



## Lost Youth Land

Sudanese immigrants dance out stories of survival  
See story in Focus, page B3



## Warming the Winter

Heating oil deliveries heat up as weather cools down  
See Metro section, inside

# The Portland Observer

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## Week in The Review

### Jumping Frog Contest Poses Conundrum

What to do with 2,000 slightly used frogs? For years, organizers of the Calaveras County Fair and Frog Jumping Jubilee urged participants to carefully put the frogs back where they got them after the annual contest. Last summer, they found out the practice is illegal and finable up to \$5,000 and a year in jail in California. It's not against the law to catch the bullfrogs that compete in the contest - but it's illegal to put the non-native frogs back.

### Malaysian PM steps in on flasher row

Malaysian men flashing their genitals at women may get more exposure than they want if Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has his way. The Prime Minister has advised the public to seize the sarongs of flashers and leave them naked so that the wrap-around cloth can be used as evidence, local media has reported.

### Sign language

Steve Horowitz's quest for a wife is no secret. For the past few months, it has been advertised on a large, portable sign - simply reading "WIFE WANTED" - in front of his home. But after hearing from about 60 women and going out with three, the 53-year-old says all he's looking for now is a second date with one. So the sign has come down. Some of the 60 women from around the state who responded to his plea for a partner wrote eloquent letters, he says. One arrived at his post office addressed only "To the man who wants to get married; Cedar Springs, Michigan."

### Sea Gulls Outsmart Calif. Town's Plans

It seems sea gulls in Ventura, Ca., aren't so gullible. The gulls don't give a hoot about fake rooftop owls used to keep gulls away from homes and businesses in the Ventura Harbor area. If the gulls, notorious for their toothpaste-like stains on awnings and pancake-sized splats on the ground, don't fear the \$40 plastic owls in weeks to come city officials have suggested buying "bigger, meaner-looking owls."

### Candy wrapper criminal

US police in the American State of Arkansas have arrested a man after following a trail of candy wrappers and other evidence from a bungled bank robbery. They say the man looked directly into the security cameras when he broke into a bank in the town of Marked Tree and also triggered an alarm. When he found all the money locked away he allegedly stole a clock radio and a handful of sweets. He fled leaving a trail of lolly wrappers that led police to a nearby caravan park, where they made an arrest. The stolen sw called "Dum-Dums"



PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Smart Park garage at 4th and Yamhill is one of six city-owned parking facilities that will be up for bid this month. The Alliance of Minority Chambers of Commerce hopes to win the \$11 million dollar contract to operate the facilities.

## Alliance Competes for City Parking

Minorities group led by Roy Jay calls for fair and open bidding

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When an \$11 million parking contract comes up for renewal this month, a diverse group of entrepreneurs led by African American Chamber of Commerce President, Roy Jay, is determined that it won't be business as usual.

"There are African American, Latino and white operators who have not had the op-

portunity to come to the table," said Jay, referring to what he called a closed-door policy that has eliminated bidding competition.

Citing an audit by consulting firm Barney and Worth which recently showed the garages losing more than \$200,000 a year, the Alliance of Minority Chambers of Commerce has launched its own financial investigation into the management of six, city-owned parking garages.

The goal, Jay said, is to determine whether past contractors have been fiscally responsible and to maintain that the contact pro-

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With the economy like it is, it's just been tough finding employment. There's so many people in the same predicament.

—Lionel Lampkin, unemployed father of four



PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Area residents line up outside Albina Ministerial Alliance with the hopes of qualifying for rental assistance. Of the 80 to 85 people who apply each month, usually only 10 will get assistance. "We don't have enough money," said Iris Ramiz, a family technician at AMA.

## Requests for Housing Assistance Steady

Ministerial Alliance scratches surface of growing need

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With the unemployment rate topping seven percent, many Portlanders are looking for help making rent. Early Thursday morning, dozens of people waited outside the Albina Ministerial Alliance with the hope of qualifying for rental assistance.

"These are hard times," said Kent Dahl, who is employed part-time through a temporary service. "We're not getting all the work we need to make our rent."

Last month, so many people squeezed into the alliance's modest office on Martin

Luther King Jr. Boulevard that they were pushing and shoving for position in line.

This month, Family Technician Iris Ramiz said AMA decided to pass out numbers and have people wait outside until staff was ready to receive them.

"We're trying to make the process as smooth and as easy as possible," Ramiz said.

Assistance is based on a first come first served basis, which takes into account specific needs of the client. Families with children and disabled clients are given first priority.

"I look at the whole situation," said Ramiz, who added that AMA couldn't help singles without dependents. "Our services are geared toward men and women with children."

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Lionel Lampkin waits to apply for rental assistance at Albina Ministerial Alliance. Since Lampkin was laid off from Renaissance Financial Center he has lived on unemployment benefits of \$57 a week and is grateful for resources like AMA's rental assistance program.

## Women Tackle Gender Bias Issues

Forum addresses civil rights in the criminal justice system

The YWCA of Clark County will hold a civil justice forum this month on women's rights to bring community members together to discuss issues women face in the justice system.

In the 20th Century, women achieved the

right to vote, to serve on juries and to be attorneys and judges. While these laws have established equal rights, gender bias is still an issue in the system of justice, reflecting the problems and values of society, forum organizers said.

The forum will explore the topic, "Does the justice system work for women," looking at the increasing number of women offenders in the system and how, as a group, they face significant differences from their male counterparts. The forum will also discuss

the impact of domestic violence and sexual harassment in the work place.

Clark County Superior Court Judge Barbara D. Johnson will serve as a guest speaker.

In 1987, Judge Johnson became the first woman judge to serve in Clark County. She has been a speaker at numerous seminars and programs, including the Washington State Judges' College and the Peoples' Law School.

The event will be held Thursday, Jan. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the community room of the YWCA at 3609 Main St.

## Leaders Eye Resolutions for 2003

Focus on education, economy, family and spirituality top list

BY WYNDE DYER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Observer is looking ahead to 2003 by asking elected officials and community leaders to summarize their New Year's resolutions, both personal and professional.

So far, the bulk of the responses show that community figureheads have much in common with those they represent.

Many elected officials are concerned with the economy, rising unemployment rates and failing school and social service systems. They have deep rooted desires to spend more time with friends and family and to be strong role models for their children.

"I want to be a good father for my teenage daughter," said City Commissioner Dan Saltzman. "I will try to get her to like me and want to hang out with me."

Pam Erickson, director of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, cited improved parenting skills for a decrease in under-21 alcohol-related deaths in 2002, but wished for even better statistics in 2003.

She said most Oregonians have been practicing alcohol in moderation, meaning a woman should drink no more than a drink a day and men only two.

Also important in 2003 was spirituality and balance.

Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker plans to work on undisclosed spiritual goals to insure he maintains a good level of personal and emotional fitness. Democratic House Representative Jackie Dingfelder plans to keep up her balance with yoga.

"I'm a yoga freak," she said. "When the legislature gets heated I can forget to take care of myself. I get so invested in my work that I forget to breathe."

Also on the list were the usual resolutions to loose weight, eat less and work out more.

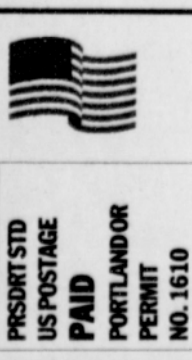
"I need to loose 30 pounds," said Multnomah County District 4 Commissioner Lonnie Roberts. "I've got to get off the chocolate and get on the ball."

Others vowed to be endlessly responsible for their constituents.

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Multnomah County Chair Dianne Linn is resolved to take good care of her daughters and the people she represents.



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