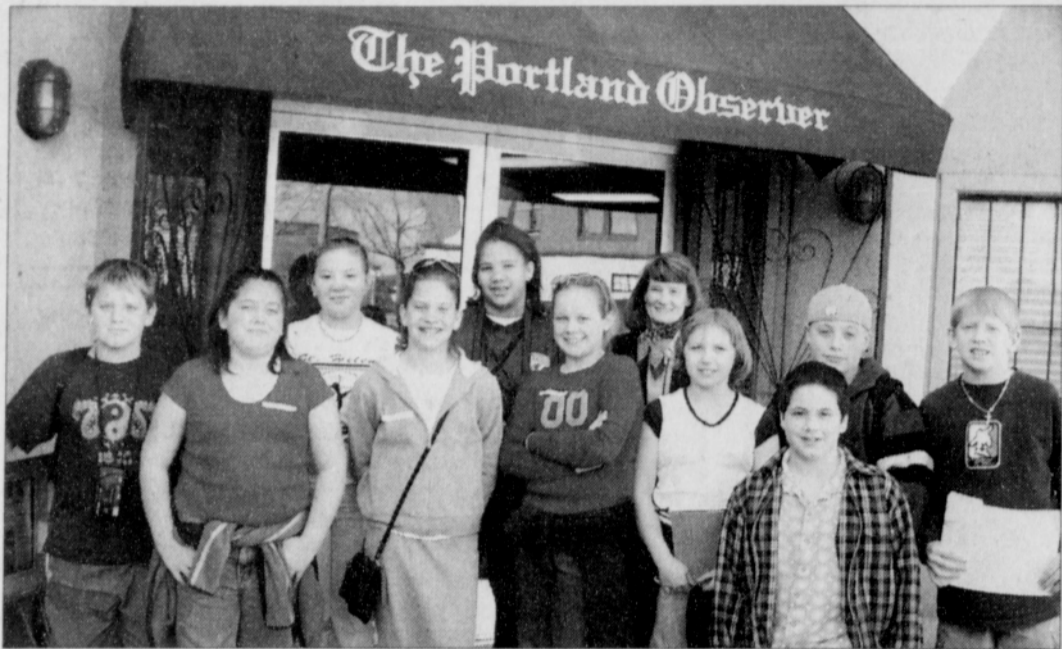




BUSINESS

Young Journalists Explore 'Real World'



Staff members from the school newspaper, "Strand," of Yankton Elementary School in Columbia County visit the offices of the Portland Observer on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The Feb. 28 field trip was put together as a first-hand lesson in how a full service newspaper is published.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Scholarships for Business Students

The National Black MBA Association, Inc. is accepting applications for minority college scholarships. This program aims to attract African Americans, Native Americans and Latino students who are enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral business program in the United States.

Elliot Williams, president of the group's Portland-Seattle chapter, says the \$1,000 scholarships are to promote academic achievement and to help business students with the high cost of education.

"We recognize the financial difficulties that college students

endure and we hope these scholarships can ease the burden while encouraging achievement," Williams said.

The deadline for applying is April 1. For more information or to apply, call 503-735-3010 or go online to www.nmbmaa.org/programs.html.

Job Discrimination Complaints Soar

(AP)—Job discrimination complaints filed against private employers with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission increased by 1.2 percent last year to 80,840 - the highest level in six years.

Last year's complaints were the highest since 1995, when 87,529 claims were filed.

"It's not unusual to see an increase in complaints against employers when the economy has gone south and employees are

being laid off," said Randy Johnson, U.S. Chamber of Commerce's labor policy vice president.

Discrimination allegations based on age and disability had the highest rates of increase. "The incidence rate of age and disability discrimination appears to be on the rise with the graying of America," said EEOC Chairwoman Cari M. Dominguez.

The rate of age-discrimination complaints increased 1.5 percent

last year to 21.5 percent of all allegations. The rate of disability discrimination complaints rose 0.5 percent to 20.4 percent of all cases in 2001.

"We've always found that whenever there is an economic downturn and employers have to do some cost-cutting, older workers more often than not bear the brunt of that," said Laurie McCann, an AARP senior lawyer who specializes in age discrimination.

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Your support will be truly appreciated.

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