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The Portland Observer

'City of Roses' Volume XXXV, Number 19

Fight for College Funding

Melanie Dixon gets political with career jumpstart See story, Metro section inside



Interstate Farmer's Market Coming

Food author Eric Schlosser to kick off event at Overlook Park



See story, page A3

The Portland Observer

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Week in The Review

German Holocaust Memorial Dedicated

Germany dedicated its long-delayed national Holocaust memorial Tuesday, a field of closely set concrete slabs in the heart of Berlin that tries to summon the helplessness of six million Jews killed by the Nazis.



Chappelle Cracks Under Pressure

Dave Chappelle is under pressure. The star of Comedy Central's popular "Chappelle's Show" is exhausted due to tension, partying and creative differences with the cable channel.

Police Shooting Probe Begins

Authorities promised a full investigation Tuesday into why deputies riddled a sport utility vehicle and a Compton neighborhood with 120 bullets after the driver led them on a chase.

Combat Vests Recalled

The Marine Corps is recalling 5,277 combat vests issued to troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and Djibouti after a military newspaper published concerns that they failed a test to determine whether they could stop a bullet.

Gay Men Respond Differently to Scents

Researches have found homosexual men's brains responded differently to scent from the male hormone testosterone than from those of heterosexual males.

Jefferson Loses One-Third of Staff



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jefferson High School students walk-out of classes to protest a dramatic cut in teachers and staff coming to the school serving north and northeast Portland.

Students, teachers walk out in protest

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The students at Jefferson High School won't just be losing teachers and staff this fall—they'll be losing their second families.

Thus far, 20 full-time positions are set to be cut from the north Portland campus, about a third of its entire staff leaving 40 full-time positions for 650 students next year.

the mix for special enrollment and student achievement needs.

From departments in science, math, English, performing arts, social studies and physical education, the cuts are across the board.

The school serving both north and northeast Portland is being hit harder with budget cuts than any other high school and most other schools because of its heavy reliance on state desegregation monies, which have evaporated.

Despite increased test scores and community involvement, the school is also losing funding from low enrollment. The total loss of budgeted monies makes it more dif-

icult to sustain achievement at its current levels or to even go beyond that.

Jefferson isn't taking the losses lightly.

"You try to create and build and implement a culture of high achievement, you try to make the connections throughout the educational system and I don't care what you do, you lose 20-plus people, it'll have a big of an effect on things," said Jefferson Principal Larry Dashiell.

The teachers leaving may end up at other Portland schools.

"The schools that will get them with get very well-trained teachers," Dashiell said. "We tried to create a more interactive staff. You build all these pieces and do special

training. Some are new to education at the time so you're growing them as teachers.

Dashiell said Jefferson's current slate of teachers had become "a family, which is sometimes really hard to do."

Whether or not teachers lose their job depends on where they are in the system. A third year teacher is allowed to interview in the first round of any future hiring within the school district. There are no such provisions for first or second year teachers.

"At first everybody was really shocked and upset, even those who were staying," Dashiell said. "We've made great process in

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Hip-Hop Summit Opens Dialogue

Event to attract the socially conscious

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's in the way we talk, the clothes we wear and the way we view life.

It's hip-hop, and like many others, Karanja Crews feels like it's getting a bad rap. Rather than focusing on the negative side of hip-hop that the media often portrays, with images of thugging and drug dealing, Crews wants to feature the positive, socially conscious side of the musical genre rarely seen in the mainstream.

At the first annual Hip-Hop Summit, dialogue about the style will be opened to a whole new level.

SpeakLife Inc. and The Koinonia Project are partnering with The Black Cultural Affairs Board of Portland State University and the Black Student Union of Portland Community College at Cascade for the event, held on May 28 at the PCC Cascade gymnasium with the panel discussion beginning at 2 p.m. and a concert following at 6:30 p.m. It's free and open to the public.

"People can come out of it knowing how to change their community. The older generation will no longer have a false perception of hip-hop. Hopefully people will come out with a whole new perspective," Crews said.

The aims of the project include: expos-



Soul Plasma is one of the local musical guests to headline the first annual Hip-Hop Summit in Portland.

ing the conditions of the African American community; rallying and mobilizing everyone to bring about change within these communities; and exposing youth, young adults, and elders to see a new positive sound of hip-hop and rap music to inspire, motivate and influence.

A variety of panelists from different backgrounds such as youth, youth leaders, business professionals, politicians, educators, and community leaders will discuss the following questions:

Does hip-hop influence young people in a negative or positive way? How do we bridge the gap between the hip-hop generation and the civil rights movement genera-

tion? And where do we go from here?

"The leadership in the African American community is lacking among our elders and it's time for a whole new generation of leaders to come and step up to the plate," Crews said. "There's no one really standing up for our issues. That's the reason why I wanted to put this together for my generation."

Through uplifting music, Crews said, the image of hip-hop can be turned around.

"Music that speaks in an atmosphere of death, that's the type of atmosphere it'll reap. If you speak about life, it'll be more

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Gang Activity Creates Debate

Civil rights groups weary of crackdown

(AP) - The rapid spread of vicious street gangs is causing alarm in cities and suburbs nationwide, igniting bitter debate about how best to combat the threat and inspiring a comprehensive anti-gang bill in Congress.

The measure is depicted by supporters as the only effective way to counterattack gang violence, and assailed by critics as an over-reaction that could clog both federal courts and adult prisons with youthful offenders, most of them minorities.

Sponsored by Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., the bill moved swiftly through the House Judiciary Committee last month and is scheduled for a House floor vote Wednesday. It would turn many gang-related violent offenses into federal crimes punishable by mandatory sentences of at least 10 years, expand the range of crimes punishable by death, and enable U.S. prosecutors to try 16- and 17-year-old gang members as adults in federal courts.

In Virginia recently, gang victims have been hacked by machetes and had fingers cut off. Affiliated gangs in Central America are suspected in several recent beheadings of young women.

The bill's supporters include the National Sheriffs' Association and the Fraternal Or-

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