



**YWCA Closes Northeast Center**  
Group can't afford to operate site because of dwindling donations.  
*See page A6, inside.*



# The Portland Observer

"The City Of Roses"

Volume XXXII  
Number 21

www.portlandobserver.com

Committed to Cultural Diversity  
Established in 1970

Wednesday  
May 29, 2002

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Supreme Court to Review Bans on Cross Burning

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will consider whether state laws that ban cross burning violate the free speech rights of Ku Klux Klansmen or others. The court's ruling, expected next year, could clarify how far states may go in banning a practice associated with racial hatred and intimidation.

### Russia Gets Voice in NATO

ROME — NATO allies welcomed Russia as a junior partner in the alliance set up more than a half century ago for the Cold War containment of Moscow. "Two former foes are now joined as partners," President Bush said.

### Police to Re-question Man in Levy Case

WASHINGTON — Police want to talk again to a man convicted of assaulting joggers in the same park where Chandra Levy's remains were found. According to court papers, the man attacked a woman on May 14, 2001 and another on July 1 not far from where Levy's body was found.

### Amid Partisan Rancor, House Passes Anti-terror Bill

WASHINGTON — The House passed a bill that would provide \$29 billion for the fight against terrorism overseas and at home. The measure's passage came only after lawmakers battled until nearly 3 a.m. over issues that could resound in this fall's congressional elections.

### Bush Opposes Commission to Probe 9/11 Warnings

BERLIN — President Bush said he opposes establishing a special commission to probe how the government dealt with terror warnings before Sept. 11, saying the matter should be dealt with by congressional intelligence committees.

### Broccoli is Good for You, Researchers Say

WASHINGTON — Broccoli and broccoli sprouts contain a chemical that kills the bacteria responsible for most stomach cancer, say researchers. In laboratory tests the chemical, sulforaphane, killed helicobacter pylori, a bacteria that causes stomach ulcers and often fatal stomach cancers.

### Report: 10 Million Children on Threshold of Poverty

WASHINGTON — The number of children living on the threshold of poverty in working families surpassed 10 million in 2000 after increasing throughout the 1990s, according to the annual Kids Count report.

### States Seeing a Revenue Shortfall

State governments are facing their biggest budget crunch in 11 years as rising unemployment, a sinking stock market and a weak business climate are leading to huge declines in tax revenue. To close the gap, states are slicing education outlays, laying off workers and holding tax refunds.



Everett Rice leads the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs at the Capitol in Salem.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Playing an Active Role in Salem

### Everett Rice shepherds agenda for blacks in government

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon's Commission on Black Affairs serves as an integral link between Oregon's blacks and Oregon's government.

The panel was created in 1980 by then Gov. Vic Atiyeh as a means of reaching out to blacks in the state and ensuring their representation and participation in the workplace and in government. The commission will routinely promote legislation to the governor and other lawmakers after identifying and researching concerns and issues affecting the African American community.

"We work with government agencies, we look at the good and the bad, and determine how we can be of assistance," said Everett Rice, the commission's executive director.

Rice said the ongoing recruitment and

attainment of black employees is a major focus right now.

He said many of the problems black employees face on the job are not necessarily racial.

"Sometimes the issues are just cultural," he said.

Rice, himself experienced "a little culture shock" when he first moved to Portland from Memphis almost 10 years ago.

He recalls seeing purple hair for the first time here in Portland.

"It was a little shocking, but I liked it," he said. "Maybe when I was younger, I could have had a chartreuse afro," he added, jokingly.

In Salem, the OCBA is also working hard with the governor's office to find black representation for the state's 200 different commissions and boards.

"We want to make sure the voice of African Americans is being heard," Rice

said.

The group is conducting a diversity survey of state agencies that includes "not just people of color, but women and people with disabilities as well," Rice said.

The commission is also compiling a database of businesses helpful to Oregon's blacks.

"Some people just need to find a barber familiar with black hair," Rice said.

Prior to his current role, Rice spent five years in the Office of Multi-Cultural Health in Portland.

"Oregon is a dream come true for someone who espouses diversity," he said.

Rice also points out the importance of reaching out to blacks in some of Oregon's smaller communities who are often overlooked, as well as the state's swelling numbers of African immigrants from places like Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and

the Caribbean.

Rice said he gives "a lot of presentations at churches."

Like other government agencies, the OCBA has "some funding issues." Rice said, "but is about to start a major fund raising campaign."

He said the potential of the agency is dynamic with state government setting aside an account for the agency that will match funds raised up to \$10,000.

Rice says Oregonians are slowly becoming aware of the commission.

The group is pressing for a move that would bring its office to Portland. A move Rice said "would bring us that much closer to the highest numbers of African Americans in the state."

If you would like to contact the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, call 503-945-9008 or visit online at [www.ocba.state.or.us](http://www.ocba.state.or.us).

## Plans Evaluated for Whitaker-Adams Site

An advisory committee is helping the Portland School District lay plans to demolish and rebuild a school facility at the former Whitaker Middle School-Adams High School site at 5700 N.E. 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.

The committee's next public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Vernon Elementary School, 2034 N.E. Killingsworth. A second public meeting and workshop will be held Tuesday, June 11 at 6 p.m. at Whitaker-Lakeside, 5135 N.E. Columbia Blvd.

The Whitaker-Adams site was closed last summer after extensive problems with roofing, mold and radon gas. The school's students were moved to two tempo-

rary locations.

Interim superintendent Jim Scherzinger recommended to the School Board that a smaller school be rebuilt after an analysis showed that repairs to the building would not be cost-effective.

The decision to rebuild the school and redevelop the property to include mixed uses was made, based on the analysis report and input from neighborhood residents, parents and school staff at two public meetings.

School district officials said funding for the new middle school would be generated from redevelopment of the site, possible private partnerships, and capital improvement funds, which can be used only for construction purposes.

## Rose Festival Opens Thursday



Beautiful parade floats; fun events for the whole family; and a wide range of entertainment mark the annual Rose Festival each June in Portland. Two weeks of activities begin Thursday with the Queen's Coronation and the opening of Waterfront Village at Waterfront Park. A fireworks spectacular is also scheduled at 9:45 p.m. Thursday over the Willamette River, downtown.

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