

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

## Community Calendar

### Portland Weavers Guild

Just in time for Mother's Day, the Portland Handweavers Guild is sponsoring their annual exhibit and sale of one-of-a-kind handwoven items and other unique creations at the Portland Convention Center from May 3-5. Artists will be on hand to discuss their work and demonstrate a variety of fiberart techniques. Local artists from Mozambique, Togo, Afghanistan and other countries will be on hand to demonstrate their crafts and sell their work. Call Kathy Sengenberger at 503-638-0743.

### Friends of Trees

Friends of Trees will be training volunteers about how to care for recently planted trees and how to coordinate tree plantings in their neighborhoods. Their first training session will be on May 4, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at BridgePort Brewing Co., located at 1313 N.E. Marshall. For more information, call 282-8846, ext. 11 or go online to [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org).

### OHSU on Women's Health

The Oregon Health & Science University's Center for Women's Health is sponsoring a brown bag discussion series on health care issues. The next one will be given by faculty member Anne Nedrow, M.D. She will be speaking on health problems that can be diagnosed and treated with both conventional and alternative forms of medicine. The talk will be given on Thursday, May 23, 1 p.m. at the OHSU Hospital, Room 8B-60. Call 503-494-0515.

### Cinco de Mayo Celebration

On Sunday, May 5, McMenamins Grand Lodge in Forest Grove is celebrating Cinco de Mayo with traditional Mexican dancing and music, children's piñatas, and food and beverage specials throughout the property's restaurants and small bars. The event will be from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., located at 3505 Pacific Ave. For more information, call 503-992-9533 or go online to [www.mcmenamins.com](http://www.mcmenamins.com).

### Dishman Dollar Night

The Matt Dishman Community Center's spring term Dishman Dollar Night will be held on Friday, May 31, from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott Street. Dishman Dollar Night includes indoor play park for toddlers, face painting, arts & crafts, game room play, a clown and Open Play Swim in the pool. Call 503-823-3186.

### College Exam Practice Tests

Kaplan Test Prep will be holding a free PSAT and SAT Practice Test event for prospective college applicants. The event will be from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 at the Portland Kaplan Center, located in the Galleria Building, 600 S.W. 10th Ave. Ste. 402.

## Interstate Max Takes Toll

Small music store can't survive light rail construction

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A north Portland business can't survive the construction of light rail on Interstate Avenue.

"Max construction has killed my business," said Rico Liddey, owner of Music Monster, a retail outlet which features used records, CDs, playstations and movies at 5808 N. Interstate.

Interstate Max recently reached the midway point in a four-year construction period.

Liddey said he has tried cutting every corner to stay in business over the last two years, but he can't overcome the difficulty of operating a business on a street that is packed with construction obstacles and no parking.

With the street tore apart around him, business traffic is down 80 percent from a year ago, he said.

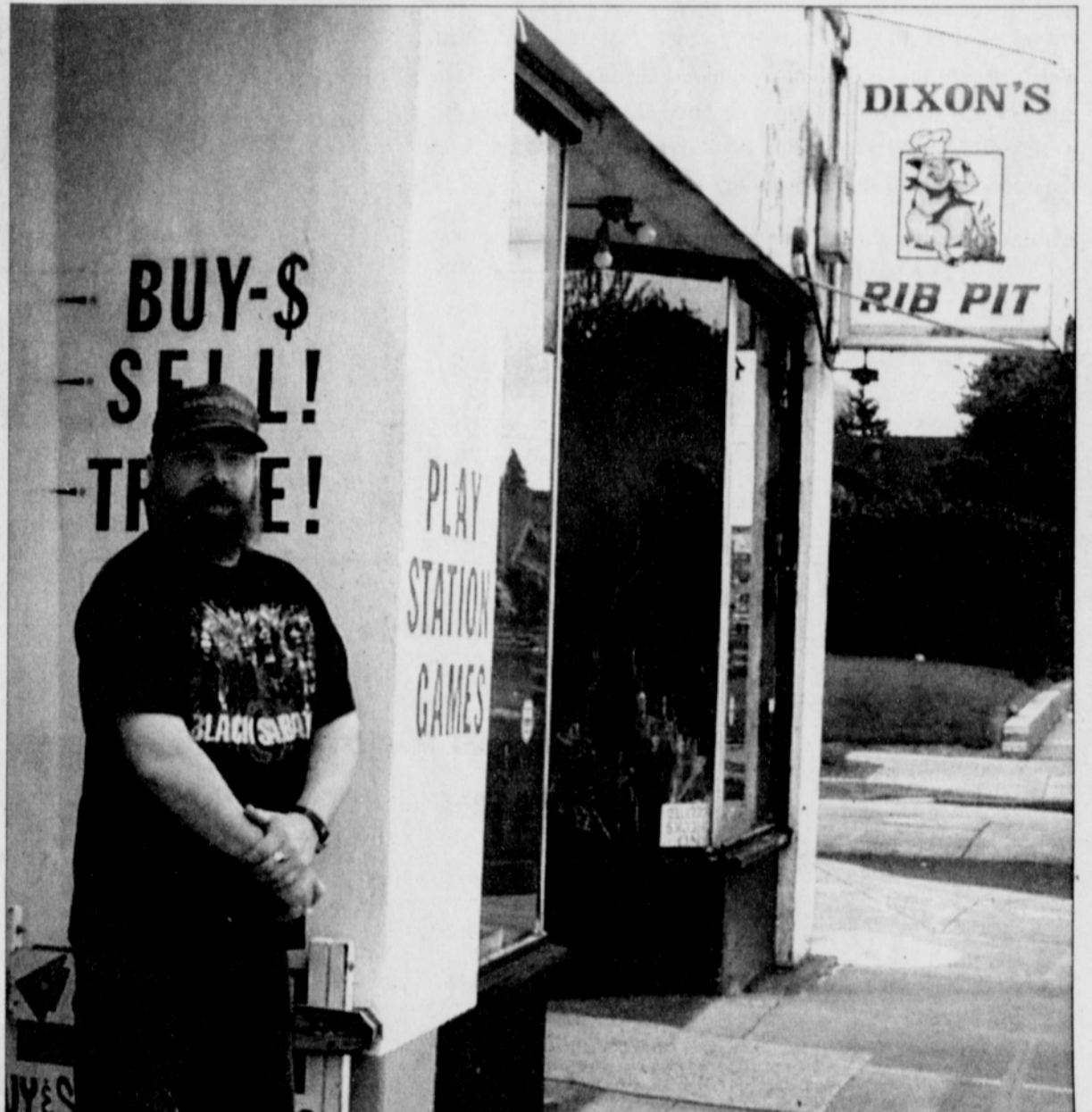
Liddey said he cut back on store hours when he was forced to take a part time job to meet his monthly living expenses.

