



# Petitioning For a Higher Minimum Wage

Proposed ballot measure would give Oregon's lowest paid workers a raise.

See story, Metro section.

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"The City Of Roses"

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Memo Implicates Enron

WASHINGTON — A confidential Enron document released by federal energy regulators shows how Enron traders drove up power prices during California's energy crisis. The memorandum outlined practices similar to those described by California officials, who allege the energy trading company created phantom congestion to increase electricity prices.

### Worker Productivity Surprisingly Strong

WASHINGTON — Worker productivity, a key ingredient to the economy's long-term vitality, shot up at an annual rate of 8.6% in the first quarter, the best performance in nearly 19 years. The jump in productivity followed a strong 5.5% rate of increase in the final three months of 2001, the Labor Department reported.

### Pipe Bomb Found in Texas

OMAHA — A pipe bomb similar to 17 others found in four other states was discovered in a rural mailbox in Texas, the FBI said. The bomb was found near Amarillo, Texas. "It's another pipe bomb. It looks similar to the others," an FBI agent said.

### Sharon Brings Peace Plan to U.S.

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was due to arrive in Washington, bringing with him a peace plan and what Israel says is conclusive evidence that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is an unreformed terrorist who will never lead his people to peace.

### Chirac Declares Victory in France

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac was re-elected in a landslide over extreme-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen after a dramatic race that shook France to its foundations. In exit polls, all three of France's major polling firms gave Chirac 81% to 83% of the vote.

### U.S. Split Over Ousting Saddam

WASHINGTON — President Bush's hopes of building a strong insurgent group to replace Iraqi President Saddam Hussein have been set back by feuding among U.S. officials over who should lead the opposition, administration sources say.

### Second Space Tourist Returns

ASTANA, Kazakhstan — Internet millionaire Mark Shuttleworth, the world's second space tourist, landed safely in Kazakhstan and said his space voyage was "the best thing I've ever done."

### Bush Approval Not Just Wartime Bounce

Built on the faith Americans showed in President Bush following his response to terror attacks on Sept. 11, a new poll shows that almost eight months later Bush has developed an image among most Americans as a strong, competent, leader who shares their values and has elevated respect for presidency.

## Church Touts Changing Demographics

Multicultural 'Ainsworth in the City' events celebrate diversity

Promoting a multicultural celebration at the Ainsworth United Church of Christ are Andrea Cano (from left), Helena Ellison, Ashley Cooper and her father, also Ashley Cooper.

PHOTO BY DAVID GIEZYNG/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Draped on the brick wall of Ainsworth United Church of Christ is a banner which reads "A Multiracial, Multicultural, Open and Affirming Community,"—a message that rings true to many people in this northeast Portland neighborhood.

Throughout the years, church members have noticed and responded to the changing demographics of the neighborhood and in greater Portland.

To celebrate the diversity in the community, the church is hosting a three-day

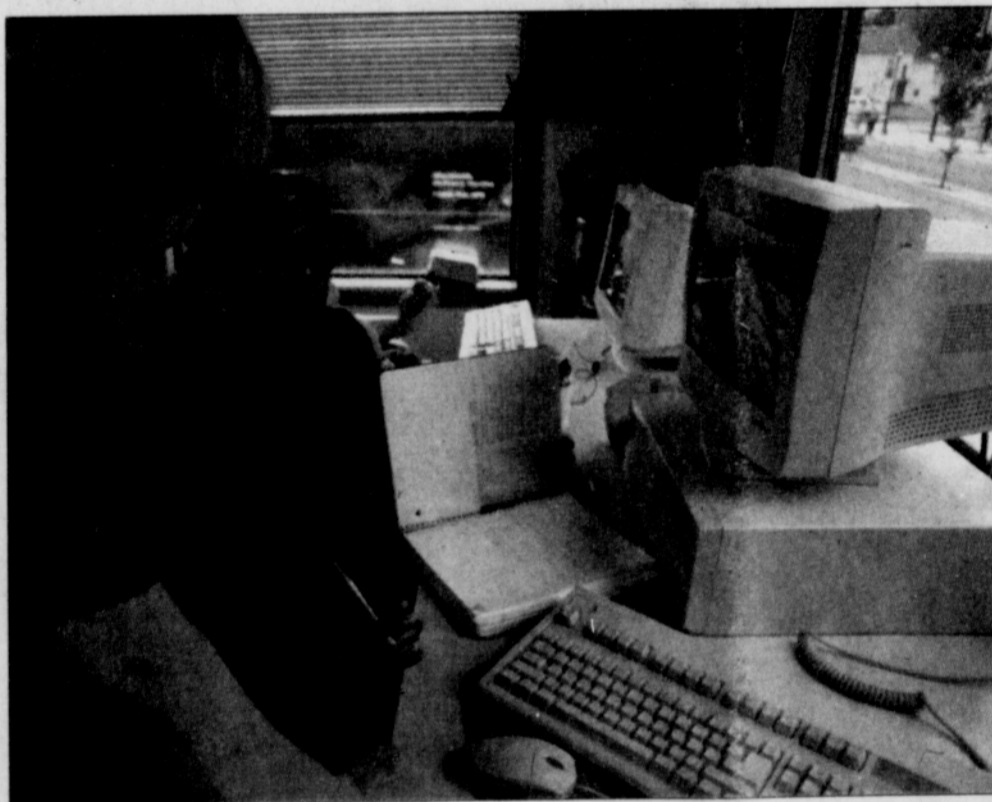
community event called "Ainsworth in the City," from Friday, May 17 to Sunday, May 19.

