



## Rally for Peace

Thousands march in Martin Luther King Jr.-inspired protest  
See Metro section, inside

## Interstate Max Art

First sculpture graces new light rail system  
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# The Portland Observer

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## Week in The Review

### Nudists: Fly naked

Those who like to bare it all on the beach can get a head start by stripping in the air. A travel agency that specializes in clothing-optional vacations has chartered a temperature regulated, 172-seat Boeing 727 for a flight from Miami to Cancun in May. Once the plane reaches its cruising altitude, passengers will be invited to disrobe. Castaways Travel of Spring, Texas, is touting the trip as the world's first flight for nude passengers.

### Birds: Don't fly drunk

Thousands of drunks are smashing into windows at Karlstad University in Stockholm, Sweden, but it isn't students blowing off steam. Instead, birds feasting on fermented berries are getting drunk and playing chicken with the glass. Thousands of waxwings began gathering in the trees outside the university late last week to feast on ripening rowanberries. The birds haven't learned to say when. So far, at least 50 have lost their lives.

### Bush's bad words

Several of the mangled words and phrases that US President George W Bush has become renowned for making up have found their way into a list of prominent parts of speech. They include "resignate", "foreign-handed", "embetter" and "misunderestimate", which was used in 11,000 instances on the web at large.

### Party names misspelled

Spelling isn't a high priority for several candidates in city elections in Charleston, W.Va. A handful of candidates misspelled their party affiliation on the official filing forms in the city clerk's office. Four Democrats erroneously spelled their party name either as "Democart" or "Democrate."

### Court upholds fornication

A court in the state of Georgia has overturned a controversial 19th century law that made it a crime for unmarried people to have sex. The court threw out the conviction of a teenager who was fined and ordered to write an essay explaining why he should not have had sex, after he was found with his girlfriend at her home two years ago. Under similar laws, eight states in the US continue to make it a crime for an unmarried couple to engage in consensual intercourse in private.

### Robbed of luck

First he left a telling trail of \$100 bills as he tried to stuff the money in his pockets and, when this bank robber reached his getaway car, he found the keys had been locked inside. It didn't get any better for the masked man who entered the Union Bank & Trust north of Richmond, Va. Police said the suspect, 61-year-old Edward Butler Blaine, fled on foot. Bystanders then began to chase him, and when they caught him Blain tried to shoot the instead shot himself in th

## Keeping All Eyes on the Prize

Underachieving school tries to right course, reverse exits

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Hundred of students from local high schools walked out of class last month to march downtown in protest of budget cuts that have shortened their school year and threatened their sports programs.

Across the river in north Portland, students at Jefferson High School stayed in class during the Dec. 19

walkout, not because they didn't care, but because they say they have suffered enough negative publicity since the start of the school year, and can't afford to be caught off-task.

Enrollment at Jefferson High School, composed of mostly minority students, has consistently dropped since desegregation efforts in the 1970s.

Today, it is one of the hardest hit by the president's No Child Left Behind Act. Under the new federal law, schools are required to foot the transportation bill for parents who wish to transfer their children out of failing schools.

Jefferson fit the profile of a chroni-

cally low-achieving school. Last year less than one-tenth of its students performed at state benchmarks in reading and math.

"We're affected by it. We lost 70 some-odd students and \$10,000 dollars because of it," said Larry Dashiell, Jefferson's fifth principal in seven years.

But Lew Frederick, the district's director of public information, explained that as a part of desegregation efforts, students in the Jefferson High School zone have always had the option to transfer with transpor-

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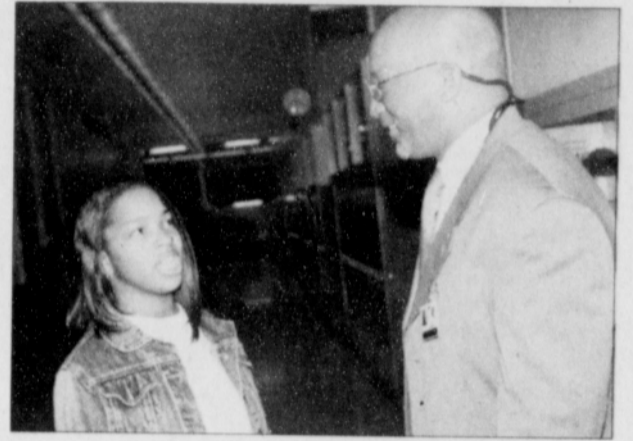


PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Jefferson High School principal Larry Dashiell talks with senior Leslie Newton in the hallway during lunch. Enrollment at the north Portland High School has consistently dropped since desegregation efforts in the 1970s.

