

**Afrocentric Books**  
*Reflections Mirror-Image*  
 opens at new location  
 See Metro section, inside

**Community Welcome**  
*Interstate Fred Meyer neighbors*  
 get reacquainted with new store  
 See Metro section, inside



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### Intel Bill To Pass

The Republican-controlled House agreed Tuesday to vote to overhaul the nation's intelligence agencies now that President Bush and House Armed Services Chairman Duncan Hunter have endorsed a provision guaranteeing battlefield commanders access to top-secret information.

### Karzai Named Afghan President



Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai was sworn in as the country's first democratically elected leader Tuesday.

Leading a nation whose revival is threatened by a surging opium trade and a persistent Taliban insurgency, he pledges to bring stability and prosperity to Afghanistan even as rebels staged attacks near the Pakistani border.

### ACLU Investigates FBI

The American Civil Liberties Union is seeking information from the FBI on why bureau task forces set up to combat terrorism also looked into anti-war, animal rights and environmental groups.

### Texas Blocks Execution

Gov. Rick Perry blocked the execution of a black woman two hours before she could have been put to death for the slayings of her husband and two young children, a move that will allow for more testing of forensic evidence.

### Doping Claim Probed

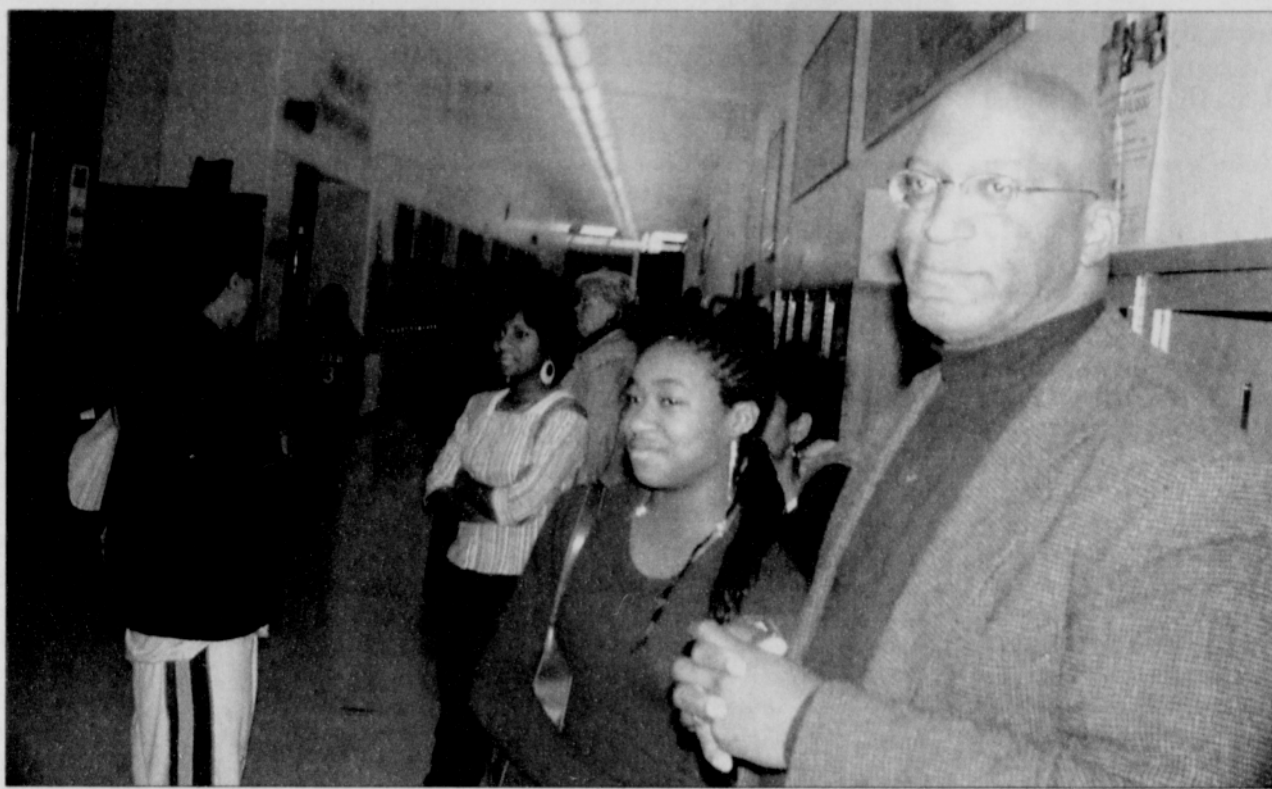
The International Olympic Committee opened an investigation Tuesday into doping allegations against Marion Jones, who could eventually be stripped of her five medals from the 2000 Olympics.

