



'City of Roses'

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say HEY Welcoming brigade introduces new residents



The Say Hey group gathers at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland to enjoy conversation with new and rooted professionals of color in Portland. See additional photo, page A6

Moving to a new city is a daunting task for anyone having to make new friends, business connections and finding their niche.

Say Hey, a quarterly networking event for communities of color helps to introduce Portland as a culturally diverse and welcoming place to be.

"When people first moved here, the perception is 'gee, are there many African Americans in Portland?' But they end up very pleased that Oregon is a warm and friendly place to be," said Vicki Nakashima, a Say Hey planning committee member.

Say Hey mixers, which are at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north

Portland, are also business networking opportunities, where companies supporting diversity are showcased.

One of the most valuable resources from a Say Hey gathering is a large welcome packet, swelling with information about businesses, services, organizations and even fun tips about must-see locales,

favorite barbers and popular restaurants.

The Say Hey welcoming brigade invites professional, those new to the city and anyone interested in identifying and connecting with like-minded people to regular gatherings at the IFCC. For more information, visit www.ifcc-arts.org/contact.html.

Police Reform Battle

Commissioner offers new resolution

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Two weeks after African-American leaders in the faith community came before City Council with a resolution to address racial profiling and other problems with the Portland Police Bureau, one commissioner has presented his own proposal.

Jim Francesconi, who is in a runoff election to become Portland's next mayor, says his resolution was drafted in response to the action by the Albina Ministerial Alliance, an African-American organization of church leaders.

"We need to re-build trust between police officers and the community and provide better training for officers so that dangerous situations are de-escalated," Francesconi said. "This guides the Police Bureau in improving diversity, training and labor management. Until the police ranks reflect the diversity in our community and until officers receive better training, problems will continue to fester."

Rev. LeRoy Haynes, a member of the alliance and member of a committee studying police issues, said that Francesconi's resolution doesn't have the teeth of his group's original proposal.

"We appreciate the initiative on his part but his resolution does not go as far as our original presentation to address the issues to end the shooting of unarmed citizens by members of the Portland Police Department," Haynes said.

Still, Francesconi and alliance members met on Friday to make concessions.

"I am hopeful that they will support the new resolution," Francesconi said.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance has long been involved with police reform, especially in the wake of the police shooting deaths of unarmed African-American motorists Kendra James and James Jahar Perez.

The alliances' resolution calls for the removal and severe discipline of Officer Jason Sery, who shot and killed Perez on March 28 in the St. Johns community of north Portland.

The resolution also stipulates that Portland's police officers should receive community-approved cultural diversity training and that officer training in the police academy, combining field, classroom and consultation training, will meet or exceed national standards. Finally, it addresses racial profiling, stating that no police action should be made on the

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Cross Country Ride Supports Habitat for Humanity

Multicultural bike group to meet finishers

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It all started when two college students decided at 2 a.m. one morning that it would be fun to bicycle across the country, and do it for a good cause.

Ten years later, 90 college students will repeat what has become the annual Habitat Bicycle Challenge, a cross-country ride as a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity, the non-profit group that helps low-income people build homes with their contribution of sweat equity.

This year, for the first time, Portland will be the final destination for a third of the riders. The finish will be celebrated with a public event at 4 p.m. July 31 at Jamison Square in the Pearl District of northwest

Portland.

Anthony Brydon and Jim Goodarzi were attending school at Yale when they selected six other people to go with them on the original trip - out of 60 who volunteered. One of these was Francesca Gambetti, a Portland architect and Goodarzi's fiancée.

The first cross-country journey was far more of an adventure than those that followed, Gambetti recalls.

"Jim and Anthony were the only ones with any real biking experience," Gambetti says.

The group covered 70 miles a day over a roundabout, 4,000-mile route. It was not a smooth ride. Just before they were to begin, Goodarzi broke

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Members of the group Bikes and Ideas Kids' Empowerment join BIKE founder John Benenate (right) in preparations for a special ride later this month for Habitat for Humanity.

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Week in The Review

Northeast Flooded



A foot or more of rain fell in parts of the Northeast, forcing hundreds of people from their homes during the night, rupturing small dams and flooding roads. No injuries had been reported in the stricken areas of

New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Red Cross Fears More Violations

The international Red Cross said Tuesday that it fears U.S. officials are holding terror suspects secretly in locations across the world. The Geneva Conventions on the conduct of warfare require the United States to give the Red Cross access to prisoners of war and other detainees.

Former Enron CEO Charged

Former Enron CEO Ken Lay



surrendered to federal agents Thursday after the government unsealed an 11-count indictment charging him in a wide-ranging scheme to deceive the public, company shareholders and government regulators.

Bin Laden Associate Surrenders

A senior associate of Osama bin Laden has surrendered to Saudi Arabian authorities. Jalid al-Harbi turned himself in to the Saudi embassy in Tehran, Iran in response to the amnesty offered last month by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

New Oregon Pot Law Considered

An Oregon ballot measure ex-

pected to qualify this week would make it legal for medical marijuana users to possess one pound of pot, create state dispensaries and allow nurse practitioners and naturopaths to prescribe it. Backers of the initiative say the current law isn't working for many of the 9,000 cardholders because they're running out of cannabis before they can line up a new supply.

WHO Cites Failure in AIDS Fight

The World Health Organization said Tuesday the world has "failed miserably" in getting lifesaving drugs to millions afflicted with HIV, and France accused the United States of bullying poor countries

into ceding rights to make affordable generic medicine.

Documentary Exposes Bias on Fox News

A new documentary backed by liberal political groups aims to document that the Fox News Channel is anything but "fair and balanced," despite the cable-news network's motto.

Networks Cover Conventions Online

ABC and CBS said Monday they would offer gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Democratic and Republican conventions this year over the Internet as periods of prime-time coverage over their broadcast networks.