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# School Board Cuts 250 Jobs

## Minority schools hit hardest

The Portland School Board accepted a \$375 million budget Monday, which includes \$25 million in cuts and the elimination 250 teachers and staff across the board.

Although \$2 million was given back for under-performing and schools with high populations of minority students, a loss of \$8 million in state desegregation money will mean the cuts are more severe in north and northeast Portland. The district is also facing a \$33

## Board Hopefuls Meet Public in Forums

The Portland Schools Foundation will join the City Club of Portland and the Portland Business Alliance to host a forum with Portland's school board candidates on Thursday, May 5 at 7:30 a.m. at the Governor Hotel.

Later the same day, a second forum at the Portland Public School Headquarters will be held at 6:30 p.m., sponsored by the schools foundation, Community Parents for Public Schools, the Latino Network, the League of Women Voters, the Oregon PTA and the Urban League of Portland.

The election to replace three retiring school board members will take place on May 17th. Ballots will be mailed on Friday, April 29.

School board members Julie Brim Edwards, Lorenzo Poe and Derry Jackson, all have decided not to seek re-election.

million cut from local property tax revenue.

Jefferson High School will have 18 teachers cut from its 60-member staff. Franklin High School, on the other hand, will lose only one teacher from its 73-member staff.

All of this equals about 10 percent of the school district workforce.

Programs saved include outdoor school for sixth graders, and tennis, golf and dance activities, but only with increased fees and fund-raising.

The rest of the budget will go toward closure of five schools, repairs on existing schools and hiring of new administrators.

During the 2006-07 school year, even more cuts are expected with the loss of the Multnomah County temporary income tax, which brings in \$50 million a year.

School districts across the state of Oregon are feeling the heat as well. The state has gone down from ranking 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation in per-student spending and is now in 31<sup>st</sup> place.

# Girl Raped at Columbia Park

## Suspect at large, reward offered

Last month, a 12-year-old girl told police she was dragged by knifepoint into a bathroom at Columbia Park in north Portland.

The girl was walking home from school through the park when the man asked her for the time, said Portland police Sgt. Kim Keist.

She told police her attacker had

an folding knife with a five-inch blade and raped her inside the brick Columbia Cottage bathrooms at the south end of the park, near the intersection of North Lombard and Russet streets.

She was taken to Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center for an examination.

The suspect was described as a thin black man, age 20 to 25, and about six feet tall and a thin "peach fuzz" type mustache on his upper lip. He was wearing a black baseball

cap, with a "do-rag," a white tank top "wife beater," a fur lined black puffy jacket and dark baggy jeans.

Anyone with information about this case or who can identify the suspect is asked to call Crime Stoppers.

Crime Stopper is offering cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information reported that leads to an arrest in this case or any other unsolved felony. As always those with information can remain anonymous and can be reached at 503-823-4357



Portland police released this sketch of a rape suspect.

# 'No Child Left Behind' Suit Filed

(AP) - The nation's largest teachers union and school districts in three states are suing the Bush administration over the No Child Left Behind law, aiming to free schools from complying with any part not paid for by the federal government.

The lawsuit, filed April 20 in the U.S. District Court for eastern Michigan, is the first major challenge to President Bush's signature education policy.

Leading the fight is the National Education Association, a union of 2.7 million members. Its objections to Bush's law prompted former Education Secretary Rod Paige to call the NEA a "terrorist organization."

The other plaintiffs are nine school districts in Michigan, Vermont and Bush's home state of Texas, plus 10 NEA chapters in those states and Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, New Hampshire,

Ohio, Pennsylvania and Utah.

The law is widely considered the most significant federal education act in decades. It puts particular emphasis on ensuring that schools give attention to minorities and poor children who have long fallen behind on achievement.

But the government is accused of shortchanging schools by at least \$27 billion, the difference between the amount Congress authorized and what it has spent.