### HIV Rate Steady

Despite the government's promise to "break the back" of the AIDS epidemic by 2005, about 40,000 Americans test positive for the HIV infection every year - the same number as a decade ago.

### Gays Challenge 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Twelve gays expelled from the military because of their sexual orientation filed a legal challenge to the Pentagon's 11-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy.



Jefferson High School Principal Larry Dashiell pauses in the halls with freshman Tainiqua Horsley-Brown as senior DaRaysha Kennedy (left) chats with another student.

## High Schools Fight to Make Grade

Jefferson, Roosevelt, Marshall, Madison in same boat

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jefferson High School, which has been at the forefront of public scrutiny, continues to lead the pack in basketball success while trailing in high school academics. However, school officials say they are making gains.

Jefferson received an "unacceptable" rating in new statewide report cards. Marshall, Roosevelt and Madison high schools received low ratings. Benson, Franklin and Cleveland high schools are also below standards but still qualify as "satisfactory."

Because of a loophole, Jefferson's

administration curtails the federal consequences of No Child Left Behind, which could have resulted in the removal of the principal and teaching staff. Jefferson escapes this fate because of its recent restructuring as "school within a school" academies. This change put Jefferson in its first year of No Child Left Behind status, with consequences coming in four to five year waves.

Roosevelt, another inner city school challenged by an achievement gap with disproportionately high populations of minority, low income, special education and non-native English speaking students, showed progress in the last test-

ing cycle. "The report card doesn't differentiate the complexity of the demographics that make up each school," said Andrew Kelly, principal at Roosevelt.

Kelly says he's pleased that Roosevelt students have improved, despite some educational barriers. Roosevelt moved from the "unsatisfactory" to "low" category. Kelly says he believes his school will move to "satisfactory" in the next testing period.

"We're certainly not where we want to be nor where we believe we can be, but

continued ▼ on page A3

## County Officer Resigns

Follows racism complaints

The Multnomah County Mental Health Director stepped down Friday, two days after a black employee accused him of intimidation. County Chairwoman Diane Linn asked for his resignation. This suspension is on the heels of a report released last month listing several race-related complaints against county leaders.

Linn immediately sent a strongly-worded e-mail to county employees, stating that racial discrimination will not be tolerated.

Dr. Peter Davidson, the mental health director who revamped the county's mental health system, signed a document in 2002, stating that he would lose his job if he ever committed another discriminatory act while working for the county. He was also ordered to undergo sensitivity training.

The disciplinary actions from his employment history followed an accusation by a black employee that he used a racial slur in the workplace, calling African Americans "mud people," a claim he denied.

Now, that same woman, who works as senior program development manager in the mental health division, has filed a new complaint, alleging that Davidson recently intimidated her from speaking to the media about the 2002 incident.

In her complaint, the employee demanded that she and Davidson no longer have contact in person or over the phone and that Davidson not contribute to any mental health programs involving minorities.

Davidson has faced other accusations of cultural insensitivity in the workplace. He was accused of referring to a committee run by Commissioner Lisa Naito as "Kabuki theater" and calling poor people "Jerry Springer families" and "Les Schwab workers."

continued ▼ on page A3

## Breaking Cultural Barriers

Advocates join immigrant, minority causes

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Racial profiling hit too close to home for some Portlanders when a well-known local Muslim cleric, Sheik Mohamed Abdurahman Kariye, was arrested at the airport on Sept. 8, 2002, claiming his brother's luggage contained traces of explosives.