He said Tri-Met offered to help with low interest loans, but compensation for lost sales was rejected.

On the loan, Liddey said he didn't want to increase his debt.

Tri-Met also helped him by distributing ads, flyers and gift certificates, but Liddey said it hasn't been enough.

"I don't want to go out of business, but I have no other choice" Liddey said.



Rico Liddey of Music Monster is closing his store at 5808 N. Interstate. Liddey blames light rail construction for blocking access to the small retail outlet and dramatically decreasing the amount of people using the street, people he needs to stay in business.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Seniors Earn Strips in Adidas Competition

A dozen local seniors are proud recipients of \$1,000 and \$5,000 scholarships from Adidas because of their achievements in academics, athletics and community service.

The high school standouts were recently honored as 2002 Adidas Earn Your Stripes winners during a Trail Blazers game at the Rose Garden.

The recipients of \$1,000 scholarships were Ava Asher and Aileah Dorn of Cleveland; Brittany Holman, Catherine Meeker, and Nicole Doler of Grant; Rozlyn Ramberg of Madison; John Davis and Katie Sinnott of Roosevelt; and Paul Lubliner and Darren Nakata of Wilson.

The two students receiving \$5,000 scholarship have shown a unique ability to maintain a high academic standard while also participating in sports and giving back to their communities. Those students are

Grace Blouin of Roosevelt High School and David Huynh of Benson.

Blouin has been active in varsity cross-country, soccer and basketball and was



A group of Portland high school seniors are honored for their achievements in academics, athletics and community service.

the student body treasurer at Roosevelt. Utilizing her Spanish-speaking skills, she also works with elementary school children who are learning English as a second language.

Huynh has been a dedicated member of Benson cross-country team for four years. He is dedicated to improving community health, and is involved in a project to reduce the

incidence of tuberculosis in the homeless in Multnomah County, a project that is being reviewed by the county for implementation in this department.

## Hurt Mom and Daughter Need Help

A special fund has been started to help a mom and her young daughter recover from serious injuries in a traffic accident.

Rianna Velasquez, 22, and Shamyiah Ibe, 3, were seriously injured on April 9 when they were hit by a truck walking across Northeast Halsey and 183rd Avenue.

Both suffered severe head and pelvic injuries and are patients at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. They have had several surgeries already and will require many months of intense medical treatment.

The family, which also includes a 9-month-old-daughter, does not have health insurance.

Family and friends urge public dona-



Rianna Velasquez and her daughter, Shamyiah Ibe.

tions in care of the "Rianna Velasquez and Shamyiah Ibe Help Fund" at any Bank of America branch. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

In addition, family and friends are planning fundraisers. Contact Rianna's sister, Nakisha Velasquez at 503-261-1365 for more information.

## Bush Drug Fighter Drawn Into Debate

Portland audience questions success of 30 year old war on drugs

BY WILLIAM McCALL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

John Walters, the Bush administration's drug czar, came to tout the government's war on drugs. But he found himself in a debate Friday over whether some drugs should be decriminalized.

"After 30 years of the war on drugs, couldn't you say your presence here is an admission of failure?" Dr. Euan Horniman asked Walters after the official gave a breakfast speech at the City Club.

Horniman noted that Britain and The Netherlands have decriminalized some drug use and offered addiction treatment programs instead of jail time without increasing the crime rate.

Walters replied that decriminalization has failed when it has been tried in this

country. He singled out former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke for criticism, saying addiction rates and HIV infection from illegal drug use skyrocketed after Schmoke relaxed drug enforcement in the city.

"If you want an example of why it doesn't work ... my answer is to go to Baltimore," Walters said.

He said teen-agers and marijuana still rank as the top priorities of the government's anti-drug program, despite what the administration contends is a more relaxed attitude toward drug use by parents in the baby boomer generation.

Government surveys show roughly one in four of the estimated 4.5 million Americans with a drug problem are teen-agers, he said.

"I'm no Pollyanna - I don't think we can eliminate the drug problem," Walters said.

"But studies repeatedly show if they don't use drugs as teen-agers, they're unlikely to use them as adults. The same goes for cigarettes and alcohol."

Walters came to Oregon on Friday to talk about national drug trends, this state's battles against methamphetamine labs, and local prevention and treatment efforts, among other matters.

In a speech at the Portland City Club, Walters said money spent on illegal drugs in Oregon and the rest of the country helps support terrorism.

The White House chief of the Office of National Drug Control Policy said drug money has always gone to terrorist groups but the attack on America last September has renewed government efforts to reduce drug trafficking and abuse.

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