



## Student Authors at Sabin

Northeast school kids finish book trilogy  
See story in Metro, inside

# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### Obesity Creeping Pass Smoking As Top Killer

More Americans will die of obesity than from smoking if current trends persist, which would make being fat the nation's top cause of preventable death.

### Fresno Man Accused of Mass Murder, Incest

A makeshift memorial of stuffed animals, balloons and flowers grew on the sidewalk in front of a home where a man is accused of killing nine of his family members, some that police said may have been the product of incest with his own daughters. See story on page A5.

### China Fights Against 'Social Evils'

China's government pledged to intensify the fight against what it considers social evils - street crime and terrorism, Falun Gong and the corrupt officials that are undermining leaders' claims of putting people first.

### Alleged Ecoterrorist Arrested in Canada

A fugitive radical environmentalist from Portland has been arrested on charges of

setting fire to logging and cement trucks in 2001. Michael Scarpitti was arrested Saturday while trying to shoplift some bolt cutters in Victoria, British Columbia. Canadian police realized he was a fugitive when his fingerprints were run through a database. See story, page A5.

### Gasoline Climbing to Record Prices

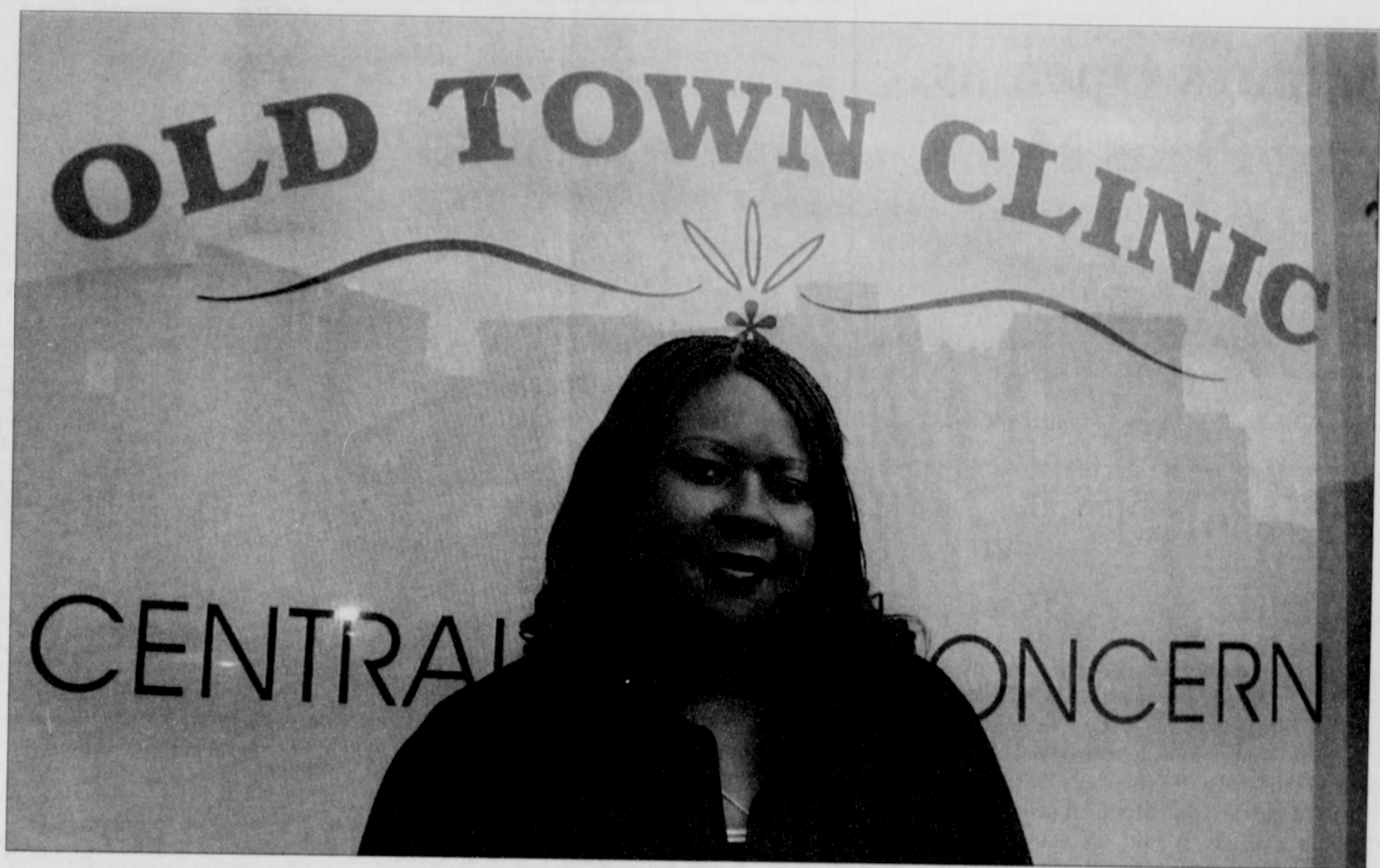
The Energy Department reported that nationwide retail gasoline prices averaged \$1.72 per gallon last week. Meanwhile, the price of oil surged to \$37.44 per barrel on futures markets, the highest level in more than a year.

