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The



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'City of Roses'

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

'Premie' Reunion



A reunion celebration for families with children born prematurely and cared for in the neonatal intensive care unit at Providence St. Vincent Hospital draws Barbara Stone and her daughter, Amber (from left), along with Barb Ratto.

### U.S. Lowers Terror Alert to Yellow

WASHINGTON—Two weeks after putting the nation on high alert, President Bush lowered the nationwide terror alert back to code yellow because of disruptions in the al-Qaeda terrorist network. Officials stressed that Americans should remain alert.

### Mom Who Beat Toddler Says She was Upset

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The woman caught on video beating her 4-year-old daughter in a department store parking lot will probably plead guilty and seek mercy from the court, her lawyer said.

### Miss Universe Fired, Panamanian to Take Over

NEW YORK—For the first time in its 52-year history, the Miss Universe Organization has fired the woman wearing its crown. Oxana Fedorova, a 24-year-old Russian law student, was ousted four months after she won the pageant, the organization said.

### U.S. Poverty Up and Income Down in 2000

WASHINGTON — The U.S. poverty rate rose for the first time in eight years and household income fell last year, a double dose of bad economic news that coincided with the first recession in a decade, the Census Bureau said.

### Britain: Iraq Has 'Military Plans'

LONDON—Iraq has "military plans" for the use of chemical and biological weapons, Britain in a dossier of evidence about Iraq's development of weapons of mass destruction.

### Illinois Reports West Nile Case in a Dog

Veterinarians in Illinois have confirmed the first U.S. case of West Nile virus in a dog. The infected dog was an 8-year-old Irish setter-golden retriever mix that may already have had a disease that weakened its immune system.

### Entrepreneurial Spirit Suffering

SAN FRANCISCO—U.S. entrepreneurship is not what it was. For the first time in more than 50 years, entrepreneurs are failing to lead the United States out of recession, government data suggest. Fewer start-ups mean fewer new jobs and innovations.

# Columbia Villa Resurrection

## Residents face relocation during complete reconstruction

BY WYNDE DYER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The streets of Columbia Villa go round and round. They never seem to get anywhere. It's hard to find a way in, and even harder to find a way out.

Playgrounds and parking lots dot the landscape. They act as the only landmarks between nearly identical houses — houses that literally turn their backs on the surrounding Portsmouth neighborhood.

Villa children play on wide open grassy spaces as parents watch from their front steps or open windows. Residents read on plastic lawn chairs under age-old shade trees or tend gardens behind the chain length fences of their tiny back yards. Occasionally a dog barks or the No. 4 Fessenden bus passes swiftly through.

It feels like a place that time forgot. "I'm in seclusion from the rest of the world out here," said Sheila Ramzy, a longtime resident of the Villa.

Oregon's largest public housing project, with 462 units spread out on 69 acres of land is as rich with history as it is with stigma. Built during World War II to house shipyard workers, the Villa became the first home for many low-income minorities in Portland. After Vanport was destroyed by flooding, it became a refuge for many of the city's African Americans. During the 1980s, the Villa's reputation was tarnished by gang violence, drug use and rising crime.