The non-profit Portland Opportunities Industrial Center is a community partner in the celebration and will benefit from

event proceeds.

"Ainsworth in the City" opens with a gala dinner, dance, silent auction and jazz concert featuring Marilyn Keller, a popular local jazz vocalist at Shenanigans Res-

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Naimah Johnson, 18, discusses a play she's writing for a McCoy Academy psychology class with school principal Donna White. Johnson says McCoy teachers give her a lot more attention than she got at Jefferson High School.

PHOTO BY  
DAVID PLECHL/  
THE PORTLAND  
OBSERVER

## Mission Gets Tougher at McCoy

Northeast alternative school is down, but far from out

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Donna White, principal at McCoy Academy on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, describes the alternative school's goal as "helping students who are not able to be successful in a traditional school."

That mission just got a little harder since last month's decision by the Portland School Board to cut funding to the school after its two-year charter expires this June. "We thought if there were issues, they would work with us and help us set up a school improvement plan," White said. "That didn't happen."

The board cited poor attendance and unpaid debts as its major reasons behind its decision.

The school provides a small student to teacher ratio and is designed to allow students the opportunity to catch up where traditional schools have left them behind.

The school has existed in one form or another for 15 years, and has gone only one year without any public funding, White explained.

"That year put us in debt," she said.

Though discouraged by the news, founder of McCoy and executive director of Oregon Outreach, Rebecca Black says, "The school will remain open."

Enrollment will likely be cut back, but supporters hope private donations, grants, and loans will keep the school afloat.

The school has four sites in Portland, one in Molalla, and one in Washington County.

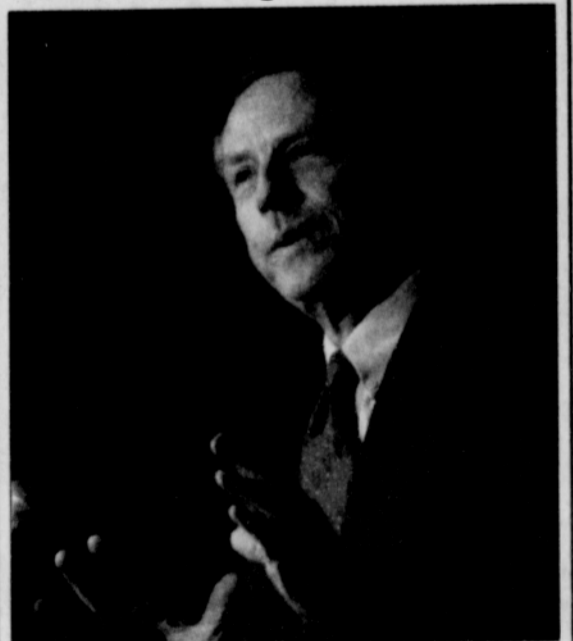
The minimum attendance rate set by the board was 80 percent, which the school reached at all of its locations except at the MLK site. The school enrolls 45 students. Most students eventually graduate. Some will catch up and return to conventional schools.

Of the school's success at helping kids turn their educations around, White says, "Some kids just need a smaller environment. Some have had drug or alcohol issues or trouble with the law. Some of the kids are homeless."

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## Whose America is This?

Portland Summit Hears Famed Champion of Justice



Morris Dees speaks of hope and tolerance at Diversity Summit.

BY SUSAN VOGT  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A lifelong champion of justice, who is devoted to the teaching of tolerance, the value of understanding and the beauty in acceptance, had dramatic words that echoed in the minds of nearly one thousand people during Diversity Summit 2000.

"Whose America is this?" Morris Dees, asked the Oregon Convention Center crowd. "The battle for that answer will play out during the next century as whites move into the minority. We must make room for all

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