## Advocate Faces Eviction

Mama Peoples has done a lot to save the community — now we need to save her home.

— Community Care Association Volunteer Eddie Hillman



PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Clara Peoples holds a copy of the December 1971 Ebony magazine that featured her tireless work at feeding and clothing Portland's needy. Now Peoples is in poor health and financially disadvantaged, facing a Feb. 28 eviction from her home.

Friends and family rally to save home of beloved community volunteer

BY WYNDE DYER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A woman who has helped Portland's most needy for decades is now herself in need of some help.

Clara Peoples is facing foreclo-

sure of her longtime home on Feb. 28 if she cannot raise almost \$35,000.

Peoples is well known as the founder of the Community Care Association, a non-profit that feeds and clothes low-income families, and Portland's annual Juneteenth celebration to honor the day when slaves heard the news of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

For north and northeast Portland

residents who know Peoples through her charity work, the thought of her losing her home at 1406 N.E. Ainsworth strikes a chord of particular injustice.

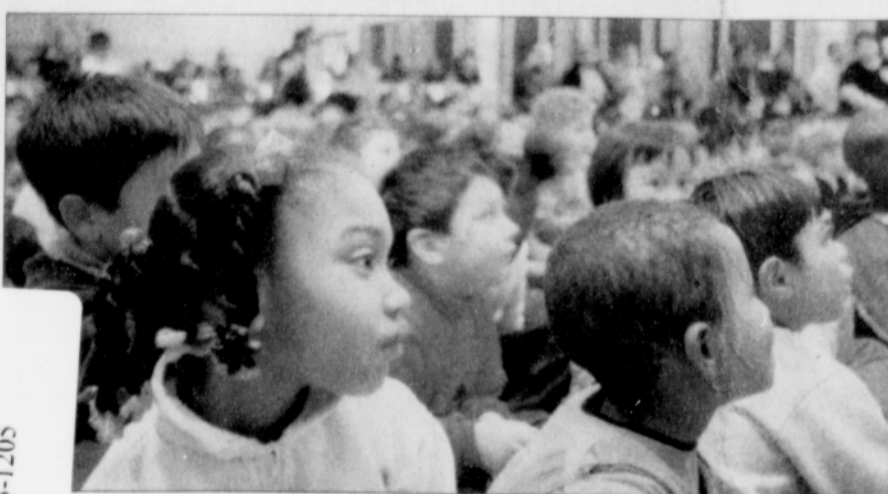
"Mama Peoples has done a lot to save the community — now we need to save her home," said friend and Community Care Association volunteer Eddie Hillman. "It makes me really sad. I tell her each day, 'Just

don't give up, God will make a way.'"

Hillman's message is the same voice of hope Peoples has tried to instill in Portland's impoverished and disadvantaged since she started her charity work from the back door of her home in the early 50s.

Peoples said Community Care Association became the first food bank

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## Keeping King's Dream Alive

Students at King Elementary School listen attentively as their elder classmates recite the famous words of Dr. Martin Luther King at a special assembly Friday noon to honor the slain civil rights leader.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## KING'S WIDOW PLEADS FOR PEACE

War called 'a poor chisel for carving out a peaceful tomorrow'

(AP) — The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s widow urged world leaders on the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday Monday to settle their differences peacefully and avoid a painful war.

Coretta Scott King urged a packed crowd of about 1,000 at Ebenezer Baptist Church to honor the memory of King, who would have turned 74 last Wednesday.

"We commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. as a great champion of peace who warned us that war was a poor chisel for carving out a peaceful to-

morrow," King said. "We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means. Martin said, 'True peace is not just the absence of tension, it is the presence of justice.'"

Her comments came as the United States is considering military action against Iraq.

The daylong celebration of King's birthday was marked with memorials, church services and reflection. The ceremony at Ebenezer Baptist Church opened with songs and hymns, including "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

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Portland peace rally honors King  
See story and photos, Metro section inside



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