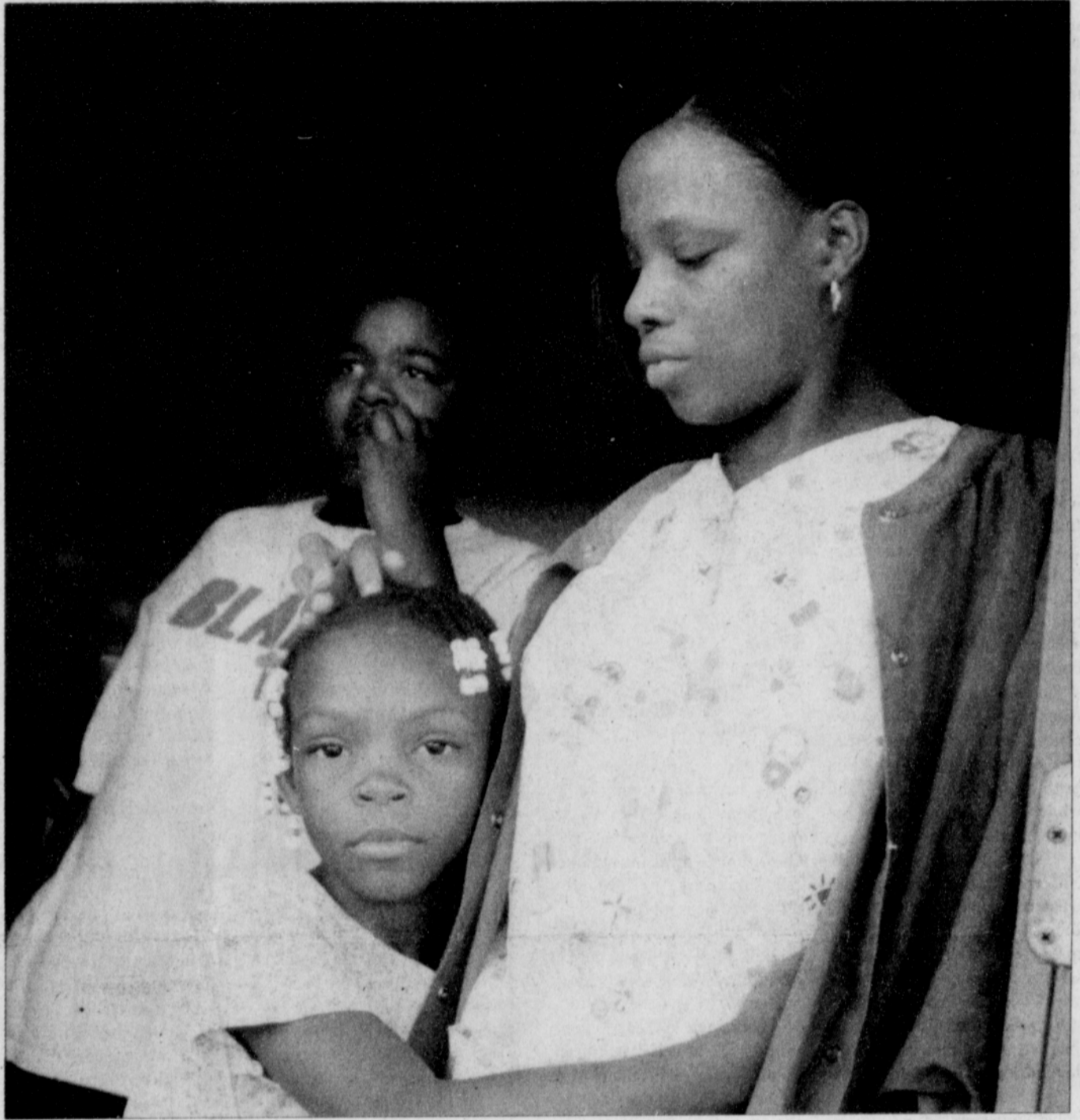
Ramzy said she remembers when she knew all the police on a first name basis. When she was younger, she partied a lot. People still get rowdy, she said, but these days it's quiet most of the time. Even though she thinks the Villa is a good place to raise a family, Ramzy would prefer to be someplace else.

"I don't want to live in a circle anymore," she said. "My daughter is 11. I want her to live on a real street - a street with sidewalks and streetlights and a store closer than a mile away."

Soon, Ramzy will have her wish.

### NO ONE WILL BE DISPLACED

Columbia Villa is slated for demolition. In its place will rise a \$150 million mixed-income housing community with 370 public housing units and 250 apartments for households earning up to 60 percent of the area's median income. Also included in the plan



Longtime Villa resident Sheila Ramzy, in the doorway of her apartment, with her niece Synovia Williams, 6, and her nephew, Anthony Barber, 10. Ramzy hopes she will get a Section 8 rent subsidy voucher that will allow her to move to another residence. "I don't want to live in a circle anymore," she said.

PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

*"My daughter is 11. I want her to live on a real street - a street with sidewalks and streetlights and a store closer than a mile away."*

—Sheila Ramzy Columbia Villa resident

will be 50 apartments with no income restrictions, 180 homes available for sale and a village square.

Funding for the rebirth of Columbia Villa

comes from a \$35 million grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOPE VI program, federal tax credits, bond sales and the City of Port-

land. Under federal guidelines, reconstruction of the site may take 54 months from the conclusion of demolition. Deconstruction will begin no later than January 2004 and the project should be completed in 2006. The Housing Authority of Portland has already stopped filling vacancies and a preliminary relocation plan is underway to find homes for the 1,300 residents during construction. "No one will be displaced," said John Keating, Assistant Director of Community Revitalization Services for HAP.

Keating said the residents of Columbia

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## PCC Cascade Celebrates

### Ceremony to kick-off construction schedule

The Cascade Campus of Portland Community College will celebrate the expansion of the campus boundaries and break ground on a new site at 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 3.

The ceremony will take place across the street from the Cascade library at North Killingsworth and Kerby streets. The construction site is the future home of a physical education complex.

The celebration, with PCC President Jesus "Jess" Carreon and Cascade Campus Executive Dean Mildred Olee, ushers in a new era for Cascade, following years of planning that envisioned a greatly enhanced educational facility for local residents. The college has had an educational presence in north and northeast Portland for 32 years.

A bond approved by voters two years ago provides \$56 million for Cascade campus projects.

In the first phase of construction, Cascade will add approximately 25,000 square feet to the Jackson Hall Science Building with six new science labs; building a 35,000 square foot physical education complex; and renovating the Student Services building.

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## Alliance Promotes Year Round Learning



Northeast Portland's McCoy Academy is adding classroom support for African American history and education in general with a new association with Portland's Juneteenth group. Juneteenth is the annual event celebrating the end of slavery in the United States, held in many parts of

the country on June 19.

The idea at McCoy Academy is to make educational progress for African American kids a year-round effort with June 19 serving as a time to celebrate the culmination of months of effort and instruction.

Woody Broadnax of the Juneteenth or-

ganization and Dr. Thomas Booth of Albina Community Bank, have teamed up to teach a year-round leadership class at McCoy, school officials said.

McCoy is one of three alternatives school

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