### 'Passion' Approaching \$350 Million

"The Passion of the Christ" was the top film for a third straight weekend, taking in \$31.7 million and pushing its total beyond a quarter of a billion dollars.

### Millions Protest in Spain; Suspects Identified

Police identified five Moroccan suspects in the Madrid train bombings and the death toll rose to 201. More than a million demonstrators jammed the streets of Madrid on Friday night to protest terror attacks. See story, page A7.



Laurie Palmer overcame her own troubled past to help others who face drug and alcohol problems in her work at the Old Town Clinic. PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Life TURNAROUND

### Laurie Palmer helps others after helping herself

People don't often get credit for turning their lives around. Getting clean and sober, reuniting with family and becoming a respectable member of society is sometimes reward enough, but a national awards gala never hurts deserving honorees.

Laurie Palmer, the Old Town Clinic's drug

and alcohol intervention specialist, was one of 25 women nationwide recently honored for making a positive difference in the lives of women living in poverty.

Palmer received a Woman of Triumph award at the 25th Anniversary Gala for Women Work! at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington D.C. Women Work! is an organization dedicated to the economic security of women and families through policies, programs and partnerships.

By overcoming her own past, Palmer is now changing the lives of others who are facing the

same struggles she has triumphed over.

Today, her life is rich with family, volunteerism and stable employment. She has fully transformed from a childhood and young adulthood marred in chaos.

Palmer ran away from home, prostituted, committed crimes and found herself in abusive relationships.

She received her wake up call when she was incarcerated in 1991 and her children became wards of the state.

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## Advocates Rally for Housing

### Affordable homes out of reach for many

Area residents are asking the Portland City Council to support funding for affordable housing.

A rally to encourage the allocation of \$30 million to the city's Housing Investment Fund drew 200 people to the steps of City Hall last week.

Former State Rep. Deborah Kafoury, who recently served north and northeast Portland in the State Legislature, was the chief spokesman for the event organized by the group Affordable Housing Now!

Kafoury said that stable, affordable housing remains out of reach for far too many Portlanders.

"Housing is as important as schools, healthcare, jobs and the hunger problem," she said. "In fact, without affordable housing, resources that we use to address these other issues are not effective."

Other speakers emphasized the relationship between affordable housing and schools, hunger, healthcare, homelessness, the

economy, and community livability.

Tony Jones, of the Housing Development Center, discussed how affordable housing creates family wage jobs.

"Data shows that for every new unit we build, there is one full time construction job for a calendar year," said Jones. "Investing in affordable housing is also investing in well paying jobs."

Perhaps the most powerful presentation on the rally was made by schools bus driver Diane Kahl. To illustrate the magnitude of the housing crisis in the metro region, she asked the crowd to consider that 3,500 children were homeless this past year.

The housing advocates want the Portland City Council to renew its commitment to the Housing Investment Fund.