# Moussaoui Pleads Guilty

## Admits role in terrorist attacks

(AP) - Zacarias Moussaoui pleaded guilty Friday to helping al-Qaida carry out the Sept. 11 hijackings and said he understood he could be put to death for his role in the deadliest terror attack in American history.

"I expect no leniency," he said.

U.S. District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema accepted the plea in federal court in Alexandria, Va., making the French citizen the lone person convicted in a U.S. court for the 2001 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

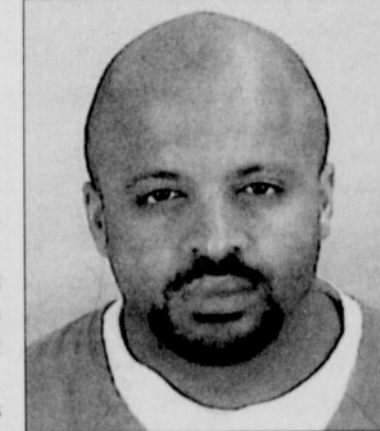
Moussaoui, more subdued than in earlier court appearances during

which he sometimes ranted at Brinkema, answered her questions politely.

"How do you plead?" she asked him for each of the six felony counts against him. Each time, Moussaoui answered, "Guilty."

At one point, he said, "I was being trained" on a Boeing 747 "to use this plane to strike the White House." He said the training was for a different attack that was to come later.

Brinkema asked defense lawyer Alan Yamamoto, the only lawyer Moussaoui would talk to in recent weeks, if he was satisfied the defen-



Zacarias Moussaoui  
 dant understood what he was doing.  
 "When I have spoken to him, we have disagreed," Yamamoto said. "He is facing the possibility of death or life in prison. He has told me that he understands that."

# Minorities Buy More Homes

The Census Bureau released data Monday showing that minority homeownership hit an all-time high during the first quarter of 2005. The new quarterly record rate of 51.6 percent means that 15.7 million minority families now own their own homes in the United States.

Overall homeownership was also

at an all-time high in the first quarter, with 74.5 million American families now owning their own homes.

"These new numbers, combined with news that sales of previously-owned homes were near record levels last month, show that housing is still a leader as our economy continues to improve," said Housing and Urban

Development Secretary Alonso Jackson.

Two years ago, President Bush challenged the nation to create 5.5 million new minority homeowners by the end of this decade. To date, there has been a net increase of 2.3 million minority homeowners, which represents 43 percent of the 5.5 million goal.

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 439 SW 2nd • Imported Deruta Rooster Pitcher & Lunch for Four
- Cal Skate Skateboards • 210 NW 6th • Skull Skates Old School Deck
- Columbia Sportswear • 911 SW Broadway • \$250 After Hours Shopping Spree
- Diamond Dogs • 722 SW Taylor  
 Emily the Strange Wish You Weren't Here Vacation Essentials
- D'Lish at Pioneer Place • 700 SW 5th • Handmade Bath and Body Products
- Finnegan's • 922 SW Yamhill and Daily Grill • 750 SW Alder  
 \$200 Shopping Spree and Dinner for Five
- Kathleens of Dublin • 860 SW Broadway • The Fairway Bronze Statue
- Made In Oregon • 921 SW Morrison • Myrtlewood clock
- Mercantile • 735 SW Park • Baby Blue Burberry Plaid Rain Hat
- The Monkey & The Rat • 131 NW Second • Thai Spirit Monkey
- Portland Saturday Market • 108 W Burnside • Gift Basket Filled with Unique Items
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- Swatch • 617 SW Morrison • The Paparazzi Smart Watch
- The Fossil Cartel • 340 SW Morrison • Meteorite Pendant
- The Living Quarters at Pioneer Place • 385 SW Yamhill  
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- The Real Mother Goose • 901 SW Yamhill St. and Mother's Bistro • 409 SW 2nd  
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The Portland Observer Established 1970  
 USPS 959-680  
 4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER: Charles H. Washington  
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 CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt  
 OFFICE MANAGER: Kathy Linder

Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

Subscriptions are \$60.00 per year  
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