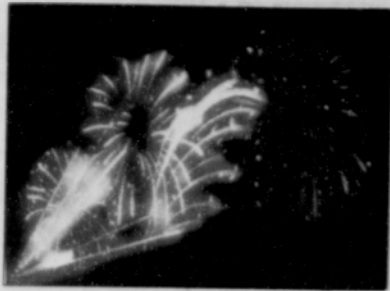


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Happy 4th of July!
Holiday celebrations planned
with blues and fireworks
See Focus, pages B2 and B3

Good in the Neighborhood
Annual event puts local
communities in good light
See photo essay, Page A5



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Jefferson in FOCUS

Moving ahead on two
plans to boost success

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Two groups are moving forward in plans to boost achievement at Jefferson High School serving north and northeast Portland.

The school board recently adopted a plan to remake Jefferson into a school within a school, divided into the School of Pride, a preparatory academy for freshmen and sophomores and School of Champions for advanced studies, designed for juniors and seniors.

Meanwhile, a group of community members were approved for a planning grant by the state to research the possibility of relieving Portland Public Schools of Jefferson altogether and converting it into a charter school.

Community leaders in both of these efforts are rising to the forefront of the debate, though their goals appear to coincide.

"You make something smaller so you can focus on kids" said Lorenzo Poe, co-chair of the Portland Public School board and Jefferson High School alumni. "The district has some responsibility and if the competency of teachers and instruction is there, then Jefferson will reach it's goal."

Tony Hopson, executive director of Self Enhancement, Inc. and fellow Jefferson grad, thinks students will excel when the community gets involved.

Tony Hopson of Self Enhancement, Inc. supports a plan to turn Jefferson into a charter school as a vehicle to raise academic standards.



"It's not the approach; it's the people," Hopson said. "I don't believe that it (smaller schools) will be the system that will make the difference. It will be the teachers that work in that system and the leadership in the administration that guide the process and how they involve the rest of us: the community and parents."

He says the advantage of a charter school is handpicking leadership, from

the principal and administration to the teachers and students.

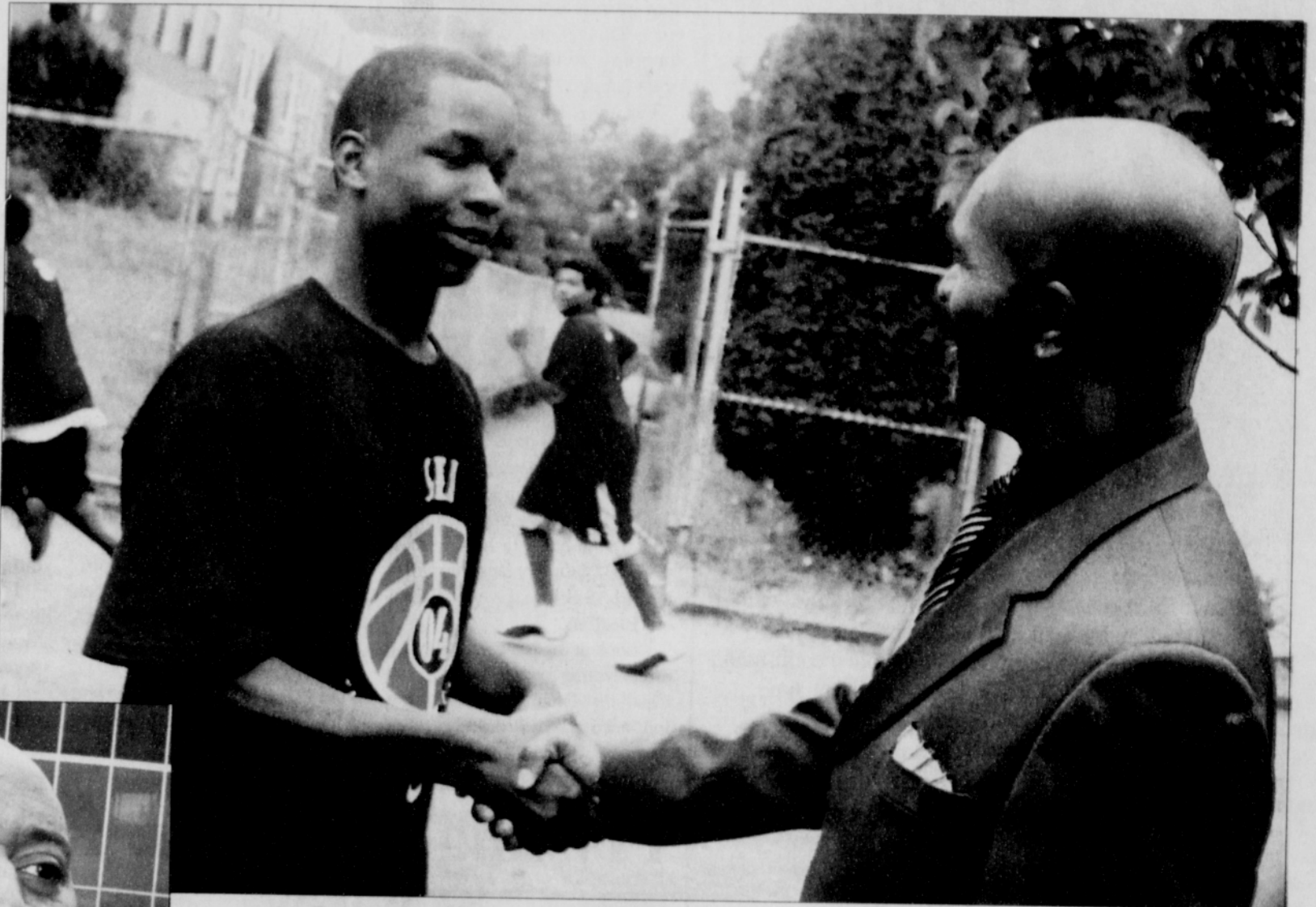
Hopson's organization will open SEI Academy, a charter middle school, in the fall.

