

City Contracts Wanted

continued ▲ from Front

reach to small and emerging businesses; and women and minority-owned businesses.

"We need to make sure people know how to do business with the city," Klobertanz said.

Roy Jay, president of the African American Chamber of Commerce, applauds the city's efforts but doesn't think the proposal goes far enough.

He said insurance and registration requirements for small businesses make it harder for minority firms to compete with the bigger

These barriers prevent you from submitting a bid.

— Roy Jay, African American Chamber of Commerce President

outfits. "It doesn't make sense for a potential contractor to be required to purchase a \$1,000 liability policy on a \$5,000 job," he said. "That's sort of defeating the purpose."

Jay said the insurance requirements are sometimes waived in much larger contracts, like those of the downtown parking garages, but are often enforced for smaller con-

tracts. "You have to jump through so many hoops, they put in all these barriers that prevent you from submitting a bid," Jay said.

The city has proposed adding two-and-a-half full-time positions to the Bureau of Purchases Offices to better connect with minority firms and follow a new eight point plan of improvement.



Portland police standby as school closes Tuesday at Whitaker-Lakeside Middle School in northeast Portland. The Columbia Boulevard site was reactivated as a school last year when Whitaker on Northeast 39th Avenue, the former John Adams High School, closed for good because of the dilapidated condition of the building.



REACH

Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health
A program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Sponsored by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Wellness Within REACH: Mind, Body, and Soul Activity Calendar

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Matt Dishman 77 NE Knott					Old School Dance 6:00-7:00pm Kendrick	African Dance 10:00-11:00am Addo
Salvation Army 5325 N Williams.		Water Aerobics 2:00 - 3:00pm Hampton		Water Aerobics 2:00 - 3:00pm Hampton		
Nature's 3535 NE 15th.		Yoga 7:30-8:30 pm O'Rourke				Body Conditioning 9:30-10:30am Nickerson
Peninsula Park. 700 N Portland		Walking Group 6:00-7:00 pm Nickerson (Meet inside the Lloyd Center in front of Sears)	Aerobics 7:30-8:30pm Keller			Aerobics 9:00-10:00am Keller Walking Group 12:30 pm Nickerson
Mallory Avenue Christian Church (Gym) 126 NE Alberta	Aerobics 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson		Aerobics 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson		Aerobics 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson	

**Must be 21 or older to participate. Please check with AAHC before showing up to the first class 503-413-1850. Please receive approval from your doctor before beginning exercise class. All classes are free of charge!



African American Health Coalition, Inc.

2800 N. Vancouver Ave., Suite 100 • Portland, OR 97227 • Phone: 503-413-1850
E-mail: kdempsey@aahc-portland.org • Web: www.aahc-portland.org

Whitaker: Concern Low, Security High

We didn't take it as seriously as the media made it out to be.

— Nell Simien, Parent Outreach Organizer

Parent Outreach Organizer Nell Simien came to chaperone students back and forth from classrooms and bathrooms on Thursday in response to threatening graffiti at the school.



PHOTOS BY DAVE PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Northeast middle school locks down in response to death threats

BY WYNDE DYER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Death threats found in graffiti on a bathroom wall at a local middle school were probably a cry for attention rather than a serious act of anger, Whitaker Middle School officials said.

But the threats, which said 20 students and a teacher would die on Jan. 30, did not keep the school from going into lockdown by bringing in uniformed police, security guards and parent chaperones.

"Just because this was not of a

high level of concern does not mean we are not going to implement a high level of security," said Whitaker Principal Tom Pickett.

The threats were investigated by both school staff and teams of police investigators, but no leads have turned up on who wrote the graffiti in an eighth grade girl's restroom. Pickett said he has talked to many of his students and no one seems to know who would have a motive to make the threat.

"The kids are your eyes and your ears in a situation like this," he said. "The student body knows all things that go on with all people and they are telling us they honestly don't know."

This fact leads Pickett to believe the culprit is a single girl with a low level of anger and a high desire to get attention. He said there is very little anger between his students and not much gang activity on campus.

Whitaker Middle School has a student body of about 450 students in grades sixth through eighth. Because of media hype surrounding the threats, Pickett said attendance on Thursday was between 60 and 65 percent.

"Parents got concerned," he said. "People thought we had a dangerous situation because the media almost predicted that a huge crime was about to happen. All the news stations made the incident seem

considerably larger than it is."

But Parent Outreach Organizer Nell Simien, who came with other parent volunteers to chaperone students around on Thursday, said most parents she knew did not take it very seriously.

"We came not because we were scared, but because we care," Simien said.

If the school does catch the person responsible for the threatening writings, Pickett said they would be dealt with as school rules dictate.

"The good thing about school discipline is that punishment always comes with a set of helps," Pickett said. "The student will have to deal with the consequences of her actions, but we will do our best to help make her into a more productive student. This is obviously a very bright kid — the graffiti was done in very good handwriting."

Pickett said Thursday went smoothly and that tension was low. Hall monitors were eating pizza when the good news came — Whitaker moved up from last year's low rating on the State Schools Report Card to a satisfactory rating. Also, 84 percent of Whitaker teachers have committed to a three-year school reform program that will allow the school to receive supplemental funding.

"I'd prefer to focus on the positive things," Pickett said.

Whitaker Middle School students plastered the walls with positive signs to counter any hateful words or thoughts.



Free HIV Testing in NE Portland

Tuesday and Thursday Evenings
5:00-8:00 p.m.
(last check in at 7:30 p.m.)

NE Health Center
MLK Jr. Blvd. And NE Killingsworth
(Enter in rear door near Emerson, go to 2nd floor)

Se habla español los Martes
For more information on HIV and testing
Call the Oregon AIDS Hotline 1-800-777-AIDS

Multnomah County Health Department

Portland's Forecast: Cold and flu likely.

According to Surveillance Data Inc., your city has just been put on alert for respiratory illness — which means the worst of cold and flu season is about to hit. Be prepared. Stock up now. And visit www.vicks.com for weekly cold and flu updates.



Excellent chance of relief.