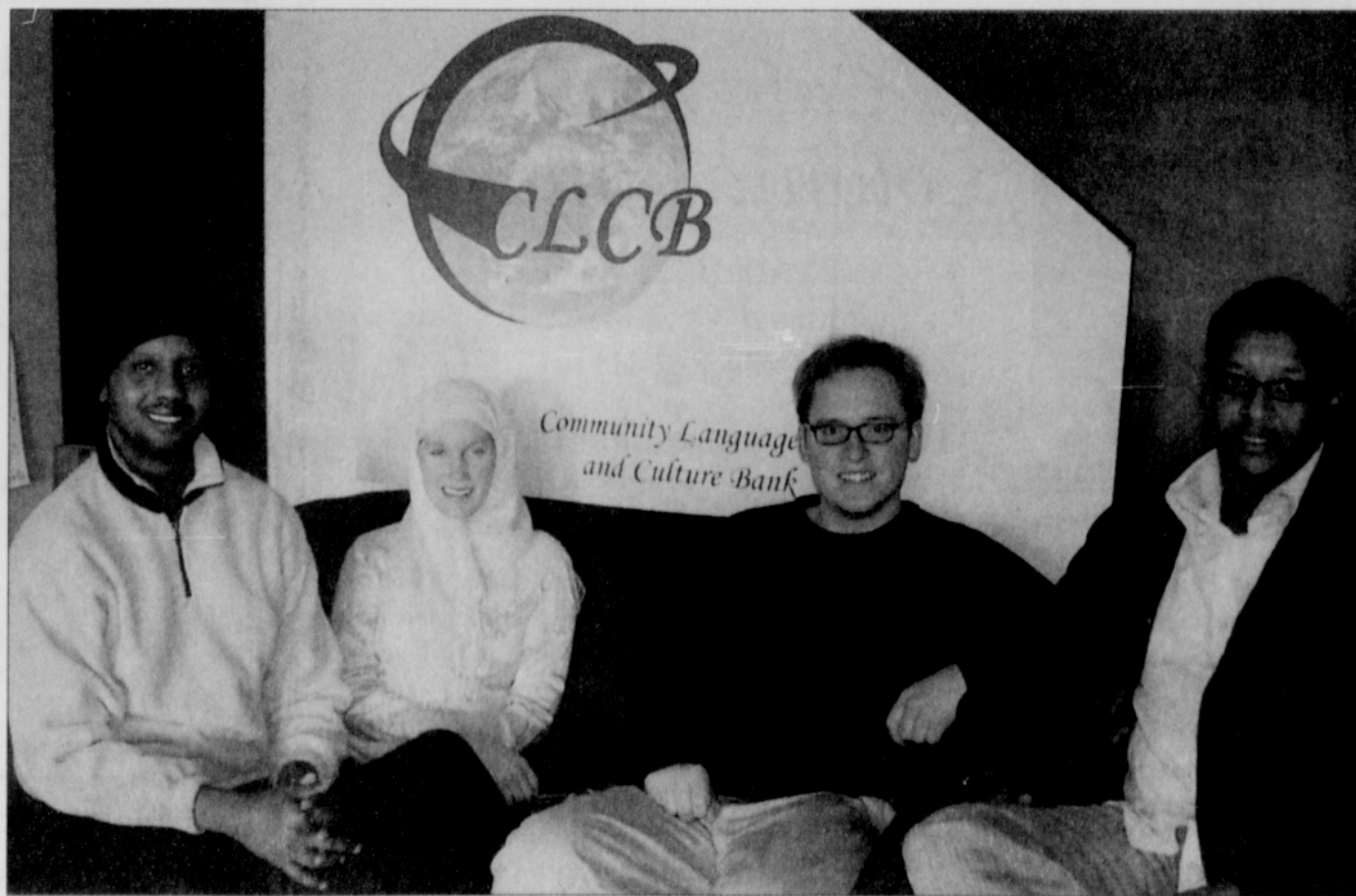
Charges against the spiritual leader of the Islamic Center of Portland were dropped but secret surveillance of Muslims continued in a backlash of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In June of that same year, an FBI informant infiltrated Kariye's mosque, to secretly record conversations for evidence against the "Portland Seven" defendants. Many practicing Muslims found this very unsettling after fleeing from countries that had little respect for freedom and human rights.

In a response to what they called a "witch hunt" against immigrants and Muslims, Community Language and Culture Bank was formed.

The facilitating group in northeast Portland aims to connect immigrants and anyone affected by cultural barriers with peace activists and the progressive community.

In Kayse Jama's experience, the group founder, peace advocacy agencies have much in common with culturally-driven civil rights



Kayse Jama (from left), Stephanie Stephens, Andy Wheeler and Hirsi Dirir work for the rights of immigrants, Muslims and racial minorities as volunteers for Community Language and Culture Bank.

groups, without a bridge to connect them.

Jama himself has experienced inequities in freedom as a refugee from Somalia, a Muslim and an African American. He realized the struggles of minorities and immi-

Culture Bank. "Where white people act with privilege in their daily lives, for immigrants and people of color, everyday is a struggle."

Stephanie Stephens, communications director for the group, identified some of the

racial profiling.

Group members say Portland is a living paradox for people of color. While the reputation is welcoming and Portland is hailed as a model city from an urban planning perspective, the city is heavily segregated, with minorities concentrated mostly in north and northeast Portland.

"It's really remarkable that no matter how much people talk about diversity, no one knows how to do it," Wheeler said.

Community Language and Culture Bank brings people together through educational forums and celebratory events.

A recent event that brought more than 100 volunteers together was the Sept. 12 Cultural Festival, themed "Hope Begins When

continued ▼ on page A3

*Where white people act with privilege in their daily lives, for immigrants and people of color, everyday is a struggle.*

— Andy Wheeler, outreach officer for Community Language and Culture Bank

grants greatly overlap.

"In both cases, there's oppression," said Andy Wheeler, the development and outreach officer for Community Language and

barriers affecting communities of color, Muslims and immigrants as difficulty in securing housing, jobs, childcare, welfare and safety from police brutality, hate crimes and

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