Poe says he's willing to consider whatever solutions are necessary to bring students up to state benchmarks.

"I am in favor of what will get those kids the greatest academic gains and experiences as those kids can have. If the district can't deliver and a charter demonstrates itself to be a viable option, then yes, it's something we have to consider," said Poe. "The goal is to get these kids educated."

Poe says many factors contribute to challenges in educating Jefferson students, beyond the school program itself.

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Portland School Board Co-Chair Lorenzo Poe takes a moment to meet Pierre Dembo at Jefferson High School.

PHOTOS BY MARR WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Road Map to Educational Options

School choices bring unique learning opportunities

BY JOHANNA S. KING
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Navigating your way through the public education system can be a difficult task.

"From alternative to charter, from magnet to other special programs, picking the school that is the right fit for your child can be a major frustration," says Lew Frederick, information officer of Portland Public Schools.

"There are many discrete differences between the educational programs that each school uniquely offers to their students," Frederick said. "It can be hard to see that and make the best

choice."

Expect each school to have a blended mosaic of differences and realize that children's destinies are ultimately at hand. Alternative and charter school programs exist to provide students more individual attention and more flexibility while catering to a student's wide-ranging learning styles.

The common objective is to offer students and their families meaningful choices that meet the different learning needs and educational interests of all students, according to Kathy

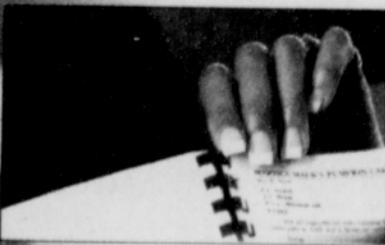
continued ▼ on page A6

Destination Northeast Portland

Al Roker stops at Hannah Bea's for pound cake and gab



Hannah Bea's Pound Cake and More owner Anita Smith shares her cookbook recipes with Al Roker during a taping of his 'Roker on the Road' show on the Cable Food Network.



NBC Today Show weatherman Al Roker made northeast Portland's Hannah Bea's Poundcake and More a stop on his roving cooking show, "Roker on the Road," on the Cable Food Network.

Roker stopped in at Hannah Bea's at 3969 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. last Saturday to cook salmon croquettes with chef Saan Patterson and sample the restaurant's famous pound

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Hannah Bea's Chef Saan Patterson (from left), and restaurant owner Anita Smith share recipes with Al Roker during his culinary trip through northeast Portland.

PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHI/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



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Week in The Review

Iraqi Court to Charge Hussein

Saddam Hussein will be transferred to Iraqi legal custody and face charges in an Iraqi court this week - but he won't go on trial for months and he will stay in a U.S.-run jail because the country doesn't have a suitable prison, the prime minister said Tuesday.

Fahrenheit 9/11 No. 1 at Box Office

Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" took in a whopping \$21.8 million in its first three days, becoming the first documentary ever to debut as Hollywood's top weekend film.

Moore's assault on President Bush's actions after the 2001 terrorist attacks, won the top honor at last month's Cannes Film Festival

Supreme Court to hear Medical Pot Case

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to decide whether the federal



Joseph Wilson (left) had his wife, a CIA operative, outed due to a press leak from the Bush administration.



government can prosecute sick people who smoke marijuana on the advice of a doctor. The case affects Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington state,

which have medical marijuana laws similar to California's allowing patients to grow, use or receive marijuana if they have a doctor's recommendation.

Army Calls Up Retired Troops

The Army is preparing to notify about 5,600 retired and discharged soldiers who are not members of the National Guard or Reserve that they will be involuntarily recalled to active duty for possible service in Iraq or Afghanistan, Army officials said.

Bush Interviewed in CIA Leak

Federal investigators questioned President Bush for more than an hour as the investigation into the leak of a CIA operative's name reached into the Oval Office.

U.S. Hands Power to Iraq

The U.S.-led coalition transferred sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government two days early Monday in a surprise move that apparently caught insurgents off guard, averting a feared campaign of attacks to sabotage the historic step toward self-rule.

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