In 1996, Portland dedicated \$30 million to a Housing Investment Fund to help meet the need for affordable housing. The fund was instrumental in the development of 3,604 units of affordable housing, including the preservation of rent-subsidized units, creation units for large families, and financing for innovative and successful housing programs.

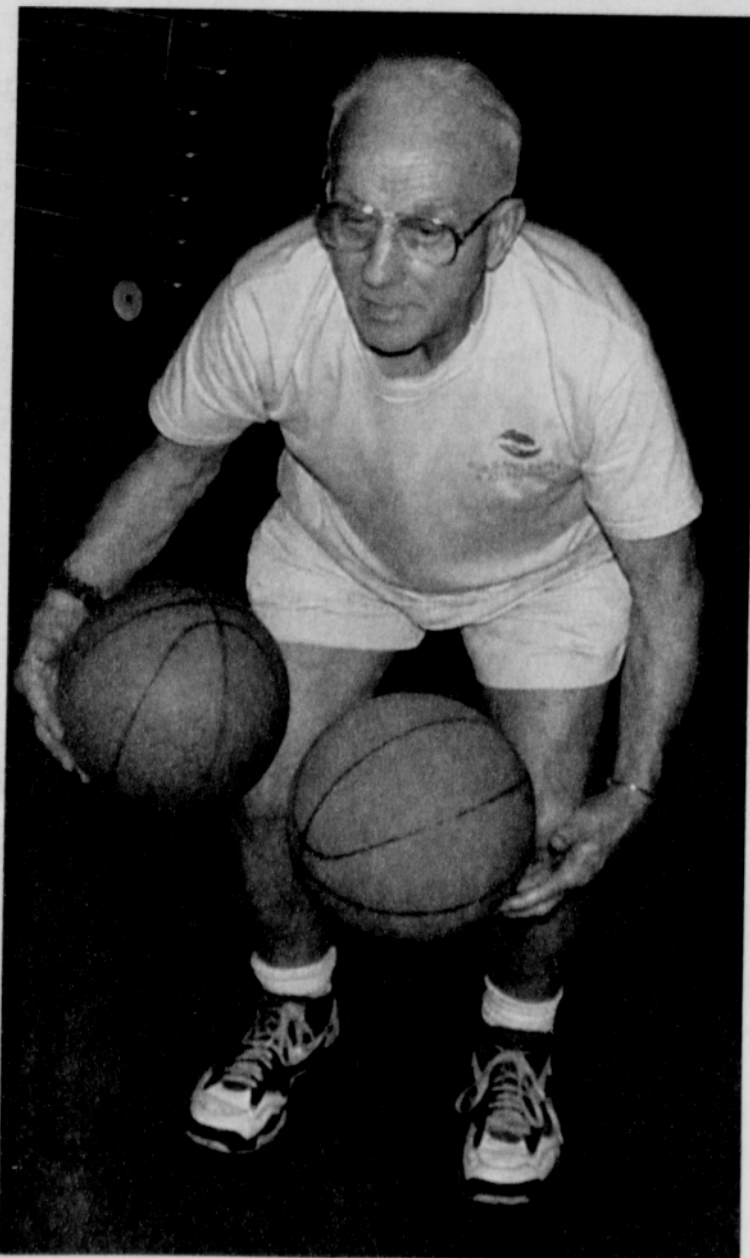


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
At 80, Ernie Yazzolino dribbles two basketballs at the same time, showing he still has what it takes to play basketball with area youth. Yazzolino is a Drug Free Basketball volunteer at the Mt. Scott Community Center.

## Passion for the Game

### 80-year-old stays in shape to play ball, fight drugs, alcohol

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ernie Yazzolino has always loved sports and children.

Being 80-years-old hasn't kept him from his passion for the game and commitment to kids.

Yazzolino is involved with Drug Free Basketball, where he is a staff supervisor for Sellwood Middle School for Saturday games with boys and girls, grades four through eight.

But Yazzolino doesn't just preach the rules of the game. He practices them. At any given practice, Yazzolino can be seen at the Mt. Scott Community Center, dribbling two balls at once or running up and down the court.

"I also bowl twice a week," Yazzolino said.

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